



Happy New Year!

See who celebrated downtown and at other holiday events. **C28 & 29 ▶**



Thrill rides

Leave the stress of running a business behind and satisfy your inner wild streak. **B1 ▶**



Going for the gold

Gulf Coast Sailing Club hopes program helps Olympic hopefuls put wind (and funds) in their sails. **A15 ▶**



Big Cypress movie

Screening at The von Liebig will raise funds for exhibits in swamp's new welcome center. **C16 ▶**

STRUT YOUR SMARTS
AT QUIZ NIGHTS
AROUND TOWN ...

Trivial Pursuits

BY Nanci Theoret

Special to Florida Weekly

MY HUSBAND, CLINTON, JOKES THAT HE KNOWS A LOT OF USELESS INFORMATION. HE'LL SPOUT OFF random facts about something, usually to my blank stare, and call out the answers to most of "Jeopardy" (though he doesn't always answer in the form of a question). He's usually right.

For months, we were the reigning champs of the trivia game offered tableside at our local sports bar. I was the food, wine and art expert; Clinton answered pretty much everything else. I was convinced, albeit a little prematurely perhaps, that we had the knowledge to take on any local trivia hound.

When I learned that several area bars have weekly trivia nights, I figured it was a chance to test ourselves — in public, at least.

Clinton's a newspaper editor, and we invited two fellow journalists — former TV reporter Jennifer Cobb and publisher Stone Segiel — to join us. You'd think journalists, with our liberal arts educations,

SEE TRIVIA, A8 ▶



COURTESY PHOTO

An expatriate and former employee at The English Pub, Deb Mincieli returns every Thursday to serve as quizmistress.

trivia nights

- B** **Monday:** The Pub Naples, Mercato. 594-2748, tavernrestaurantgroup.com/pub_naples.php
- R** **Tuesday:** Boston Beer Garden, 2396 Immokalee Road. 596-2337.
- A** **Wednesday:** The Sand Bar, 826 E. Elkcarn Circle, Marco Island. 642-3625.
- I** **Thursday:** The English Pub, 2408 Linwood Ave. 775-3727, naplesenglish-pub.com

Q: What is the principle export of Jamaica?
A: Sugar

Q: What country is the world's primary producer of newsprint?
A: Canada

Q: How many inner wire rings are there on a dartboard?
A: Seven

Q: What breed of dog did Detective Columbo have?
A: Basset hound

Q: What is the common name for the medical condition epistaxis?
A: Nosebleed

Keep your eyes open for balloons that will lift spirits, raise awareness

BY KELLY MERRITT

Special to Florida Weekly

Against the backdrop of the Naples Pier and the Gulf of Mexico, thousands of red and white balloons will be released by a group of special children Sunday afternoon, Jan. 10. A video camera attached to one bunch of the helium-filled orbs will record a bird's eye view of Third Street South and wherever the wind blows.

The release, part of the international Balloon Project created and carried forth by California artists Ira Mowen and Luca Antonucci, launches the Painting My Tomorrow, an art show and sale coming up in February to benefit the local



COURTESY PHOTO

Balloon Project creators Luca Antonucci and Ira Mowen at one of their releases in Europe

Freedom Waters Foundation. The foundation provides boating opportunities and marine-related educational programs for youths at risk and people with disabilities.

SEE BALLOONS, A9 ▶

Neapolitan Frank Russen, director of The Englishman Fine Art & Antique Gallery, is the string that ties the Balloon Project and Painting My Tomorrow/Freedom Waters together.

Before moving here 10 years ago, Mr. Russen organized his first Painting My Tomorrow event in Pittsburgh, Pa. The exhibit and sale of artwork by children with cancer was a sellout. Its success and the resulting impact it had on the lives of the children made a big impression on Mr. Russen.

"I am so blessed with a beautiful and healthy family that I always felt I needed

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COMMENTARY

Ring out the old (then ring it back in)

rogerWILLIAMS
rwilliams@floridaweekly.com



Like a preacher with a swollen congregation, I'm a columnist with a new year. But fortunately for you and unlike preachers, I abhor telling other people what to think or do, even though I've done it a time or two.

But that was for money or duty. Now I'll tell you what to do just for fun, since writing a column can prove to be a real good time, especially when you don't actually have to write. Like at parties. All you have to do is say, "Hi, I'm a columnist for *Florida Weekly*," and smile modestly. Suddenly, a chorus of angels breaks into song and Jimi Hendrix stands up and plays the national anthem alongside the Juilliard String Quartet and the Marine Corps band, and young and old women alike eyeball you carefully — from across the room. And if the sun isn't shining, it damn well starts.

Ask any of us — Karen Feldman (food), Artis Henderson (romance and sex), Jeanette Showalter (money and economics), Nancy Stetson (arts) — and we'll tell you: You can't always get what you want, but if you try, sometimes you just might find you can tell other people what to do without having to be a preacher. (Rich Lowry thinks he really is a preacher, so never mind him.)

Here's what I want you to do first.

First, I want you to clear out your wal-

let or purse. It's not exercise — it's not running five miles a day like you and I both should be doing this year — but it's progress in 2010.

I've just cleared out mine, and I discovered an odd and inexplicable assortment of cards with no rational theme, seemingly put there by a complete stranger. Some are too fierce to mention, but among the more banal are county pool passes, a fishing license, a card naming my eye specialist, and finally a few personal cards from people I've known for several years.

For example, there's "Kent Ottwell Interiors: ottwell@ameritech.net, 708-525-0243," a black card with white and gold type. Mr. Ottwell is an interior designer from Chicago who spends time in Southwest Florida whenever business or pleasure call. He runs five miles a day without a whimper like we should be doing, and he can put a piece of contemporary furniture made in Montana, something as sleek and clean as a mountain stream, together in a room with a 19th-century impressionist painting and make the space look like an organic vision sprung from the garden of your very own soul.

He can also judge other people by the same standards: Do they try hard, do they do what they say they will, and do they give others the same tolerant nod he gives them? So I'm keeping this card.

Then there's "Jennifer Gray: 239-633-0755," a pale green card with black type. Ms. Gray, who grew up in small-town Okeechobee before arriving in Southwest Florida, is a licensed massage

therapist. She's smart, steady, sane and she can hunt deer in the Georgia woods — shoot them, skin them out and roast them — or travel to New York City and plunge into the cultures of food and art and otherness, with equal relish. She also works for Publix, which is where I met her and got to know her (I don't do massage therapy, but I think you should).

So many good working people staff the Publix corporation, have you noticed? And the food's not bad, either. Of course, it would be even better if the good old boys who run Publix would pay a little more for their tomatoes — a penny a pound would be nice — so the field hands who pick them could buy their kids clothes from somewhere other than The Dollar Store, or something. But never mind that, now. I'm keeping that card, too.

Then there's the Mike Kiniry card. Like many of us in Naples, Fort Myers or Punta Gorda, I've known Mr. Kiniry for years, welcoming his affable voice into my home during the first half of the day, but never actually spending much time in his company. Once, I got to shake his hand at WGPU, where he's been a public radio host since 2003 (90.1 FM, or 91.7 Marco). On another occasion I enjoyed a long and candid conversation with him by telephone, and then wrote a story about his life and work (*Florida Weekly*, Feb. 11, 2009, "Good Morning Back At You, Mike Kiniry"). The card in my wallet is not his, per se. It's white and blank, except for my own chicken scrawl in No. 2 lead pencil.

That says, "Mike Kiniry photos," with a phone number and a Web site.

Born in Kansas City and raised in Fort Myers, Mr. Kiniry is a photographer "of the moment," as he puts it — a camera master of the parochial detail that becomes the universal truth as you stare at it. If you missed the exhibit of his photos at Edison State College recently, just go to www.Mikekiniry.deviantart.com, or give him a call (he's easy to talk to): 898-8175. You can buy his stuff, which is a dangerous temptation for me.

I see a card, too, for my favorite law firm, and that's a piece of equipment we might all want to carry into a new year. It begins this way: "WHYTE, LIPT & TREMBLING, cya, asap, ATTORNEYS, ersatz, specializing in MITIGATION, LITIGATION, CONSTERNATION & CASTRATION, the latter in extreme circumstances only, and normally just a threat..."

I've mentioned this card in a previous column, so enough said, except for this: The author, John Claydon, is a longtime screenwriter who knows as much about the world as anyone I've ever known. And he ain't no senator's son, or fortunate one, nosireebob.

Another keeper.

So now that you've rung out the old like I have, possibly by ringing the best of it right back in anew, here's what I want you to do second.

Second, spend the future preserving what's best about the past. That's a new year's resolution all of us can climb into, shift into gear, and drive confidently over the next hill. ■

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OPINION

Janet Napolitano's man-caused disaster

BY RICH LOWRY

Janet Napolitano is impressed with Janet Napolitano's work. In an instantly notorious statement on CNN, the Homeland Security secretary said "the system worked" when a man boarded a Christmas Day flight from Amsterdam to Detroit with explosives in his underwear that he couldn't quite manage to ignite.

Does "the system" count on all explosive devices smuggled onto international flights not detonating? When Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab set himself on fire while trying to blow up the plane and kill its 278 passengers, a Dutch filmmaker leapt on him, ripped a smoldering object from near his crotch and put it out with his bare hands. Or as Napolitano put it, "Everybody played an important role here."

This is a bizarre division of labor. You carefully pack to avoid any liquids more than 3 ounces. You stand in a security line. You take off your shoes. You get your fingernail clippers confiscated. You run your carry-on bags through an X-ray machine and walk through a metal detector. And after all that, it's still your responsibility to subdue the terrorist in

the next row.

Napolitano immediately took back her praise of "the system," in a tacit acknowledgment that its only success was in demonstrating its own industrial-scale irrationality. At a cost of \$30 billion since 2004, we've implemented security procedures ideally suited to harassing innocent passengers who only want to travel from Point A to Point B with minimal inconvenience. It's only the terrorists we have trouble handling.

If a terrorist is a proverbial needle in a haystack, Abdulmutallab constituted something closer to a sledgehammer. His father, a powerful banker in Nigeria, warned the U.S. Embassy that he might be dangerous. This didn't prompt any further investigation, but got Abdulmutallab entered into the Terrorist Identities Datamart Environment, a massive database that evidently does nothing to enjoin terrorists from traveling to the U.S. on missions of mass murder.

Even by the most basic standard of post-9/11 travel, Abdulmutallab should have set off alarms. He reportedly bought his ticket in cash and only had carry-on luggage. Never mind his travel history that included a trip to Yemen.

It's never going to be easy for a free society to defend itself from furtive enemies, but that doesn't excuse willful obliviousness. We should move to a more Israel-style security system, devoting more energy to the intelligence and on-the-spot assessments necessary to focus on the greatest potential threats. And we should resist the civil libertarians who create pressure to narrow down the most meaningful watch lists and work to forestall adoption of more effective whole-body imaging scanners.

For its part, the Obama administration should frankly acknowledge that the "war on terror" wasn't a Bush-Cheney construct to scare and manipulate the American public. Napolitano did her utmost to avoid even uttering the word "terror" at a 2009 congressional hearing, preferring the absurd neologism "man-caused disaster."

That's a phrase best applied to the shoeless shuffle at the airport security lines, not the heinous acts of war plotted by Abdulmutallab and his inevitable successors. ■

— Rich Lowry is editor of the *National Review*.



"SORRY ABOUT THE DELAY, SIR... YOU JUST CAN'T BE TOO CAREFUL WITH THESE TERRORIST TYPES!..."

MOMENTS IN TIME

► On **Jan. 7, 1959**, six days after the fall of the Fulgencio Batista dictatorship, the United States recognizes the new Cuban government of Fidel Castro. The U.S. government believed it could work with Castro and protect American interests in Cuba, but less than two years later, the U.S. severed diplomatic ties and unleashed the Bay of Pigs invasion.

► On **Jan. 8, 1966**, rock 'n' roll TV variety show "Shindig" on ABC airs its last episode. The show had debuted in September 1964, featuring acts including the Everly Brothers, the Rolling Stones and the Beach Boys.

► On **Jan. 9, 1972**, in Hong Kong harbor, a fire breaks out aboard the lavish Queen Elizabeth, and by the next morn-

ing the famous vessel lies in a wreck on the bottom of the sea floor. Before her days as a passenger liner, the Queen Elizabeth steamed across the ocean as a transport vehicle during World War II.

► On **Jan. 10, 1901**, a drilling derrick at Spindletop Hill near Beaumont, Texas, produces an enormous gusher of crude oil, signaling the advent of the American oil industry. The geyser flowed at an initial rate of 100,000 barrels a day. Within a year, there were more than 285 active wells at Spindletop. Today, only a few oil wells still operate in the area.

► On **Jan. 11, 1949**, on Connecticut Avenue in Washington, D.C., the cornerstone is laid at the first mosque of note in the United States. The Islamic Center was

complete with a 160-foot minaret from which prayers were to be announced.

► On **Jan. 12, 1888**, the so-called Schoolchildren's Blizzard kills 235 people, many of them children on their way home from school, across the Northwest Plains region of the United States. The storm came with no warning, and the temperature fell nearly 100 degrees F. in just 24 hours.

► On **Jan. 13, 1982**, an Air Florida Boeing 727 plunges into the Potomac River in Washington, D.C., killing 78 people. The crash was caused by bad weather and the pilot's failure to ask for de-icing after the plane sat on the runway for 45 minutes. Worse, he failed to turn on the plane's own de-icing system. ■

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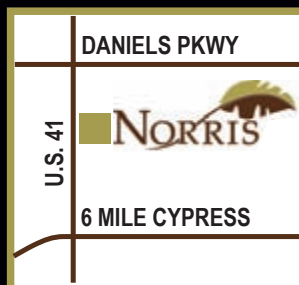


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15 MINUTES

Equine dentist takes his expertise straight to the horse's mouth

BY SUSAN BROWN
Special to Florida Weekly

Ladies call him a horse whisperer after they see him in action. Wallace Ward smiles at the reference; admittedly, the man has a way with horses.

He's got a way with people, too. Just ask the folks on the Revere City Council in Massachusetts. A native of that area, Mr. Ward struck a deal with the council in 1974 that its members thought would never come to fruition. They thought wrong.

Situated along the Atlantic coast five miles northeast of downtown Boston, Revere had a prohibition against horses within the city limits. Trails were available nearby for riding, but Mr. Ward envisioned a 60-stall stable where the children of Revere could learn to ride.

"I wanted more for the community — education, culture," he says. Using the promise of equestrian prestige and an architectural replica built to Mr. Ward's specifications, he captured the interest of Revere decision makers.

The deal? Clear a city-owned dumping ground (adjacent to the parcel Mr. Ward owned) within a year's time, and Revere would rewrite its laws to allow Mr. Ward to build his dream.

The result? The Revere/Saugus Riding Academy, where Mr. Ward harnessed his interest in horses and people to enrich the lives of his community for nearly 30 years.

For every "A" earned, he rewarded children with a free lesson; a spot on the

honor roll meant a free month of riding. Conversely, he encouraged parents to take away riding privileges as a form of disciplining their children. Sure enough, they'd straighten up and be back in the saddle in no time at all, he recalls.

His desire to provide better care for his horses gave birth to Mr. Ward's profession for the past 18 years as a certified equine dental technician (aka, a horse dentist). Already a skilled blacksmith, he enrolled in a course in equine dentistry offered in Nebraska and then worked under the guidance of an experienced equine dentist. He recorded everything he did for the next three years, then asked horse owners for feedback to better address any issues they observed with their horses.

Unlike other equine dental professionals who proffer high-tech equipment at high-ticket prices, Mr. Ward's approach is old school: He uses hand tools without sedation in order to shape and balance the teeth.

Marry his calming, gentle nature with his expertise and genuine love of horses, and what began as an interest in caring for horses within his stable evolved into a career that spans the globe. Mr. Ward treats horses and presents educational clinics in Belgium, Holland, Germany, Denmark, Switzerland, Poland, Venezuela and throughout the United States. He spent early December in Hawaii, and left Naples the day after Christmas for a week in Berlin.

Not bad work if you can get it. And where Mr. Ward is concerned, his dance



Wallace Ward

SUSAN BROWN / FLORIDA WEEKLY

card stays full.

He chuckles as he recalls his first trip abroad: A stable customer suggested Mr. Ward come to Belgium and conduct a clinic, which the customer would translate to attendees. Mr. Ward figured at a minimum, he'd enjoy the trip. He even offered to pay his own way if the customer would promote the clinic. As his words were translated, he noticed attendees repeatedly waving their hands past their faces as if swatting away flies. Afterward, he learned the incessant antics were actually a gesture indicating many in his audience thought his ideas were crazy.

Nevertheless, what began as a 10-day trip with a 30-horse guarantee turned into equine dentistry services for 150 horses during the first of many visits

to Belgium. Everywhere he went, Mr. Ward performed his services on one horse at no charge, to allow customers to feel the teeth before and after.

In case you're thinking a horse dentist is an elite service for the uber-rich, think again. Mr. Ward performs his examinations at no charge, then shows the owner any problems he finds. The normal

cost for shaping, balancing and floating the teeth begins at \$125. Why bother? Because tension in a horse's mouth can lead to sore muscles, a sore back, an altered gait and temperamental behavior. With respect to rideability of the horse, Mr. Ward compares the before and after to manual versus power steering.

His assistant, Tamie Johnson, says the most oft-quoted response from customers is, "It's like I've got a new horse."

Ms. Johnson's daughter, now 18, began riding lessons with Mr. Ward at age 5 in Massachusetts. Long familiar with Mr. Ward's expertise, when Ms. Johnson moved to Naples two years ago, she encouraged him to travel south, telling him he thought she could line up some business for him. She was right; he's still here. Only now he calls Naples home. ■



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TRIVIA

From page 1

would know a little bit about everything, right? Well... I kept thinking about the recent shellacking "Tonight Show" announcer Andy Richter had given CNN's Wolf Blitzer during celebrity "Jeopardy."

Our merry band of journalists arrived to an already capacity crowd at Mercato's The Pub Naples, where every Monday is Trivia Night. (It's also a great time to try the pub's half-priced fish and chips and enjoy servers wearing kilts.) Next to us was a table of nine ladies and gentlemen who joked they were MIT and Harvard grads. "Really, we're all over 65 so we only have one brain between us," laughed Gloria Andrada, a self-professed mythology expert.

Dubbed the "Berkshire Brainiacs," the team was led by "King Henry," who had perched himself in the restaurant's coveted throne chair. "He knows everything," Ms. Andrada told me.

Cincinnati-based Tavern Restaurant Group has been offering quiz nights at its pubs since the first opened eight years ago, says Robin Breth, the company's marketing director. "It's a very popular British thing to do," she says. "We try to keep it as authentic as possible, which is why we do it by hand and paper."

A corporate employee coordinates the weekly game, devising the 20-question trivia round and bonus speed round — usually music and the requirement to name both title and artist. The winning team receives a pub gift certificate. Beginning next year, the Tavern Restaurant Group plans to have a trivia-off between its different locations, says Ms. Breth.

Before our round began, cheaters were warned: Anyone caught consulting a BlackBerry or texting would be stoned with bleu-cheese stuffed olives.

The first question was right up Ms. Andrada's alley: This Greek goddess of victory lends her name to a brand of sporting equipment (answer: Nike).

The other 19 questions jumped from subject to subject — everything from sports and historic dates to geography and true trivia (What is MacGyver's first name? And which properties in the original Monopoly game were green?).

Clinton and Jennifer furiously scribbled down the answers. I, on the other hand, abandoned the team in search of the Pink Ponies, The Pub's winningest team, according to regulars Sarah and Neal Mazzarella. I returned to the table minutes later without a Pony interview (they were absent) and dreading the next question. Some were really tough.

A child of the '80s, I was pleased to learn the speed round was 10 songs from my generation and a chance to earn 20 more points. Just our luck: The CD player was malfunctioning, and our emcee resorted to singing just five of the tunes, which we aced.

Scoring our answers was humbling, although we were just two points short of the three winning teams. The Berkshire Brainiacs didn't fare so well, getting just 10 points — well below the winning 27 — and failing to answer any of the song questions. The three-way tie was decided by a beer-chugging contest.

I tried not to think of my dismal performance as I decided whether my ego could withstand another trivia contest.

Sand Bar stumpers

Our schedules kept us away from Trivia Night at the Sand Bar, where contestants not only compete for



The English Pub

COURTESY PHOTO

local bragging rights but the chance to trounce other players at bars across the country.

The Marco restaurant's computerized NTN Buzztime trivia system brought Jimmy Boylan to the Sand Bar after he moved to Marco Island from Chicago. A self-professed trivia nut and now the bar's general manager, Mr. Boylan continues to play each Wednesday night alongside Ivy League-educated patrons and other regulars.

Game night includes a multiple-choice speed freak round at 7:45 p.m. and the main trivia event from 9 to 10 p.m.

"The speed freak round can be very nerve-racking because you're on your toes for 15 minutes and 20 questions," Mr. Boylan said. "Only the first person or team answering the question wins. You answer wrong, you get negative points."

The winning Sand Bar team receives a \$25 gift certificate. At the game's end, they learn how they ranked against other players throughout the country.

The main event at the Sand Bar is "Sixes," which consists of six categories and another \$25 gift card. Questions are multiple-choice and matching, and during the final round players wager their points on their best subjects. "It's a lot more like Trivial Pursuit," Mr. Boylan said. "The questions are very difficult at times. We have very intelligent, well-educated customers, and the questions sometimes stump them."

Any winning team whose score ends in a five also claims the jackpot, which had recently grown to \$200. "We've beat other taverns before," Mr. Boylan said, adding, "We ended up No. 1 a couple of times and in the top 20 many times."

Winning at The English Pub

Next up was The English Pub, a

"We have some very intelligent teams. When we made the questions easier, they complained. We try to be fair with the questions."

— Deb "Darling Debs" Mincieli

gift certificates for the third- through first-place teams. A \$5 gift card is also given to the best team name, which is determined by the staff and is often a sexual innuendo or alliteration using Debs' name (we won, and that's all I'll say).

"It can get a little cheeky some nights," Ms. Mincieli said. "We like to have a sense of humor because it is a difficult quiz. We want people to have fun with it."

Patrons started arriving just before the 8:30 p.m. quiz started. In season, The English Pub is often packed. It also hosts an annual quiz competition for the Marco Men's Club. About 10 teams attend regularly, including one Ms. Mincieli has dubbed "The Accountants," a four-woman team that donates its winnings to charity. No team has scored a perfect 80; the closest has been 74, "which is absolutely phenomenal," Ms. Mincieli said.

The sense of camaraderie and spirited competitiveness almost overshadowed the game. Adrian Holmes, who Ms. Mincieli often addressed by name, purposely shouted out wrong answers and was later upset after learning that someone identified the photo of Bette Midler as fellow Englishman David Bowie. At one point Ms. Mincieli had two "schnapps" shots delivered to Holmes and friend Joseph Fusco. They were just water.

Although Clinton and Jennifer answered most of the 78 other questions, I'm secretly taking the credit for our win. After mulling over the two unanswered "p" questions on our handout, I came up with last-minute answers (a porker's rear appendage is a pig tail, and the owl's companion in a pea-green boat was a pussycat). That gave us 63 total points, just one ahead of the second-place team. Victory was ours, and our \$30 in gift cards means we'll be back. ■

Q: What is the collective term for a group of raccoons?
A: A Nursery

Q: What is the national flower of Austria?
A: Edelweiss

Q: What is the meaning of life?

Town hall meeting will address substance abuse

Drug Free Collier invites members of the community to a town hall meeting and panel discussion about substance abuse.

“Voice of Collier County: The Unspoken Truth About Substance Abuse” will take place from 3:30-5 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13, in the MLK School Administra-

tion Building at 5775 Osceola Trail.

Lois Thome of WINK News will moderate the panel. Keynote speakers will be Collier County Sheriff Kevin Rambosk and Collier County Schools Superintendent Dennis Thompson. Major Scott Salley, chief of corrections for the Collier County Sheriff's Office,

will make the opening remarks, and panelists will include attorney Basil Bain; Circuit Court Judge Lauren Brodie; Susan Kimper, director of psychiatric medicine for NCH; pediatrician T. Charles Vedder; Marla Ramsey, administrator, Collier County Public Services Division; and Connor Spielmaker, a

sophomore at Naples High School.

Attendance at the forum is free. To RSVP as a guest or to submit a question you would like the panel to address, call Maribel De Armas, Drug Free Collier executive director, at 377-4994 or e-mail mdearmas@drufgrecollier.org. ■

BALLOONS

From page 1

to give back to the community and to children and their families who are struggling in life,” he says.

He kept the concept of Painting My Tomorrow close to his heart in hopes of helping make something similar hap-



RUSSEN

pen again. Now, the father of two children adds, “I’ve found a home for it in the Freedom Waters Foundation.”

For the past few months, Freedom Waters volunteers have encouraged and assisted the young recipients of their programs in creating

artwork that will be on exhibit and for sale when Painting My Tomorrow takes place from 1-4 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 14, at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts.

As the kids have worked on their art, Mr. Russen has worked on spread-

ing the word about Freedom Waters and Painting My Tomorrow. Remembering a story about Mr. Mowen and Mr. Antonucci releasing red balloons and recording video over San Francisco, Berlin, New York City and Paris, he contacted them about bringing The Balloon Project to Naples as a way to create buzz for Painting My Tomorrow.

Much to his delight, they agreed.

Last week, thousands of red and white biodegradable balloons arrived to historic Third Street South. They are being stored and inflated at Naples Backyard History Mini-Museum. Mr. Mowen and Mr. Antonucci are expected to arrive in town Jan. 7.

“My goal is for Third Street South and Naples to host the Freedom Waters Foundation Balloon Project as an annual event,” Mr. Russen says. “There is talk of an additional twist to next year’s event, so keep your eyes in the sky.”

Naples was chosen over hundreds of requests from citizens around the world for The Balloon Project to film their cities, Mr. Russen says, adding the creators relished the idea of the Freedom Waters children releasing the balloons

from the historic Naples Pier.

“It’s extremely special for us to have these artists support what we’re doing to highlight our foundation, but also to highlight our city,” says Debra Frenkel, director of the Freedom Waters Foundation. “Something like this puts Naples in the spotlight and focuses people to learn tolerance and understanding of others who are different.”

At 2 p.m. Sunday, 50-60 Freedom Waters children, led by “the First Lady of Historic Naples,” Lavern Norris Gaynor, will march down the pier and release the balloons. Ms. Gaynor’s parents, Lester and Dellora Norris, funded the rebuilding of the pier after Hurricane Donna destroyed it in 1960.

Balloon Project volunteers will track the balloons carrying the camera. Key personnel will have two-way radios to communicate where the balloons are traveling and their final resting place. Cruise Naples has volunteered to help retrieve the balloons in case they land in the water.

From the recovered camera, Mr. Mowen and Mr. Antonucci will prepare what they expect to be a 15-20-minute

“It’s extremely special for us to have these artists support what we’re doing to highlight our foundation, but also to highlight our city.”

— Debra Frenkel,

director of the Freedom Waters Foundation

video to premier on Valentine’s Day at Painting My Tomorrow.

Several Third Street South restaurants will donate a portion of their Sunday lunch sales to Freedom Waters, including Sea Salt, Ridgway Bar & Grill, Tommy Bahamas and Jane’s Café. Numerous retailers are selling honor cards for \$1 each; shoppers can purchase the cards in honor and respect of friends and family, and the cards will be displayed at Painting My Tomorrow.

For more information, visit www.FreedomWatersFoundation.org or call the Freedom Waters Foundation at 248-1120. ■

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UNDERCOVER HISTORIAN

Common stockholders in a not-so-common community

BY LOIS BOLIN

Special to Florida Weekly

"Few counties in modern times have been created with a smaller population and less developed resources in so large an area (as Collier County)." That's according to Charles Tebeau in "Florida's Last Frontier: The History of Collier County."

This county of Collier became a political unit on May 8, 1923, when the Florida legislature carved out a piece of Lee County under the Rule of Senatorial Courtesy. This new area consisting of 2,035 square miles (about 1 million acres, or three times the size of Lake Okeechobee) was named after Barron Gift Collier.

Mr. Collier established Everglades City (formerly called Everglade) as the temporary capital city of his Florida holdings. The area required great vision, management and imagination — all of which were also inherent characteristics of the owner of the Consolidated Street Railway Advertising Company.

A "git'er-done" kind of man, Mr. Collier made sure the first meeting of the Collier County Commissioners commenced two months later, on July 7, 1923, with five appointees named by Florida Gov. Cary Hardee, all hand-picked (of course) by Mr. Collier. They were: George Washington Storter, founder of Everglade and resident since 1887; James Madison Barfield, a resident of Caxambus (part of Marco Island); William Collier, whose family founded Marco Island (no relation to Barron); Jack T. Taylor of the Deep Lake Fruit Company (Hwy 29); and Immokalee cattleman Adolphus "Dottie" Carson (some say a relative of Kit Carson).

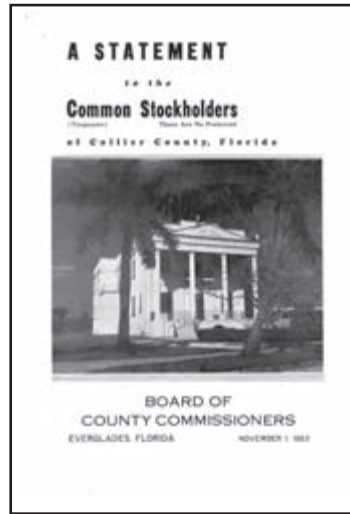
Among the new commissioners' first orders of business was the issuing of a \$300,000 bond (guaranteed by Mr. Collier) so that work on the Tamiami Trail could commence.

The same legislature that created the county of Collier in 1923 also authorized the incorporation of the city of Naples. The first Town Council meeting took place on Aug. 13, 1925. Mayor Speed Menefee ran that meeting and concluded it in about 15 minutes. (It seems Mr. Menefee and Mr. Collier shared that git'er-done philosophy.)

Part of the fun

Part of the fun as your Undercover Historian is going through old files, seeing things that catch my eye and telling the story. One such story is inspired by a pamphlet called "A Statement to the Common (Taxpayers) Stockholders (There Are No Preferred) of Collier County, Florida" published by the Board of County Commissioners on Nov. 1, 1953. The commissioners were: W.J. Janes of Copeland, D.C. Brown of Immokalee, J.M Davidson of Everglades City, R.A. Griffin of Marco Island and Lorenzo Walker of Naples.

Mr. Janes has a 12.5-mile-long scenic road named after him in a town that was named for the engineer (Mr. Copeland) whose job, per Mr. Collier, was to complete the Tamiami Trail as well as establish the community of Everglades City.



COURTESY PHOTOS

The cover of the 1953 annual report to the taxpayers of Collier County, above left, and a photo from page 2 of the publication. The men are, front row: Commissioners R.A. Griffin and Lorenzo Walker; middle row: Commission Chairman J.M. Davidson and County Clerk Ed Scott; back row: Commissioners W.J. Janes and D.C. Brown.

Mr. Walker had a school named after him — one that's not predicated purely on "book learning," Lorenzo Walker Institute.

Mr. Brown was a descendent of the founding families of Immokalee.

Details about Mr. Davidson and Mr. Griffin are not so easily found, but I'm still looking. That's part of the Undercover Historian's mission, as well as part of the fun.

2010's board of directors

Today, the territory represented by the Board of Directors of the Collier County Commission is divided into five districts, which are represented by: Donna Fiala, District 1; Frank Halas, District 2; Tom

Henning, District 3; Fred Coyle, District 4; and Jim Coletta, District 5. Somehow, district numbers aren't as personal as naming the actual township from which they come.

In a recent meeting with Ms. Fiala, I learned that she is one of only four women to have served as a county commissioner. When I showed her the photo of the 1953 commissioners included in the "Common Stockholders" pamphlet mentioned above, Ms. Fiala sighed and said, "Come with me." She led me to Commissioners' Alley (the hallway lined with photos that leads into the commission chambers). She asked if I noticed anything unusual in the photos and then pointed out three frames — one without any photograph at all, and

two containing photos of people who were not actually commissioners.

Ms. Fiala asked if Naples Backyard History would help find photographs of the men that rightfully belong in those frames. Now I'm asking you, as Common Stockholders in Collier County, to join the fun and help us locate pictures of these "lost-but-not-forgotten" commissioners:

- Fred Philips (January 1923-February 1925)
- John T. Taylor (1923-1925)
- F.C Morgan (January 1927-April 1927).

E-mail any information to me at sfibolin@aol.com or call the Naples Backyard History Mini-Museum at 594-2978. ■

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Palm Cottage 'chickee chats' set for season

The Naples Historical Society announces its 2010 lineup of Garden Side Chickee Chats. The free presentations take place from 11 a.m. to noon in the Chickee Pavilion in The Norris Gardens at Palm Cottage. Reservations are recommended, as seating is limited.

• **Friday, Jan. 29:** "Naples Oral Histories: Tomorrow's Old Timers" — Neapolitan youth from circa 1950s talk about what it was like to grow up here back then. Guests will be Ray Carroll, Lodge McKee and Nick Turner.

• **Friday, Feb. 12:** "Archaeological Landscapes of Naples" — The city's physical evolution is directly connected to what Naples has become today. Learn from one of the best authorities in town, John Beriault, past president of the NHS and archaeologist for the Archaeological & Historical Conservancy Inc.

• **Friday, Feb. 26:** "Edison, Ford and Friends" — Learn how two of America's greatest inventors, Thomas Edison and Henry Ford, met and traveled together. Presenter is Chris Pendleton, president and

CEO of the Estates.

The Naples Historical Society is headquartered at historic Palm Cottage, 137 12th Avenue South, one block east of the Naples Pier. Palm Cottage and The Norris

Gardens at Palm Cottage are open from 1-4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Suggested donation is \$8 per person.

For more information, call 261-8164 or visit www.NaplesHistoricalSociety.org. ■

Now is the time to sign up for Historic Homes Tour

The Naples Historical Society's 2010 Historic Homes Tour is set to begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 20, at historic Palm Cottage. From there, society docents will lead a tour to three beautifully restored historic homes nearby.

The homes, among the oldest and most historic in Naples are affectionately known as Mandalay, Palm Villa (the old DuPont Estate) and Martha's Cottage.

Each tells an important story about the importance of preservation.

The 2010 Historic Homes Tour will culminate with a luncheon in The Norris Gardens at Palm Cottage.

Tickets are \$200 per person. Space is limited, and early reservations are encouraged. To be included in the mailing list for invitation, call 261-8164.

The NHS receives no government

funding and relies on membership dues and donations.

Palm Cottage is at 137 12th Avenue South, one block east of the Naples Pier. Regular hours at the cottage and The Norris Gardens are 1-4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. Admission is \$8 per person. For more information, call the above number or visit www.NaplesHistoricalSociety.org. ■

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

DISTRIBUTED BY UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Stock market springs from pirate 'industry'

In Somalia, which is without a central government to speak of and where very little functions beyond an Islamic resistance and individual warlords' fiefdoms, a robust "stock market" has emerged in the city of Haradheere for "investors" in the seagoing pirate "industry," to raise money and supplies for kidnapers in exchange for a share of the bounty once

a ransom is paid. According to a December Reuters dispatch, 72 "companies" are listed on the exchange, enabling "venture capital" to fund greater piracy traffic and more sophisticated looting. There even seems to be a financial "bubble" at work, in that since the "exchange" opened, pirates' ransoms have doubled to about \$4 million per ship. ■

Least competent criminals

► Andre Stoltzfus, 17, was arrested in Saugerties, N.Y., in October after he allegedly counterfeited a \$1 bill that a family member later used toward the purchase of a pack of cigarettes.

► Bandanna-clad Jason Zacchi, 27, was arrested in Dearborn Heights, Mich., in November after, according to

police, pointing a shotgun at a Wendy's employee at the drive-in window and demanding money. Moments later, the shift manager angrily approached the window and yelled at Zacchi, "What the hell are you doing?" (The manager had recognized Zacchi through his bandanna. Zacchi is her son.) ■

Latest religious messages

► Since March 2008, the Cathedral of Christ the King in Phoenix has been ringing its bells every half-hour, 24 hours a day, enraging neighbors, and a showdown with city officials was looming at press time, according to ABC News.

► Atlanta municipal bus driver Leroy Matthews was suspended in November for a recent incident in which he suddenly stopped the bus and refused to open the doors until the alighting passenger joined hands with him in prayer.

► The Scranton (Pa.) Diocese, needing confession: Father Edward Lyman of the diocese was removed as a parish administrator in November after he inadvertently (using his personal computer during early Mass) clicked on photos of four bare-chested young men in provocative poses. Also in November, the diocese disavowed Father Virgil Tetherow's behavior for offering Mass at a breakaway church in York, Pa., and too-aggressively protesting at a Planned Parenthood clinic (incidents

on top of Tetherow's 2005 conviction on a charge that was originally child porn possession but downgraded in a plea agreement). And yet another diocese priest, Father Robert Timchak, waived a preliminary hearing in November on charges of having child porn on his computer.

► Rev. Marc Grizzard, pastor of the Amazing Grace Baptist Church in Canton, N.C., staged an October book-burning of "Satan's" literature, including works by Mother Teresa and Rev. Billy Graham and any Bible besides the original King James version. (2) In October, Mikey Weinstein, a former military lawyer who served in the Reagan White House, filed a lawsuit against Gordon Klingenschmitt, head of a Dallas chaplains' association, to stop Klingenschmitt from publicly reciting Bible verses implying a smiting of Weinstein, along with Weinstein's family and descendants for 10 generations. Said Klingenschmitt: "I never prayed for anyone's death. All I did was quote the Scriptures." ■

Karma

► Shannon Broome, 15, of Jacksonville, Fla., with her leg in a cast and still laid up from a June rollover accident in an SUV, was hit again in December when another out-of-control SUV came through her bedroom wall and re-broke the leg (among other injuries inflicted).

► Recently, at the Abergele Hospital

in North Wales, Geraint Woolford, 52, was moved into a room to await a partial knee replacement and discovered that his roommate was Geraint Woolford, 77, who was awaiting a hip replacement. According to a December report in the *Daily Mail*, they are not related, but both are retired police officers. ■

Questionable judgments

► Michael Sampson, who was in court in Salina, Kan., in November merely on charges of littering and driving with a suspended license, was arrested after a judge spotted him at the defense table, making threatening gestures to witnesses. Sampson was seen holding his thumb and fingers in the shape of a gun, "firing" at a witness, and making a slashing motion across his neck.

► In November, Father Joe Vetter, head of Duke University's Catholic Center, criticized a research team seeking student volunteers on female attitudes toward sex toys and paraphernalia. Father Vetter said the project would affect students "in this development phase (of their lives), and I don't think it's a good developmental practice to just tell somebody to just sit around and masturbate." ■

People with issues

Sara Foss, 39, the mother of 13 in Derby, England, who is scheduled to deliver No. 14 in March, told the *Daily Mail* in November of her vow to continue getting pregnant until she fulfills her desire to have twins. Her longtime, live-in boyfriend works as a boat-build-

er, but their main income is government benefits worth the equivalent of about \$80,000 annually. (Foss, apparently also a fan of literature and movies, has kids named Artemus, Morpheus, Voorhees, Baudelaire, Blackbird, Echo, Malachai and Frodo.) ■

► **Clarification:** Five weeks ago, News of the Weird reported that HoneyBaked Ham had fired Richard Huether, manager of its Cary, N.C., store, while he was still recuperating from being shot in a robbery of the store. The report noted that among the hardships of now being unemployed, his

health insurance premium (under COBRA) would thus become steeply expensive. However, following the publication of the WRAL-TV story on which the News of the Weird report was based, HoneyBaked decided to prepay Huether's COBRA expenses for the next 18 months. ■



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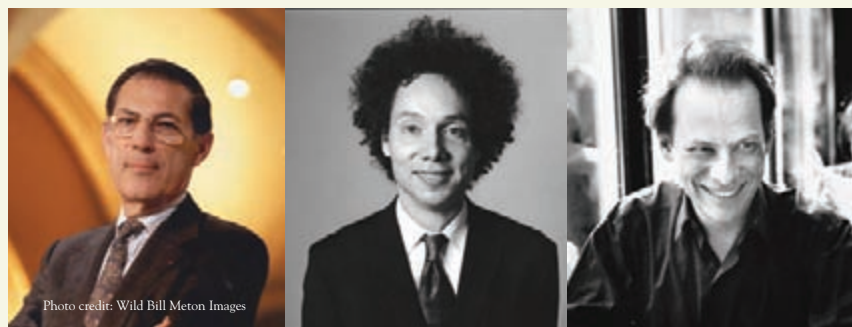
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Jim Angle, Fox News – Moderator

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Adam Gopnik, Author and Essayist for "The New Yorker"

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CLUB NOTES

Christian women welcome members, guests to luncheons

The Naples Christian Women's Club holds its next luncheon meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Jan. 8, at Quail Creek Country Club. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. for socializing.

Bring your "just not you" costume jewelry for the silent auction/fundraiser. Guest speaker Carolyn Ersig will present "No Orphans or Missing Earrings in this Family."

Cost is \$23 for members and guests.

The February meeting will be a Garden Party & Fashion Show from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Friday, Feb. 5, at The Ritz-Carlton, Naples. Fashions will be by Charivari of The Village on Venetian Bay. Billie Dean & Dawn will entertain, and guest speaker Deanna Hansen-Doying will discuss "Finding the Balance Between Prudence and Whimsy."

Cost is \$50 for members and guests.

For reservations to either the January or February meeting, call Roberta McFarland at 591-2074 or e-mail robertamcfarland00@comcast.net.

For more information about the club and its activities, visit www.cwcf.net. ■

Fire districts, EMS are topic for League of Women Voters

The League of Women Voters of Collier County is a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to women and men.

Members and the public are welcome at monthly meetings that take place on the second Monday at the Collier Athletic Club. Meeting attendance is free. A buffet lunch beginning at noon is \$20 for league members and \$25 for others. Each month's program begins at 1 p.m. Here is the 2010 schedule:

- **Jan. 11:** "Pre-Hospital Care in Collier Today: What Changes Would Fire District Consolidation Bring?" — Helping to sort out the issues involved in merging two or more of Collier County's nine fire districts as well as challenges to the current status of Emergency Medical Services is a panel of key stakeholders: Jim Burke, commissioner, North Naples Fire Control and Rescue District; Donna Fiala, Collier County commissioner, District 1; Dr. Robert Tober, director, Collier County Emergency Medical Services; and Jorge Aguilera, deputy chief of medical services and community relations, North Naples Fire Control and Rescue District.

- **Feb. 8:** "Update on the State of Florida's Everglades Land Purchase"

- **March 8:** "Hot Topic in the Local Justice System"

- **April 12:** "On the Road to Citizenship: A Look Inside" with immigration attorney Casey Wolff

For reservations, phone 263-4656 or e-mail hospitality@lwvcolliercounty.org.

Deadline for lunch reservations is 5 p.m. the Thursday before each meeting. ■

Press club will hear about Immokalee project and book

Members and guests of The Naples Press Club will enjoy a multimedia presentation by photographer Brynn Bruijn and press club member Phil Beuth about their work on "Images of Hope," a photographic exhibit and book about Immokalee. The exhibit currently hangs at the Naples Museum of Art, where the 175-page book is for sale to benefit The Immokalee Foundation. The meeting begins at noon Wednesday, Jan. 13, in the community room at the *Naples Daily News*. Admission of \$25 includes luncheon. RSVP by e-mailing rsvp@naplespressclub.org. ■

Save the date for Zonta fashion show

The Zonta Club of Naples will hold its Spring Fashion Show and Fundraiser for PACE Center for Girls, Immokalee, and the Naples Teenage Parenting Program at 11 a.m. Friday, March 26, at The Strand Country Club. Tickets are \$80. For more information and reservations, call 598-9058. ■

Chess players make their moves at Mercato

The Southwest Florida Chess Club invites players of all ages and abilities to gather at Books-A-Million at Mercato from 1:30-5 p.m. on Saturdays. Club founder Greg Gordon says USCF members and non-members are welcome, as are novice, intermediate and expert players, for casual and tournament play. For more information, call Mr. Gordon at 898-0458 or e-mail swflchess@yahoo.com. ■

Get acquainted with the Naples Newcomers Club

The Naples Newcomers Club is designed to help women who have been permanent residents of Naples for no more than five years meet and develop friendships with others who are new to the area. Members encourage one another to learn about Naples, its culture and lifestyle and to develop friendships by sharing interests and hobbies with each other.

The club holds a luncheon meeting on the second Thursday of each month, year 'round. Orientation for prospective members is held on the first Thursday of every month.

Groups within the club meet for outings and to share varied interests, from mah jongg and duplicate bridge to gourmet cooking and discussions about philosophy.

For more information, call 298-4083 or visit www.naplesnewcomers.com. ■

Stan's Idle Hour celebrates life with Avow Hospice

The 15th annual Celebration of Life to benefit Avow Hospice takes place from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, at Stan's Idle Hour Restaurant in Goodland. Dedicated to the memory of loved ones,

the celebration features entertainment, games, raffles and door prizes. Admission is free, and all are welcome. For more information, call Bonnie Dinger at 649-3686. ■

St. Katherine's church goes Greek again

The annual Greek Festival at St. Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church is set for Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 29-31. The all-day fun includes Greek food and wine, live music and dance per-

formances plus raffle prizes and much more. Admission is \$3 per person, which children younger than 12 admitted free. The church is at 7100 Airport Road N. For more information, call 591-3430. ■

Sailing club welcomes Olympic hopefuls for fundraiser

The public is invited to the next meeting of Gulf Coast Sailing Club to hear Naples' own Trevor Moore and his teammate Erik Storck talk about their lives on the campaign trail with sights set on a spot in the 2012 Summer Olympics in London, England.

Both members of the US Sailing Team, they will be fresh from the 49er World Championships, which ends Saturday, Jan. 9, in the Bahamas. In the past year they have raced their 49er in Miami, Spain, The Netherlands, Germany, Italy, Croatia and England.

A native Neapolitan and 2003 graduate of Community School of Naples, Mr. Moore began sailing at the age of 7 in a learn-to-sail program at the Naples Sailing Center. He was encouraged and supported in his love for the sport by his father, John Moore, who purchased him an Optimist dinghy. It was through the Optimist that Mr. Moore and Mr. Storck met, as youngsters competing in numerous national and international events.

After graduating from Hobart and

William Smith Colleges in upstate New York in 2008, they decided to join forces and start an Olympic campaign in the 49er, a double-trapeze skiff that's regarded as the fastest and most exciting sailboat to race in the Olympics. The two share a dream to win an Olympic medal, and to do so, they know they must spend a vast amount of time on the water training, they must be at peak physical condition, they must keep their equipment in perfect working order and they must be mentally and emotionally sound so as to make good decisions in the heat of the race.

Accomplishing these keys to success requires extensive planning, travel, hard work and, not least, finances.

The Gulf Coast Sailing Club meeting will serve as a fundraiser for the sailors' effort. It begins with a skipper/crew mixer at 6 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 13, at The Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club. Mr. Moore and Mr. Storck will speak at 7:30 p.m. Admission is a donation of \$10.

For more information, visit www.storckmooresailing.com for video, photos and blogs from the sailors in action at training camps and events. E-mail questions or requests to team@storckmooresailing.com. Finally, find the team on Facebook, group name Storck/Moore Sailing and Twitter at www.twitter.com/storckmooresail. ■

COURTESY PHOTO
Olympic hopefuls Erik Storck, left, and Trevor Moore, after the Sail for Gold race in Weymouth, England, in September 2009



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Services Available Nationwide

Collier County tag is a free ride home for lost pets

Collier County Domestic Animal Services cares for about 7,000 animals each year, many of which are lost pets picked up as strays. A new fee policy makes it easier for owners to claim their beloved lost pets.

Effective Jan. 1, owners can take your lost pet home from DAS for no charge as long as the animal has a current county pet license and is claimed by the end of next business day after impoundment. Information with the pet's license serves as proof of ownership.

Previously, owners claiming lost pets had to pay an impoundment fee (\$25-\$225) plus a daily boarding fee (\$10), without exception. Under the new policy, impound fees and boarding fees will only apply to unlicensed pets and to licensed pets not claimed by the second day of impoundment. Collier County requires mandatory spay/neuter and microchipping at the owner's expense for reclaimed cats and dogs, and these rules continue to apply.

It is more important than ever to license your cats and dogs with

Collier County DAS, not only because it is the law, but because it will assist with the goal of reconnecting families with lost animals. A county license is a free ride home for a lost pet.

Other fee changes at DAS include an increased cost to license unaltered cats or dogs that are over 1 year old. The license fee has increased from \$30 to \$60, but owners will receive a refund of \$50 if they have their pet spayed or neutered within 30 days.

DAS encourages pet owners to make use of the new independent, nonprofit Collier Spay Neuter Clinic, which offers high-quality, low-cost spay and neuter surgeries to the public. In some instances, getting your pet fixed may be less expensive than licensing it at the unaltered rate.

For more information about DAS's fees and policies, visit www.collierpets.com. Monthly shelter statistics about pets received and their outcomes are posted at www.collier.gov.net. ■



Pups and their people can register now for fourth annual Run for the Paws 5K

The Humane Society Naples teams up with Gulf Coast Runners and invites locals to lace-up those doggies for the fourth annual Run for the Paws 5K walk/run Saturday, Jan. 30, at Naples Municipal Airport.

The first 300 registrants will receive commemorative T-shirts and goodie bags. Visit www.RunForthePaws.com and register online. Registration is \$20 per person prior to Jan. 20, \$25 Jan. 21-29 and \$30 on the day of the event. Late registration/check-in begins at 7 a.m. at the Civil Air Patrol (360 Aviation Drive South).

The race starts at 8 a.m. on North Road, just south of Radio Road at Airport-Pulling Road. The route circumnavigates the airport and ends at the Civil Air Patrol. Awards will be given to participating pups and to overall male and female and top three in each of several age groups.

Participants are requested (but not required) to bring a donation of the pets at The Humane Society Naples. Paper towels, laundry detergent, hand sanitizer, dryer sheets, cat litter and canned dog and cat food are the most needed items.

Runners are welcome to bring their dogs, but pets must be leashed at all times



and current with vaccinations. They should not interfere with other pets or runners and should be physically able to run the distance. A special request this year is that runners with pets use a straight leash, not retractable, because of entanglement issues last year. All runners with pets will begin and stay at the rear of the group during the duration.

Last year's race drew 650 registrants (including more than 100 dogs) and raised \$8,950 and about 50 pounds of pet supplies for The Humane Society Naples.

For information about sponsorship opportunities associated with the run, call Andy Reed at 643-1880, ext. 21, or e-mail andy@hsnaples.org. ■



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GOLF TOURNEYS

Men of Distinction tournament precedes ACE Group Classic

The Education Foundation of Collier County's Men of Distinction Golf Tournament tees off Friday, Feb. 5, at The Quarry, host of the 2010 ACE Group Classic. Held in conjunction with the Men of Distinction awards on Feb. 10, the tournament is sponsored by The Journals, the ACE Group Classic and Hilton Naples.

Registration and lunch begin at 12:30 p.m., followed by a shotgun start at 1:30 p.m. An awards ceremony and buffet dinner immediately follow the tournament. Top prize in the Closest-to-the Pin Shootout is an Official Pro-Am spot in The ACE Group Classic the following week.

Participation is \$900 for a foursome, which includes a hole sponsorship (while available), or \$200 per player. For registration and more information, call the Education Foundation at 643-4755 or visit www.EducationForCollier.org. ■

Arthrex, TIB Bank sponsor Care Mobile Classic

The Ronald McDonald Care Mobile program announces Arthrex Inc. has signed on as exclusive tournament

sponsor and TIB Banks as reception sponsor for the fourth annual Care Mobile Classic set for Tuesday, April 6, at Quail West.

Sign-ups for foursomes and additional sponsorships for the marathon-style tournament are available now. For information, contact Kristen Abreu at 658-3029 or kabreu@collier.org. ■

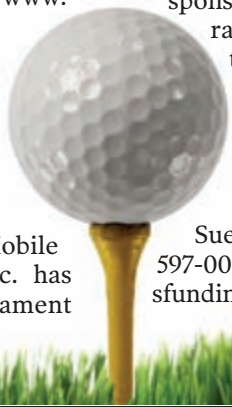
Date set for biennial Founders Fund tournament

The Founders Fund Inc. will hold its 2010 Biennial Ed Brennan Memorial Golf Tournament on Monday, April 12, at The Club Pelican Bay. The tournament is the main fundraiser for scholarships awarded to 25 Collier County high school graduates based on financial need and academic merit.

There are many ways to be a part of the tournament, from being a player or sponsor to donating items for the raffle and silent auction. Donations can be accepted up until the day of the tournament.

Sponsors receive two playing spots and four places at the awards dinner.

For more information, call Sue Davenport at 593-0124 or 597-0086 or visit www.thefoundersfundinc.org. ■



Float plan filed for Mardi Gras- Goodland Boat Parade

The 14th annual Mardi Gras-Goodland Boat Parade sets sail at 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 13, from mile market G15 near Moran's Pass Bridge. Grand marshal Stan Gober will lead the flotilla through Buzzard's Bay South (Goodland Harbor) and circumnavigate the island before dropping anchor at Coon Key Marina.

The theme is advertising, and boaters are encouraged to decorate their craft to

reflect anything relating to products and their slogans, jingles, commercials or the celebrities who endorse them.

Funds from registration, T-shirt sales, raffles and auctions will be donated to the Marco Island office of Avow Hospice Inc.

For more information, call Elaine Ritchie at 642-8356 or visit www.mardi-grasgoodland.com. ■



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HEALTHY LIVING

Now hear this:

Big things come in small packages

BY KELLY MERRITT

Special To Florida Weekly

The typical sounds most of us take for granted — wind whistling through the palms, a garbage truck rumbling by, the ring tone of a cell phone — are like gold to the hearing impaired. For them, tiny new hearing aids packed with the latest digital technology can deliver the message loud and clear.

Though more expensive than conventional analog hearing aids, which just make everything louder, digital hearing aids help the wearer understand sounds better.

Audiologist April Royan of Decibels Audiology and Hearing Aid Center explains that regular hearing aids often lack high frequency, which results in the wearer being able to hear vowels, perhaps, but not consonants. "Because vowel sounds are low frequency and consonants are high frequency, everything can seem loud but still be difficult to understand. Words like dog, fog and log can be hard to decipher."

A good hearing aid provides clarity as well as volume — without making the guy behind

you as loud as the person you're looking at and listening to, Ms. Royan adds.

How we hear

Every part of the ear has an important job in the complicated hearing process. The outer ear collects and directs sound into the ear canal, causing the eardrum to vibrate. Three tiny bones in the middle ear direct the vibrations into the inner ear, which contains fluid full of thousands of tiny specialized cells. These cells send electrical impulses along a hearing nerve for the brain to read, allowing us to perceive sound.

Conductive and sensorineural are the two most common forms of hearing loss. Conductive hearing loss can be the result of outer ear canal blockage, a perforated eardrum, middle ear infection or a disease of any of the three middle ear bones.

Most patients with conductive hearing loss report a full or plugged sensation in their ears and usually hear well if the sound is loud enough. This type of hearing loss often can be corrected with medical and/or surgical intervention.

Sensorineural hearing loss can be caused by a disturbance of inner ear circulation or fluid pressure or from disturbances of nerve transmission. Such impairments are most commonly caused by age-related changes in the inner ear or nerve endings. While not correctable by medicine or surgery, sensorineural hearing loss rarely causes deafness and can usually be treated with the help of hearing aids.

A person with a sensorineural hearing loss may be able to hear people talking, but will have difficulty understanding what is being said. Increasing the loudness of speech does not always provide a clear message. Hearing is typically improved when speakers are face-to-face in quiet places.

People who experience hearing loss should have their hearing evaluated by an

audiologist to determine the type and level of the impairment.

Once hearing loss is diagnosed, the audiologist can help in the process of choosing a hearing aid by explaining the options in style and technology, assessing the patient's communication needs and making impressions of the ear.

Digital hearing aids can be hooked up to a computer and programmed for what the patient needs. These newer hearing aids also have features like directional microphones that move toward what you're looking at and make those sounds loudest, much like the natural ear focuses on what you're looking at.

Sounds good

"You don't just want to hear everything louder, because this magnifies background noise, like dishes and silverware clinking," Ms. Royan says. "You want to hear what the people at your table are saying."

That's all Bob Pikul wanted.

"I just wanted to hear well in a noisy restaurant again," Mr. Pikul says. "I could

hear, but I couldn't understand. It sounded as though others were mumbling."

Ms. Royan tested Mr. Pikul's hearing and helped him decide on a hearing aid that features noise reduction technology and directional microphones, which help him understand speech without raising the volume of everything around him. After wearing the device in a variety of situations, he reported back to the audiologist, who made adjustments.

Hearing loss is usually a gradual process, and it affects half a billion million people, many of whom are over age 50. Research shows people with hearing loss often wait as long as seven to nine years before getting professional help. ■

Common signs of hearing loss

- >> **Complaints** that people are mumbling
- >> **Difficulty** hearing when background noise is present
- >> **Asking** people to repeat themselves
- >> **Difficulty** hearing in group situations
- >> **Difficulty** hearing when not facing the talker
- >> **Difficulty** understanding TV/radio/telephone
- >> **Disagreements** over TV volume level
- >> **Impatience**, frustration, feeling withdrawn

How to help

As a hearing instrument user adjusts to a new hearing device, support of family and friends is helpful. Here are some tips for communicating with people who use hearing aids:

- **Speak clearly and naturally.** Avoid mumbling.
- **Speak clearly and naturally.** Don't shout, as this will cause sound distortion and discomfort to the wearer.
- **Move closer to the listener** and position yourself so that he can see your face and lips; visual cues are vital to understanding with hearing instruments.
- **Attract the listener's attention** by calling his name, making sure he sees you or tapping him lightly on the shoulder.
- **Take the surroundings into account.** Don't try to converse from one room to another or in rooms with distracting noises like a washing machine, vacuum cleaner or music.
- **Be patient**, and be a good listener.



STRAIGHT TALK

Top 10 List of NCH Accomplishments

allenWEISS

allen.weiss@nchmd.org



Dear Friends and Colleagues:

New Year's Eve is the traditional time for looking back on the accomplishments of the year just ending, before we look ahead to the year to come. For this final Straight Talk of 2009, and after reviewing the past 51 issues, I've selected the following Top 10 List of NCH Accomplishments for which all of us should be proud. Here are the themes and landmarks that "popped out" on my review.

1. Quality. Overwhelmingly, this is the single most important and distinguishing characteristic of NCH. In the year 2000, NCH had earned no distinctions for quality. This year, among our accomplishments, NCH shared eight best practices at the annual Institute of Healthcare Improvement, won another juried award for quality and safety from the Florida Hospital Association, and

ranked in the top 5 percent for overall clinical quality for the sixth year in a row as determined objectively by HealthGrades.com (conferring a 52 percent lower chance of dying compared to the national average). Most important, we saved countless lives.

2. Patient safety. From hand-washing compliance to timeouts before any procedure, safety will always be essential at NCH. An award-winning patient fall prevention program, our perennial low prevalence of pressure sores, and medication administration using bar code identification are just a few examples.

3. Joint Commission validation. In July, the Joint Commission's surprise five-day visit validated all our hard work. Upon exiting, the team leader said ours was the best system he had surveyed so far this year. And the surveyor who had been doing this since 1992 said ours was among the finest systems she has seen over her career.

4. Healthy colleagues. The health of our colleagues is also mission critical. We were committed in 2009 to setting an example in smoking cessation, medical screening for early diagnosis and prevention, cholesterol and

glucose control, and increased physical activity. Our new insurance plans introduced incentives to help achieve these goals and set the example for our community.

5. Information technology. Our intensified collaboration with the Cerner Corp. in 2009 was predicted by Cerner's co-founder as a "big win for the community and everyone else." We have already made progress with much more to come.

6. Fun. There was the Fun Splash in the spring at the Livingston Water Park, scrumptious holiday meals for all colleagues, lunch with Santa and so many more examples of coming together to celebrate our role in the community.

7. Growth. NCH experienced a 1.9 percent growth in total admissions year-over-year, with many bright spots. For one, our total joint replacement volume for Medicare patients is now second in the nation only to the famed Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City.

8. Finances & Economics. Even in a time of healthcare challenges and hardship for many, we remained an economic beacon for the community. In

November, our financial strength permitted a 1.5 percent board discretionary bonus — \$2.1 million in all — for everyone in good standing.

9. Emergency preparedness. We remain well prepared for, and confident in the face of, emergencies such as the H1N1 flu, which fortunately thus far has not been a major threat.

10. Communication. This, too, is an important management mandate, of which these weekly Straight Talks are a part. Last week, you read about a 7-year-old boy whose life was saved by an alert and competent ER. Accountant Betty Adams e-mailed: "Your message brought tears to my eyes and a lump in my throat. I work for an awesome organization with truly gifted people. We are all truly blessed."

Thanks, Betty, and thanks to all who make NCH the awesome organization it has become.

I couldn't be prouder to be associated with all of you. Best wishes for a healthy and happy New Year. ■

— Dr. Allen Weiss is president and CEO of the NCH Healthcare System.

HEALTH NEWS

Hip, knee arthritis is topic of free seminar

Orthopedic surgeon Robert J. Zehr of The Zehr Center for Orthopaedics will present "Arthritis - The Trends, the Treatments and the Truth," at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, in the café at North Collier Hospital. The public is invited to this free seminar to learn more about arthritis and hip and knee replacement.

Dr. Zehr will discuss preventative measures as well as the range of treat-



ZEHR

ment options up to and including total joint replacement. He is one of the few orthopedic surgeons in the U.S. using the anterior approach to total hip replacement utilizing the Hana Hip and Knee

Arthroplasty Table. He also uses the Oxford Unicompartmental Knee for partial knee replacement surgery and the custom-aligned knee joint replacement from Biomet known as Signature Personalized Patient Care.

Although the seminar is free, reservations are required and can be made by calling The Zehr Center at 596-0100 or online at www.zehrcenter.com. ■

American Cancer Society plans Road to Recovery training Jan. 12

Lack of transportation is one of the biggest challenges many cancer patients face, and the American Cancer Society needs more volunteers willing to help patients get to treatment. Many patients need daily or weekly cancer care, and some patients don't have a car or are too sick to drive.

That's where the American Cancer

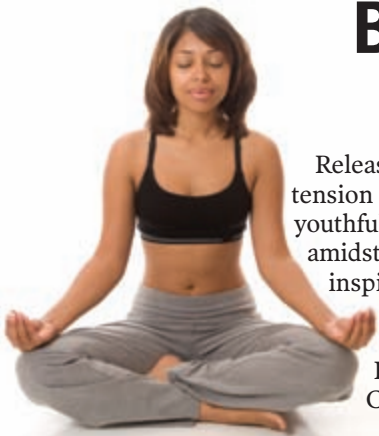
Society's Road to Recovery program comes in, connecting volunteer drivers with patients in need of a ride to treatment.

Volunteers must have a valid driver's license, safe and reliable vehicle and proof of adequate automobile insurance. They should be willing and able to attend a brief training session, after which they

can sign up to transport patients as often as their schedules allow.

The next Road to Recovery training session in Naples takes place Tuesday, Jan. 12, at the local ACS office on First Avenue South. For more information about this program and other volunteer opportunities with the ACS, call 261-0337 or visit www.cancer.org. ■

Bend and stretch with yoga classes in the Garden of Hope & Courage



Release muscle tension and gain youthful flexibility amidst the quiet inspiration of the Garden of Hope & Courage.

A five-week session of classes in gentle yoga and relaxing stretches begins Wednesday, Jan. 13, in the garden on the downtown campus of NCH Healthcare System. Classes will meet at 6 p.m. every Wednesday through Feb. 10, rain or shine, under the pavilion overlooking the garden's pond and tropical landscape.

No experience in yoga is necessary. Instructor is Janice Behling.

Cost is \$10 per class or \$40 for all five classes. A portion of the fee will be donated to the garden.

Registration in advance is options. For more information, e-mail Ms. Behling at serenitystretch@hotmail.com or call 384-9759. ■

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Pick a field trip or two as part of sixth annual nature festival



The Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve hosts the sixth annual Southwest Florida Nature Festival Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 15-17. The festival celebrates the local coastal environment through lectures about wildlife and gardening, interactive children's activities such as owl pellet dissections and a marine touch tank, and live animals from the Audubon Center for Birds of Prey. These programs take place at the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center, 300 Tower Road.

The festival also offers guided field trips to wildlife hot spots. Thirty trips are scheduled to 20 locations, including Barefoot Beach and Corkscrew Swamp Sanctuary, Sand Dollar Lagoon and the Naples Botanical Garden, Big Cypress

National Preserve and the Ten Thousand Islands, Collier-Seminole and Fakahatchee Strand state parks.

Designated for birding, biking, canoeing and wildlife and plant viewing, the field trips range from \$10-\$50 each. Registration is required and can be completed by calling 417-6310 or visiting www.rookerybay.org. ■



COURTESY PHOTOS
More than two dozen field trips give participants the chance to hike, paddle and look for plants, birds and wildlife.



Shape up for Pedaling for Pathways

Believing that everyone should be able to get where they need to go safely, without having to get in a car, the Naples Pathways Coalition is a nonprofit advocacy group that champions a safe, interconnected system of pathways, bike lanes and sidewalks for all users of non-motorized transportation.

Members work in the community to educate cyclists, pedestrians and drivers, organize bicycle rodeos for kids and install lights on bikes for low-income individuals who use their bikes for commuting before or after daylight hours.

The coalition also pushes local government to install and maintain sidewalks, bike lanes and off-road multi-use pathways, as well as appropriate signage to increase safety for all.

The group's next major event is:

- **The fourth annual Pedaling for Pathways Brunch**


Sunday, Jan. 24

Setting out from Lowdermilk Beach Park, riders can choose to pedal 10, 20, 30, 62 or 100 miles. Start times range from 7 a.m. for the 100-mile ride to 9 a.m. for the 10-mile trek. Registration and breakfast begin at 6:30 a.m.

Registration includes continental breakfast, fully supported road ride with aid stations and SAG vehicles and lunch from Carrabba's Italian Grill. There are T-shirts for all who sign up by Friday, Jan. 8.

Registration is \$30 for Naples Pathways Coalition members and \$35 for others. New membership for \$55 includes registration for the Turkey Ride. The first child 10 and younger rides free with a paid adult; additional children pay \$15 each.

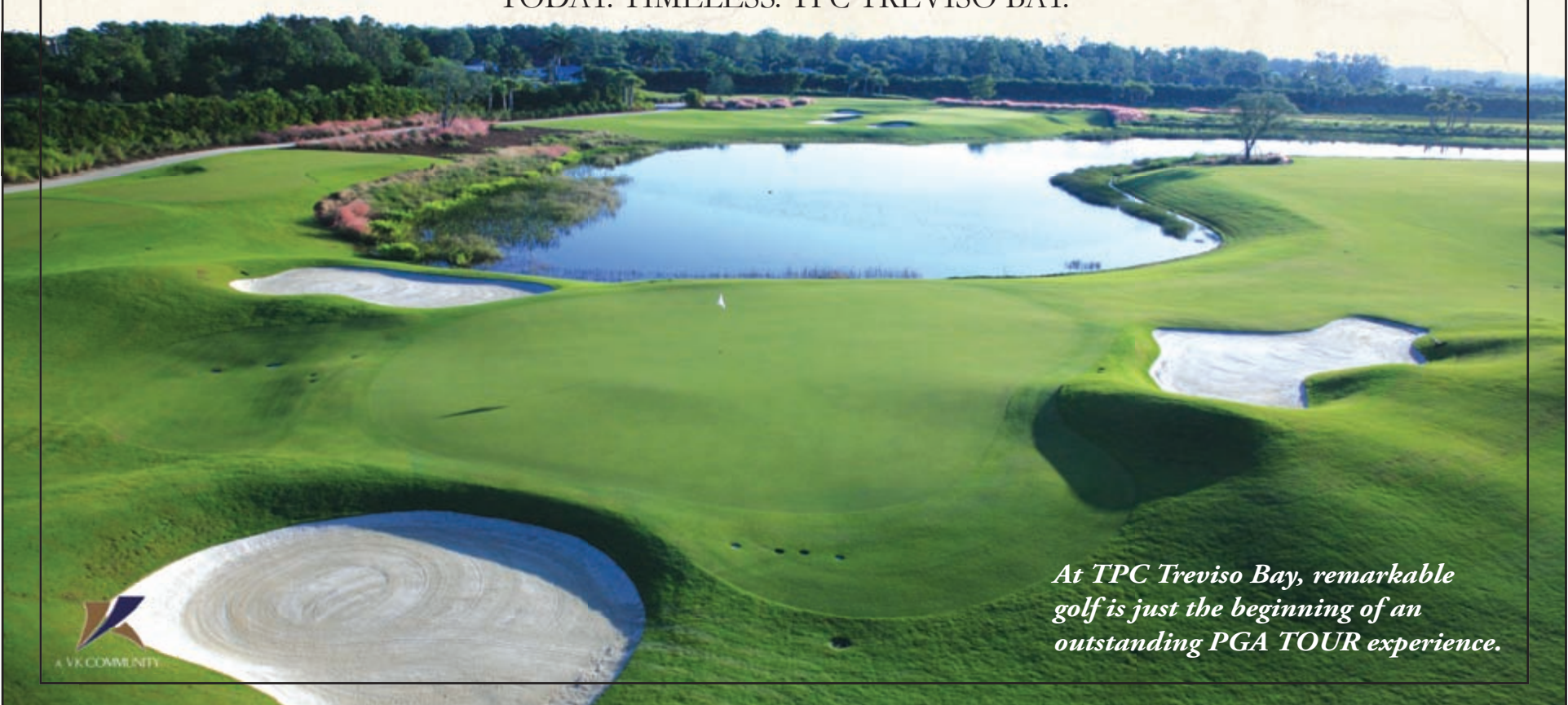
For more information, call 810-5949 or visit www.naplespathways.org. ■



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OUTDOORS

AT COLLIER-SEMINOLE STATE PARK

Admire, enjoy but don't touch or take 'Jewels of the Everglades'

BY LEE BELANGER

Special to Florida Weekly

About this time every year in Southwest Florida, the hot, sticky air disappears, and Snowbirds return for the winter. The dry season begins, and tree snails, which need moisture to survive, estivate.

As the days dry out, tree snails stop eating and moving. They press against smooth-barked trees and seal their shells with mucus. This kind of "hibernating" is called estivation.

Land mollusks that are related to clams, oysters and squid tree snails have a foot and a fleshy body. Their simple nervous system allows them to move slowly and withdraw into their shell for protection.

Many snails live in trees, but only tree snails live there for most or all of their life cycle. They build nests in leaf litter during the rainy summers and deposit their iridescent eggs near the base of smooth-barked trees. The eggs don't hatch until the rains come the following summer. The baby snails are called buttons.

Because tree snails need high humidity and warm temperatures to survive, they live only in semi-tropical and tropical regions such as Southwest Florida. They prefer hammocks (shady places), citrus groves and moist backyards, where they



LEE BELANGER / COURTESY PHOTO

Tree snails are a protected species in Florida.

can feed on algae, fungi and lichens.

They also eat the sooty mold that sometimes grows on citrus trees. Although this mold does little damage, it gives the fruit an unnatural green moldy color. Fruit growers once used tree snails as a biological control, but today they use pesticides instead.

Tree snail shells are 2-3 inches long, and many of them have beautiful designs and colors, from solid black and white to bands of pink, green and yellow. The Seminole Indians copied these patterns in some of their clothing.

There are several families of tree snails, but only Bulimulidae and Pupillidae live

on the United States mainland. The genera Drymaeus, Orthalicus and Liguus are native to Florida.

Collectors, hurricanes and land development have reduced the Sunshine State's tree snail populations, and they are now a protected species. Classified as "a species of special concern," they cannot be collected, either dead or alive. In addition, biologists have moved some small groups into Everglades National Park for protection.

Because tree snails often live in isolated hammocks and keys, some unique varieties have evolved. I was thrilled the first time I saw one. If you are lucky enough to see one, I'm sure you will be thrilled, too. Be sure to get a good look and perhaps a picture, but don't take or even touch — especially if the tree snail you spot happens to be attached to one of its favorite trees, the poisonwood. Then you could itch for several days with a rash similar to that from poison ivy.

Remember: These "Jewels of the Everglades" belong in Florida for all to enjoy. ■

— Lee Belanger is a seasonal volunteer trail and canoe guide at Collier-Seminole State Park. To contact her, e-mail Lungwort@aol.com.

Paddle, hike with park guides

Guided day and moonlight canoe trips and hikes are booking up quickly at Collier-Seminole State Park. This season's schedule is as follows:

>> **Guided daytime canoe trips** take place from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday. Participants paddle through a mangrove wonderland along the Blackwater River and listen to a park ranger tell stories about the Seminoles' survival. These trips are fun for ages 6 and older; cost is \$25 per person.

>> **Guided moonlight paddles** take place from 7:30-10 p.m. Jan. 27 and 29, Feb. 26 and 27, and March 27 and 29. Join a park naturalist and discover the changes nighttime brings along the Blackwater River. These trips are great for ages 12 and older; cost is \$30 per person.

>> **Guided night hikes** take place from 7:30-9:30 p.m. Jan. 11 and 13, Feb. 10 and 11 and March 10 and 13. These walking adventures are ideal for ages 6 and older; cost is \$10 per person.

Those who want to discover Collier-Seminole State Park on their own can explore the park's 11 miles of hiking trails from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Enjoy picnicking, birding, fishing, camping, a boat ramp and the historic "walking dredge" that was used to build the Tamiami Trail.

Entrance to the park is at 20200 U.S. 41, eight miles east of Highway 951. Reservations are required for the guided hikes and canoe trips. Call 392-3397 for more information.

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Michael Y. Wang, M.D.

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PET TALES

Busy cats are happy cats

BY DR. MARTY BECKER & GINA SPADAFORI
Universal Press Syndicate

Cabin fever can be the bane of an indoor cat's existence, but it doesn't have to be that way.

You don't have to open the door to the great outdoors to provide your cat with a more interesting life. In fact, by just looking at your home from a cat's point of view and adding a few environmental enrichments, your cat can be both safe and happy indoors. Here are five easy ways to get going:

- **Think vertical.** Cats love to climb, so give them the opportunity. Cat trees mounted floor-to-ceiling, wrapped with sisal rope and studded with platforms for perching, will give your cat the opportunity to look down on the rest of the world. This is especially satisfying if there are dogs in the household, because what cat wouldn't like to look down on the dog?

- **Add toys.** The cat with the most toys wins. Every indoor cat should have toys for batting around, toys for chasing, toys for hiding in and toys for interactive play. And don't forget that some of those toys ought to have catnip in them. While not all cats can enjoy the fragrant herb, those who do find it blissful in the extreme. If your cat is a catnip junkie, indulge him frequently. Rub fresh catnip onto cat trees or scratching posts, or stuff it into toys. It's perfectly safe for your cat to enjoy the buzz.

Some of the most enjoyable toys for both people and cats are the interactive ones. Every cat lover should have a "kitty tease" toy, typically a flexible rod with a line that

ends in something furry or feathery to engage a cat's prey drive. Other interactive toys include gloves with goodies dangling from the fingertips, or laser pointers that offer cats a spot of light to chase. (Just be careful not to aim the beam in your cat's eyes.)



Indoor cats are safer, but without things to do, they can become unhealthy and unhappy.

- **Provide rooms with views.** No matter how big your house, your indoor cat will know every one of its sights and sounds within just a few days. Provide a little visual stimulation by putting a bird feeder outside a window fitted with a cat-sized ledge for comfortable viewing.

Be aware, though, that a view of the world isn't always going to work for your cat. If your yard is attracting other cats from the neighborhood, your own cat may become frustrated by seeing them, and he can even turn that frustration into attacks on people

in the house. Blocking visiting cats from your yard or discouraging them with sprinklers may solve the problem. Otherwise, you may have to make certain windows off-limits to your own cat.

If a window view isn't going to work, try a TV. A few companies offer DVDs for cats. Pop one of these in, and your cat can be entertained with a lively mix of feline-friendly images and sounds, including those of birds and rodents.

- **Go green.** Cats love nibbling on plants. Any decent feline reference book will provide a list of which plants should not be in a pet-friendly house, or visit the Animal Poison Control Center (www.aspc.org/apcc) for information on dangerous plants.

After you get the unsafe plants out of the way, protect your decorative houseplants by hanging them up or otherwise putting them out of reach. Keep cats from digging in your decorative pots by putting a layer of small, rough stones over the dirt. You can then add a collection of accessible plants for your cat to nibble on, such as grass shoots, or to enjoy rubbing, such as catnip, valerian or rosemary.

- **Give face time.** Of course, one of the best things you can do for your indoor cat is to spend time with him. Playing, grooming, petting or just plain hanging out — it's all good. Your cat loves you and loves spending time with you.

Keeping a cat inside is one of the best ways to ensure a long and healthy life, but it won't be that happy an existence unless you're going to add some interest to the surroundings. It doesn't take much in the way of time or effort, so get going. Your cat will thank you! ■

Pets of the Week



>> **Benny** is a neutered, black and brown brindle American pit bull terrier. He's about 2 years old and loves to go for walks.



>> **Daisy** is a 7-month-old brown and white Labrador and golden retriever mix. She's very sweet and gentle.



>> **Foxy** is a 10-month-old Parson Russell and Chihuahua mix. She's a bit shy, but only until she gets to know you.

To adopt a pet

Collier County Domestic Animal Services is at 7610 Davis Blvd. Hours are 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Adoptions begin at 11 a.m. and are processed through closing time. Adoption fees are \$60 for cats and \$85 for dogs and include spay/ neuter surgery, a bag of pet food, pet's license and a micro-chip ID. Call 252-PETS (7387) or visit DAS online to search for a lost pet or find a new pet at www.collierpets.com.

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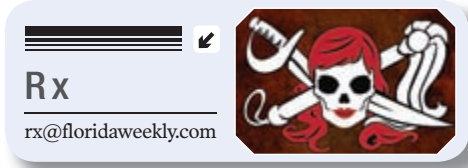
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MUSINGS

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“One, Two, Three:
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— Len Barry, 1965

I.
I,
Parting my mind
Like the red sea:
imagine passion is key
the making of she into me and me into we
just evaporating see the usual mere caricatures smokily rising
incense to gods swallowed and shining
stories erased and expanded
the big picture bigger
the landscape expounded
expressing suggesting wars ended
rending the garments of worlds
clearing the way
for whatever is shiny and faceted
beyond capture or sway of giclee
Nothing can bind.

II.
Eye, Parting my mind
In a blue moon:
a balloon view from on high
making real into rune
with only the purpose of harmonizing tunes
a swoon is suggested to engulf the gap

the mere pleasure of mind edgeless
like that and like this
nothing awry
soon seeing that no thing exists all alone
superfluous pleasure
vision beyond measure
more viewings than sands in the cascading dune
croon a solution
see all as indescribable boon
Terribly kind.

III.
Aye, Parting my mind
With the white light:
in the night the bright sight of the mightily mite
not miss taking the scene for enduring set
to get a bite taken and a fright evaporation
the height of lusting for the completely unseen

no sleight of hand
all sensual gourmand
tasting beyond rite and tight
holding the thin red string
white kite into blue
ship only construed
vessel of possibility
merger of merging delight
Seekers all find.
(giving candy to baby) ■

— Rx is the FloridaWeekly muse who hopes to inspire profound mutiny in all those who care to read. Our Rx may be wearing a pirate cloak of invisibility, but emanating from within this shadow is hope that readers will feel free to respond. Who knows: You may even inspire the muse. Make contact if you dare.



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BUSINESS & REAL ESTATE

WEEK OF JANUARY 7-13, 2010

A GUIDE TO THE NAPLES BUSINESS INDUSTRY



COURTESY PHOTOS
Skydiving, exciting roller coasters or Top Gun-style flying are all available within a short drive of Southwest Florida.

Here's to a Thrilling New Year

Lose the stress, try some adventure travel in our own backyard

BY EVAN WILLIAMS
ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

Business people and business writers must have a secret thirst for a life of derring-do. The language they use often “invest(s) ordinary events with high adventure,” according to essayist E.B. White.

“People in business say that toner cartridges are in short supply, that they have updated the next shipment of these cartridges, and that they will finalize their

recommendations at the next meeting of the board,” he writes. “Executives walk among toner cartridges, caparisoned like knights. We should tolerate them — every person of spirit wants to ride a white horse.”

The truth is, you don't have to be a real knight to find heart-stopping adventures. You can be an average CEO after all. And you need not travel to the ends of the earth. There are enough thrills — all within an easy drive of Southwest Florida — to captivate the most fearless daredevil or Walter Mitty. All you'll need is your checkbook; no special training or license is required.

It's been a tough year, and this is your chance to dissipate a lot of stress. So if

you're up to the challenge, step away from the spreadsheet, put down the stapler, and get the adrenaline fix you've been craving. Like a wise man once said, “It's hard to go home sad after a sky dive.”

A few options:

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Remember the movie “Top Gun,” when Maverick (Tom Cruise) waxes his nemesis Iceman in a practice dogfight?

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SEE WILD, B5 ►

WEEK at-a-glance



C'mon to the show

Harmon-Meek Gallery hosts exhibit of folk art bound for the Children's Museum of Naples. **B10 ►**



The sky's the limit

Meet Bettina Scherf, general manager and co-owner of Europe-American Aviation flight school. **B2 ►**



Look who's 40

For Gulfshore Life magazine, 2010 is a milestone year. **B8 ►**

Slow economic growth poses big problems

Complicated is best understood when made “simple.” Here is an attempt at “simplifying” Gross Domestic Product.

Consumer spending plus business investment plus net exports plus government spending equals GDP. This is not economic theory; it's economic fact. When consumers and businesses lose confidence, they don't spend; when banks stiffen lending criteria, consumers and businesses can't seem to get the money they need/want to spend even if they are confident.

What has been economic theory is the

role of government spending to get GDP to grow during recessionary times — how much spending, for what and pros/cons of deficit spending. John

Maynard Keynes was a big supporter of government spending during the Depression, and his theories were refined by another economist, Paul Samuelson. But it is called Keynesian economics and the

MONEY&INVESTING

JeannetteSHOWALTER, CFA

jshowaltercfa@yahoo.com



basic idea is that government spending — even big deficit spending — is good in recessionary times because the money spent gets “multiplied” in the economic sys-

tem (i.e. the government spends on a project, the project increases employment, the new hires begin spending and capital investing, etc.). The economic food chain kick-started.

The type of government spending undertaken is pretty important. Money can be poured down the drain or wisely invested. So, even among die-hard Keynesians, there can be debate about how many dollars should be spent and on what projects. Capital improvements (e.g. infrastructure projects) are often favored over spending on services, because the infrastructure helps industry, which creates jobs, etc; the infrastructure is permanent. This is why China has

SEE MONEY, B7 ►

BUSINESS PROFILE

Flight students flock to Naples-based Europe-American Aviation

BY GEORGE RAAB
Special to Florida Weekly

As general manager in charge of marketing for Europe-American Aviation, the sky's the limit for Bettina Scherf. The former music-industry marketing executive now helps build the reputation here and abroad of the flight school she owns with her husband, Carsten Sturm, president, pilot, trainer and chief administrator.

"We were looking for a business connected with aviation, and we loved Naples at first sight," Ms. Scherf said.

Euro-Atlantic Aviation was a sleepy enterprise with four planes — two Cessnas and two Pipers — when it changed hands on Sept. 1, 2001. The first step in the company's makeover was a new name to accurately reflect its identity: Europe-American Aviation.

"We were never on the Atlantic, and people were connecting the word Euro with a currency," Mr. Sturm reasons.

Like many traditional flight schools, the original school offered training on older planes. Whereas it was once OK to teach on planes that were 30 or 40 years old, the digital age and modern aviation is forcing change within the industry. The two saw the business as an opportunity to create a state-of-the-art flight school.

Grounded for 11 days following 9/11, the two were understandably shaken. "A few days into this, we were looking at each other and saying, 'We just bought a flight school in the only country in the world where flight training is officially prohibited,'" he says.

Soon operations were running again, however, and the couple proceeded with their plan to modernize their fleet. While planes come and go at flight schools, it's unusual for a school to scrap an entire fleet and start over with brand new planes. But that's what they did.

Europe-American Aviation became the first Diamond Brilliance Flight Center in the United States. Canadian-based Diamond Aircraft is known for its training planes, jets and simulators. "We knew that a modern fleet would set us apart," Ms. Scherf says.

In addition to offering FAA-certified training, EAA trains Federal Aviation Administration inspectors who come from all over the country for instruction. Its office, just north of the Naples Municipal Airport General Aviation terminal, is headquarters for its 13 planes and 15 employees, including seven flight instructors and two mechanics (the company also rents and repairs planes).

Mr. Sturm estimates that at least 70 percent of flight training worldwide takes place in the United States. At the beginning of his own career, he received instruction in Texas to fly for the German Air Force. One reason Naples Municipal Airport was rated by Aviation International News as being the 25th busiest



COURTESY PHOTO

Bettina Scherf, general manager in charge of marketing for Europe-American Aviation

that we're here," Ms. Scherf explains. "Primarily, do it to direct people to our Web site."

The site, www.eaa-fly.com, offers information, in English or German, about its training programs and the many ways to become a pilot. A typical month at the school includes 10-12 students in various stages of training, and about 50 percent of them come from Europe.

That both owners are from Germany is a strong selling point, as the couple's familiarity with visa and immigration requirements comes in handy. A favorable exchange rate is an added bonus in attracting Europeans, who also love spending weeks on end basking in

Southwest Florida's balmy weather. Until 2009, when EAA joined the rest of the world in an economic downturn, business was strong, with 30 to 40 percent growth per year since 2001.

Ms. Scherf says she enjoys the challenge. "We're very proud of what we do," she says. "With a modern fleet of Diamond planes, we can take the student from zero license to individual and then commercial in the same type of aircraft. We do get a lot of repeat business, because of our focus on customer service and our familiarity with the regulations foreigners face." ■

EAA advertises in Europe, with a small campaign in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. "We do it to let people know

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ON THE MOVE

Banking



RAY

Jim Ray has been promoted to senior vice president for business banking at Fifth Third Bank (South Florida). Mr. Ray has worked with Fifth Third Bank since 2002 and most recently served as senior vice president of the bank's public funds division. He has a bachelor of business administration degree in accounting and real estate from University of Cincinnati and is an eight-year veteran of the United States Army's Judge Advocate General Corps. He has consistently served the local community through leadership and participation in numerous organizations supporting children and youth, health, education and governmental wellbeing.

Land Development

Katherine (Katie) Sproul has been promoted to president of Barron Collier Companies' Agriculture and Eastern Lands divisions, as well as the Halstatt Partnership that encompasses Grey Oaks and LaPlaya Beach and Golf Resort. Ms. Sproul was formerly vice president of real estate and director of strategic planning and special projects. Prior to joining Barron Collier 10 years ago, she served as an executive with several New York financial institutions, including Citibank Global Consumer Bank. She is chair-elect of the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce; a current or for-

mer director of Audubon of Florida, the Junior Achievement Hall of Fame and the Florida Chamber of Commerce; and a graduate of both Leadership Collier and Leadership Florida.

Blake Gable has been named president of the Real Estate Development and Mineral Management divisions, including commercial real estate and the Town of Ave Maria, for the Barron Collier Companies. Mr. Gable joined Barron Collier in 1999 and most recently served as vice president of Real Estate. Earlier, he served for five years as legislative director for U.S. Rep. Ed Pastor (Ariz.) in Washington, D.C. A graduate of Leadership Collier and Leadership Florida programs, he is a trustee for the area YMCA and a director of the area American Heart Association, United Way and Randy Roberts Foundation.

CPA **Brad Boaz**, CFO for Barron Collier Companies, will continue in that capacity as well as take on the position of executive vice president of the company. He has been with the company since 1990 and before that worked for 10 years at KPMG Peat Marwick in Tampa. He is a graduate of the Leadership Institute and Leadership Collier, and is a current or former member of the Regional Business Alliance, the Collier County Productivity Committee, the Economic Development Council and its executive committee, and the President's Forum of Southwest Florida.

Doug Baird has been promoted to senior vice president of the Barron Collier Companies, where he has worked

for 31 years. Mr. Baird holds responsibility for banking, accounting, finance, investments, risk management, human resources and other related functions and also runs Collier Insurance agency. He was previously associated with Ashland Oil and the Exchange Bank of Tampa. A graduate of Leadership Collier, he serves as director of TIB Bank and is a North Naples Rotarian, as well as a former director of the Collier County Red Cross, founding member and officer of RIMS, Southwest Florida, and a director and coach of numerous youth athletic teams.

Brian Goguen has been promoted to senior vice president of real estate for the Barron Collier Companies, which he joined 13 years ago. He has been involved in developments including Ave Maria and Grey Oaks. He serves as chairman of the Urban Land Institute Southwest Florida District Council and has served on the board and executive committee of the Collier County Economic Development Council. He is a graduate of Leadership Collier and the Leadership Institute.

Retail

Stanton Chapman has been named operations manager at the new PGA TOUR Superstore in Naples Plaza. Mr. Chapman joined the PGA TOUR Superstore team in 2002 in Surfside Beach, S.C., and has worked at store locations in Plano, Texas, and North Myrtle Beach, S.C. The first to open in Florida, the Naples PGA TOUR Superstore has more than 40,000 square feet and includes an



CHAPMAN

indoor training facility with six simulators, a large putting green, chipping area, practice bays, full-service club repair and fitting facility, a racquet stringing service and a complete array of golf and tennis apparel and equipment for children, men and women.

Transportation

Suzanne Lennon has been named sales and marketing manager for Naples Transportation, Tours and Event Planning. She will work closely with the NTT&EP team to achieve company corporate sales and marketing objectives. ■

Business calendar Web site launched

Tom Messina of Total Concept Inc., a graphic studio specializing in advertising and Web design, has launched www.FloridaBusinessCalendar.com to enhance the growing popularity of social networking in the Southwest Florida region. The site provides a free venue, uniting all of the major business-to-business networking events and professional development meetings and classes taking place in the marketplace. Businesses can create, list and control their own event and meeting listings.

The service is being provided and maintained for no cost by Total Concept Inc.; only those businesses wanting to post information on the site are required to register; all others can view the calendar for no charge. Events can be added on a weekly, monthly or annual calendar.

Visitors can easily look up the time, day, date and location of networking and social events in the Southwest Florida marketplace by specifically searching events by the organization, city, venue, date range or keywords. The site also provides a "quick jump" menu for easy access to event listings for the Cape Coral, San Carlos Park and North Fort Myers Chambers of Commerce, for example.

Total Concept Inc. offers Web site hosting and customer support through the Southwest Florida Network of Sites, which is comprised of more than 40 Web sites and 1,300 domain names in Southwest Florida. For more information, call 332-0992 or visit www.totalconcept.com. ■

Florida Trend seeks best places to work

Florida Trend business magazine is commencing its search for Florida's best workplaces in the second annual Florida's Best Companies To Work For program. Participation is free, and companies with at least 15 full-time, regular employees are eligible to participate. Registration deadline is Jan. 29, 2010.

Conducted by Best Companies Group, the rating process is based on an assessment of the employers' policies and procedures combined with the results of an employee survey. The list of winners will be published in Florida Trend's August 2010 issue.

For more information on the program and the registration process, go to www.bestcompaniesfl.com. ■



WELCOMES VETERAN TRUST OFFICER SHELLEY D. ANDERSON

Joseph R. Catti, President and CEO of FineMark National Bank & Trust, and Dennis Landfried, President of FineMark's office in the Bonita Springs area, are pleased to announce the addition of Shelley D. Anderson as Vice President. Ms. Anderson, a highly experienced Trust Officer, will provide service to clients from the office located at 10010 Coconut Road in Bonita Springs.

Ms. Anderson joins FineMark following a long tenure with Northern Trust in SW Florida. She brings to FineMark 31 years of experience serving Trust and Investment clients. Ms. Anderson received a BA from Campbell University and also completed the American Bankers Association Trust School and Graduate Trust School Programs. She is a Certified Trust and Financial Advisor (CTFA). Ms. Anderson is very active in the community in activities including: Literacy Council of Bonita Springs, Hope Hospice, Bonita Springs Historical Society and Hope Lutheran Church. "I am thrilled to join FineMark which has quickly established a reputation as the premier provider of Trust and Investment, Banking, and Brokerage Services in SW Florida. I look forward to building deep relationships with FineMark clients throughout the area," said Anderson.

Catti commented, "Shelley has established a wonderful reputation by building extraordinary relationships and by going above and beyond. She will be a terrific addition to our team and personifies our unique service oriented culture." Landfried added, "The combination of Shelley's experience, skills and dedication to personal service are a perfect fit for our clientele. Her commitment to clients is well known and widely respected throughout the community."

FineMark National Bank & Trust offers a comprehensive array of banking, trust, investment, and brokerage services to clients interested in establishing long term, high touch relationships. FineMark is dedicated to providing a culture of service to clients and making a positive difference in the communities it serves.

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WILD

From page 1

them from the real Top Gun school) will take you up and coach you through a series of dogfights. With any luck, you'll notch your first kill — you don't actually flame the opposing airplane, but a laser sets off a smoke trail to indicate a hit.

Lakeland resident Gerald Volden and his wife now often fly against each other. He is a licensed pilot, but she had never previously operated an airplane. In the air, he is "Bugsy," and she is "Tonto."

"We just became addicted," Mr. Volden said. "About half the time, I'll whip her. And the other half, she whips me."

■ **What:** Air Combat USA

■ **Where:** Florida flights out of Tampa/St. Petersburg's Albert Whitted Airport, Kissimmee Airport, Pensacola Regional and Homestead General Aviation Airport

■ **Cost:** Averages \$1,300 per person; \$700 per mission for "frequent flyers."

■ **Contact:** www.aircombatusa.com or call (714) 522-7590



Firefighting

Before the day is over, you'll run into a burning building, crawl through smoky darkness — and yes, even drive the big shiny red truck. Firemen and women at the Central Florida Fire Academy in Orlando will help make sure you stay safe while doing so.

Other activities include rappelling down the side of a building and learning to use the Jaws of Life. Being a firefighter for a day requires that you report for duty at 8 a.m. sharp, as you would to relieve the night-shift. Lunch and dinner are included.

Sarasota-based Incredible Adventures offers the program. Through the company, you can find out about many other adventures, such as riding an offshore rocket near Miami Beach, having a zero-gravity experience in a Boeing 747, or even swimming with Great White sharks off the coast of Africa.



■ **What:** Incredible Florida Firefighter Adventure

■ **Where:** The Central Florida Fire Academy at 2966 West Oak Ridge Road, Orlando.

■ **Cost:** \$995 per person

■ **Contact:** www.incredible-adventures.com or call (800) 644-7382



Race car driving

Once again, you may pretend that you are Tom Cruise — only this time as a race car driver in "Days of Thunder."

Jump into a replica of a NASCAR race car and test your mettle on the 1-mile oval at Walt Disney World Speedway in Orlando.

These cars are not just souped-up street rods; they've got 600 horses and enough torque to stop the Earth's rotation.

The Rookie experience gets you three hours of training and eight laps on the track. The King's experience lasts five hours and 18 laps.

■ **What:** Richard Petty Driving Experience

■ **Where:** Walt Disney World Speedway, Orlando

■ **When:** Open seven days a week

■ **Cost:** Rookie experience: \$249-\$499; King's experience, \$749-\$1199.

■ **Contact:** www.1800bepetty.com or call (800) BE-PETTY



Sky diving

Tumble through the abyss in a free fall, 10,000 feet above the surface of the planet.

Then open your chute and gaze at the Gulf of Mexico and the Peace River over Punta Gorda as you float gently through the sky. It might help change your perspective on this trying year, with its endless stream of coverage on the worldwide financial crisis.

"It's hard to find anyone who could go home sad after a sky dive," said Roy Torgeirson, chief instructor for Sky Dive Southwest Florida. "It's like they're on drugs but it's legal."

You can jump tandem, with an instructor attached to you. This is the way to go if it's your first time. Once you arrive for your scheduled jump, getting started requires about 20 minutes of instruction and up you go.

"You can watch it on television or look at it in magazines, but you have to get the real experience for yourself," Mr. Torgeirson says.

■ **What:** Sky Dive Southwest Florida

■ **Where:** Shell Creek Airport, 36880 Washington Loop Road, Punta Gorda.

■ **Cost:** \$169

■ **Contact:** www.skydiveswflorida.com or call (888) 447-JUMP



Gator hunting

Don Hampton says hunting alligators at night is exhilarating and "a little spooky."

As you travel by airboat through the Brevard County swamps, watch for the scaly, cold-blooded predator eye-balling you or rising out of the water.

You can expect to see at least 100 of the prehistoric amphibians on a night out — one of which could be dinner.

Mr. Hampton boasts that all of his clients go home with at least one gator. He takes care of all the permits and tags needed to hunt alligators.

Sport hunts are done at night from airboats on private land from September through March. Hunters are allowed to use bows or harpoons.

■ **What:** Sport gator hunts

■ **Where:** Melbourne

■ **When:** September through March



COURTESY PHOTOS

Top: A lone sky diver above Southwest Florida. Middle: The SheiKra at Busch Gardens in Tampa. Above: The Richard Petty Driving Experience in Orlando. Right: A pair of SIAI Marchettis dogfight in the Florida skies.

■ **Cost:** \$1,850

■ **Contact:** www.hgatorhunts.com or call (321) 242-1012



Roller coaster rides

There's nothing quite like the feeling of your stomach in your throat. Some of the most exciting roller coasters in the world are in Tampa.

The SheiKra is the very latest, built in 2005. It will take you up 200 feet — the tallest roller coaster in Florida — and then drop you at 90 degrees. You'll shoot through an underground tunnel and endure a wet finale. Perhaps the most frightening aspect is that this coaster has no floor. Your legs dangle over the steel track as you reach 70 miles per hour. G-forces reach four times the force of gravity, about what a Navy pilot feels when he catapults from an aircraft carrier.

Other coasters at Busch



Gardens include the Montu, one of the world's tallest and longest inverted coasters.

The Kumba has a maneuver that creates three seconds of weightlessness during a 360-degree spiral.

The Gwazi is notable for being one of the world's largest and fastest wooden coasters. It gets as fast as 50 miles per hour and riders experience the sensation of being pulled at 3½ times the force of gravity.

■ **What:** Roller coasters at Busch Gardens

■ **Where:** Tampa

■ **When:** Year-round

■ **Cost:** \$49.95 plus tax

■ **Contact:** www.buschgardens.com or call (813) 987-5775



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A Retirement-Wrecking Move

Our tough economy has been forcing people to make tough choices. According to a Time poll, 27 percent of Americans have withdrawn money from retirement or college savings accounts to cover some of their expenses. Unfortunately, that can do more long-term harm than short-term good.

The longer you leave your money alone to grow, the more powerful your compounded returns become. Check out what time, patience and an average 10 percent return can do to a steady series of \$10,000 annual investments: After 10 years, you have \$175,000. After 20 years, \$630,000. After 30 years, \$1.8 million.

You don't even need to be a financial wizard to score those kinds of returns. Broad-market index funds, such as those based on the S&P 500, have averaged 10 percent a year over the long haul. (In fairness, they could return more or less over your particular investing time frame.)

You could aim to juice up your basic returns by adding a handful of well-cho-

sen individual stocks to your fund foundation. Check out the approximate average annual return over the past 20 years for some well-known names: Schwab, 24 percent; Lowe's, 19 percent; Nike, 17 percent; Colgate-Palmolive, 16 percent.

But remember — all your impressive gains can quickly fizzle if you start taking money out of your retirement accounts.

Suppose you take out \$10,000 this year, 20 years from retirement, and you also fail to make your usual \$10,000 investment. Despite your good intentions, you probably won't put in an extra \$20,000 next year to compensate. So you'll lose what the \$10,000 you withdrew would have grown to in 20 years (at 10 percent): a little more than \$67,000. And then there's the additional \$10,000 you would have invested, too: another \$67,000 loss. You might pay some bills in the here and now, but your retirement could eventually end up more than \$150,000 poorer. Is that worth it? So if possible, leave your money in your retirement accounts. ■

My Smartest Investment

Focus on Quality

My basic investing policy is to buy quality and hold on — that's why I now own mostly blue-chip, dividend-paying stocks, reinvesting my dividends and buying more shares when I can. Once in a while, one or two get into trouble. But I keep close tabs, and if I think they won't help my portfolio, I sell them. But most have performed very well. They got me through the dot-com bubble, mostly holding their own and recovering nicely. I believe we should NEVER be led by emotion when we invest. Study and know what and why you're buying, and have a lot of patience. Also, don't be too hard on yourself when you make a mistake — we all do, but hopefully we will learn from them. One more thing: I never take hot stock tips from friends or family — they always get me in trouble.

— K.C., Calif.

The Fool Responds: Excellent advice! It's hard to go wrong with healthy, growing, dividend-paying stocks. Being calm, patient and well-informed will also serve an investor very well. ■



Do you have an embarrassing lesson learned the hard way? Boil it down to 100 words (or less) and send it to *The Motley Fool* c/o *My Dumbest Investment*. Got one that worked? Submit to *My Smartest Investment*. If we print yours, you'll win a Fool's cap!

Last week's trivia answer

Most know my products, but not my name. Founded in 1984, I'm based in Ontario, Canada. My flagship product is named after a small, dark fruit that's composed of many smaller fruits. I'm a leading maker of wireless communications products, and in a little more than a decade, my employees have grown from 200 to more than 12,000. Over the past 10 years, my stock has advanced at about 20 percent annually, on average. I've shipped more than 50 million intelligent telephones (26 million in my last fiscal year), many of which offer audio, video, gaming and GPS capabilities. Who am I? ■

(Answer: Research in Motion)



Write to Us! Send questions for *Ask the Fool*, *Dumbest (or Smartest) Investments* (up to 100 words), and your *Trivia* entries to Fool@fool.com or via regular mail c/o this newspaper, attn: *The Motley Fool*. Sorry, we can't provide individual financial advice.

What Is This Thing Called The Motley Fool?

Remember Shakespeare? Remember "As You Like It"? In Elizabethan days, Fools were the only people who could get away with telling the truth to the King or Queen. *The Motley Fool* tells the truth about investing, and hopes you'll laugh all the way to the bank.

Ask the Fool

A List to Watch

Q How should I set up a stock watch list?

— J.M., Seattle

A As you read about companies, jot down the firms you think you might like to invest in. Ideally, enter them into an online portfolio (such as at Yahoo! or AOL) so you can easily track their progress from week to week or month to month. Perhaps pretend that you bought one share of each at the price at which you first noticed the company. (That way you'll be able to quickly see how much it's risen or fallen since then.)

As time permits, research the companies on your list and get to know them well. When you're ready to buy, you'll be familiar with a bunch of firms and will be able to compare them to see which ones are the most promising. You'll also be able to notice when companies you like encounter temporary problems and fall significantly in price. As long as the problems seem temporary and not fatal (after some research), these can be attractive buying opportunities.

If need be, you can maintain a watch list on paper.

Q What are "defensive" stocks?

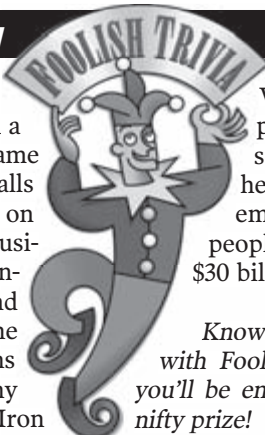
— P.G., Ocala, Fla.

A Defensive stocks are tied to companies whose fortunes don't fluctuate too much in relation to the economy. During a recession, for example, people might put off purchasing cars or fur coats or washing machines, but they'll still be buying food, gasoline, prescription drugs, electricity, telephone service and diapers. Food, soft drinks, tobacco, energy and pharmaceuticals are defensive industries. They're seen as more stable than their "cyclical" counterparts, such as the homebuilding, steel, automobile and airline industries. Cyclical industries aren't necessarily to be avoided, but do expect a bumpier ride with them.

Got a question for the Fool? Send it in — see Write to Us.

Name That Company

As the Electric Boat Corp., I delivered my first submarine more than a century ago. I took my current name in 1952 and am headquartered in Falls Church, Va. My slogan is "Strength on Your Side," and I specialize in business aviation; land and expeditionary combat systems, armaments and munitions; shipbuilding and marine systems; and information systems and technologies. Names under my roof include Gulfstream and Bath Iron



Works. I've manufactured products such as tanks, missiles, guns, rockets, warheads, motors and more. I employ more than 90,000 people and rake in more than \$30 billion per year. Who am I? ■

Know the answer? Send it to us with *Foolish Trivia* on the top and you'll be entered into a drawing for a nifty prize!

The Motley Fool Take

Hasbro's on Sesame Street

Hasbro (NYSE: HAS) spans larger rival Mattel on a quarterly basis, so why not wrestle away a key licensed property between quarterly financial updates?

Hasbro has inked a 10-year deal with Sesame Workshop, the Sesame Street creator. Beginning in 2011, Hasbro's PlaySkool will begin putting out licensed toys featuring Big Bird, Elmo, Cookie Monster and other popular characters.

Mattel is the company that consumers typically associate with Sesame Workshop characters, thanks to its acquisition of Tickle Me Elmo creator Tyco. Earlier this year, Mattel's CFO disclosed that the Sesame Street deal ranked among the top

10 licensing agreements in toyland.

Hasbro has been doing well through its licensed lines, but it's also been benefiting from the celluloid success of its Transformers and G.I. Joe franchises. Both lines' summer film releases helped move plenty of Hasbro-made playthings this holiday season.

Hasbro is also working with Discovery Communications to reposition Discovery's fledgling children's channel to better compete against Disney and Viacom's Nickelodeon. In a few years, Hasbro may very well be the next Marvel, as it milks its action stars, or a serious power broker in the kid-programming cable business. ■

BUSINESS MEETINGS

► **Women's Empowered Network** has two local chapters: The North Naples Chapter meets at 11 a.m. every second and fourth Friday at Buca di Beppo, 8860 Tamiami Trail N.; RSVP to NorthNaples@EmpoweredNetworking.com. The Central Naples Chapter meets at 11 a.m. every first and third Wednesday at Patric's, 1485 Pine Ridge Road; RSVP to CentralNaples@EmpoweredNetworking.com.

► **The Remodelers Council of the Collier Building Industry Association** holds its next dinner meeting from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 7, at LarsonAllen LLP, CPAs, Consultants & Advisors, in the Bank of Naples headquarters. Representatives of the firm will discuss "Remodeling Your Business: Ways to Adapt and Survive in Today's Economy." Cost is \$15 for Remodelers Council mem-

bers and \$20 for CBIA members. Call 436-6100.

► **The Chartered Financial Analysts Society of Naples** will host a luncheon meeting at noon Tuesday, Jan. 12, in the Chokoloskee Room at the Naples Beach Hotel, 851 Gulf Shore Blvd. N. Members, \$30; Guests, \$40. RSVP www.cfanaples.org.

► **The next Gulf Coast Venture Forum** meeting takes place from 4-6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, at the Tiburon Golf Course Members Club, 2610 Tiburon Drive. Meeting sponsor is TIB Bank. For more information, call Tim Cartwright at 262-6300.

► **Business Network International** holds its weekly meeting at 7:15 a.m.

Thursdays at St. Katherine Greek Orthodox Church, 7100 Airport-Pulling Road N., North Naples. For more information and to make a reservation, call 354-3224.

► **Network International**, the Downtown Networkers chapter, meets weekly at 7:45 a.m. Thursday at IHOP, 1921 Davis Blvd., East Naples. Guests are welcome. Cost is \$10. Call Jamie Bergen at 572-3720.

► **WNOCC Women's Networking of Collier County** meets at 11:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at the Collier Athletic Club. For more information, call Nancy Dalaskey at 280-3803.

► **The Jewish Business Network of Southwest Florida** meets for breakfast and business on the second Friday of the

month from 7:30-9 a.m. in the conference room at Robb & Stucky, 13170 Cleveland Ave., Fort Myers. To RSVP and for more information, call 433-7708 or e-mail yourjbn@chabadswf.org.

► **The Naples Speakeasy Toastmasters Club** meets from 6-7:30 p.m. on the second Monday of the month at the North Naples Collier Government Building, 2335 Orange Blossom Drive. Guests are welcome. For more information, call 262-8183 or visit www.naplesspeakeasy.org.

► **Insurance Professionals of Collier County** holds monthly meetings the third Wednesday at the Naples Harbour Yacht Club, 475 North Road. E-mail info@picconline.org or visit www.ipc-conline.org. ■

Local attorneys offer advice, expertise at FGCU Entrepreneur's Law School

The 11th annual Entrepreneur's Law School takes place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, at Florida Gulf Coast University.

The annual event is designed to help small business owners better understand legal issues pertaining to their particular businesses. Hour-long sessions will be led by local attorneys who are experts in small business legal matters. Participants will be able to ask specific questions without incurring expensive legal fees. Topics and presenters will include:

- "The Changing Landscape for Condo and HOA Boards and Associations," with Jennifer Birmingham and Jonathan Innis
- "Defending Against Foreclosure. Yes, You Can," with Celia Deifik
- "The Entrepreneur's Legal Checklist," with Aaron Farmer
- "Legal Considerations in Buying or Selling a Business," with Donna Flam-mang
- "Business Entity Selection," with Steven Gibbs
- "Common Pitfalls of Contracts," with Cheryl Hastings
- "Employee Handbooks: An Important Tool for the Smallest Business," with Sylvia Heldreth
- "Business Formation and Taxation," with Jeff Janerio
- "Ensuring Synergy Between Your Estate Plan and Your Business Succession Plan," with Mark Klym
- "Protecting Your Intellectual Prop-

erty. It's Mine, NOT Yours," with Lawrence Kolin

• "When the Immigration Service Comes Knocking: How to be Prepared for an Immigration Audit/Investigation," with Lawrence M. Lebowitz

• "Legal Advice: Where, When, How and Why?" with Rachael Loukonen

• "The Entrepreneur's Guideline to Negotiating and Entering into a Commercial Lease," with John Sarrett

• "Commercial Leasing in the Current Market: Are you Getting Enough or Giving Too Much?" Ray Schumann and Joseph Ariola

• "Immigration Law," with Ricardo Skerrett

• "Employment Law: What Entrepreneurs Need to Know," with Mark Trank

• "Hiring and Firing: Starting and Ending the Employer/Employee Relationship," with Paul Valenti

Tuition includes Lunch with the Lawyers, with keynote speaker Richard Peggnetter, dean of the FGCU College of Business. Cost is \$75 for the morning or afternoon sessions and \$95 for the full day, if purchased in advance. At the door, half-day tuition is \$105 and full-day is \$125. For information about scholarships, call Beth Hagan at 947-8085.

FGCU's Small Business Development Center is coordinating this year's Entrepreneur's Law School; sponsors are the law firm of Alvarez, Sambol, Winthrop, and Madson, P.A.; KeyBank and BriersCPA. For more information, call 743-3710. ■

2010 Census seeks short-term workers for jobs February through May

The U.S. Census Bureau is looking for job applicants to work for the 2010 Census. Peak hiring will be from February 2009 through the end of May 2010 for temporary assignments, most lasting five to 10 weeks. Positions require U.S. citizenship, a driver's license and use of a vehicle. Every applicant undergoes a background check.

A short-term job with long-term results, 2010 Census positions offer competitive wages and flexible schedules.

"The jobs also allow people to work in their neighborhoods and for their neighborhoods," says Marilia Matos, associate director for field operations with the Census Bureau. "We hire locally, and an accurate count means a fair distribution of money for schools, roads, neighborhood improvements and elderly care in your community."

For testing locations and more information, call (866) 861-2010 or visit www.2010Censusjobs.gov. ■

Free SCORE workshop covers the importance of a business plan

The importance of having a business plan and the how-to's of preparing one are the subject of a workshop sponsored by SCORE Naples and the Greater Naples Chamber of Commerce beginning at 9 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 9, at the chamber.

This is part one of a series targeted toward owners and decision-makers of start-up and early stage companies, as well as existing businesses that need a refresher on the subject. Attendees will learn the value of having a business plan and the major components involved. They will also learn the basic framework to determine whether or not they are ready to start and manage a business.

Presenters will be SCORE volunteers Bob Anderson, Vin Izzi and Becky Bokrand. Mr. Anderson is a retired executive from a FORTUNE 500 electrical company, with extensive experience in general management, planning, sales and marketing. Mr. Izzi, the president of IZZI Business Consulting, is a former IBM Executive Business Institute faculty member, with extensive experience in general management, education and training. Ms. Bokrand is a Florida-licensed CPA and Certified Fraud Examiner employed as a forensic accountant with a local CPA firm.

To sign up for the workshop, call 430-0081 or visit www.scorenaples.org. ■

MONEY

From page B1

spent so much on harbors, highways, bridges, water delivery systems, etc. The concept is that projects such as these employ people and create a platform for more jobs as the projects increase competitiveness and help private industry.

In fall 2008, Americans were told that a BIG stimulus plan would result in recovery. It was an odd bag of spending and many think much too little was allocated to infrastructure and to projects to reduce our dependence on oil. The dollars were to be spent through 2009 and 2010 and some thereafter. Because the rate of change in government spending peaked in the third quarter 2009, everyone was looking at how that spending impacted third quarter GDP growth.

Unfortunately, the growth for the third quarter has been anemic; it has been revised downward two times- from 3.8

percent to 2.8 percent and now to 2.2 percent.

Well, what is the problem? Isn't any growth good? Yes, but to get out of our deep hole, we need to be growing at much faster rates. Further, we do not seem to not be getting much growth for our money (the multiplier effect is not kicking in) and the U.S. government is going deeper and deeper in debt as it spends this money.

What rate of GDP growth do we need? Growth in the range of 3 percent is needed to reverse current unemployment percentages. GDP growth of 1 percent does not reduce unemployment because new technologies generate efficiencies and reduce need for labor; there is continued cost cutting/staff compression; there is continued exportation of U.S. jobs overseas to lower wage countries and increases in the labor supply due to new labor entrants. The bottom line is that we need BIG growth for a very, very long time to get a big reduction in unemployment.

Some economists feel that even with

many hundred billion being spent in 2010, the increase in GDP growth for 2010 will be only 1-2 percent. This type of growth does not get the U.S. out of a deep hole.

Most recently, a very well known ardent supporter of Keynesian theory began to question whether the government spending — as planned for the next six quarters — will result in meaningful GDP growth. Paul Krugman is a big name in today's economic world. Nobel Prize winner. Columnist for the *New York Times*. Professor at Princeton. Noted author of numerous best selling books on modern-day economics. His concern is that even though huge stimulus spending will occur through each quarter in 2010, the rate of change in spending peaked in the third quarter and that peak rate of percentage increase DID NOT translate into big growth in GDP. Uh-oh!

If there is no multiplier effect... if a dollar spent by government only translates into a dollar increase in GDP, well.... there should be great pause in spending money

which is borrowed. At best, there is a decreasing marginal productivity to each dollar spent by the government IF spending is deficit based. And some think that deficit spending is destructive to GDP. Why? Because unlike the Great Depression times, we have reached an inflection point in the total amount of debt (both private and public sector debt) which our economy can handle. Our total debt is expected to be \$14 trillion relative to a \$12 trillion U.S. economy.

A recovery which reduces our unemployment percentage needs to be extremely robust and it will require meaningful spending by the private sector- consumer and business. Until the private sector numbers/statistics show resuscitation, there is no foundation for a solid recovery. ■

— Jeannette Rohn Showalter is a South-west Florida-based chartered financial analyst, considered to be the highest designation for investment professionals. She can be reached at jshowaltercfa@yahoo.com. ■

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NEW IN BUSINESS

Royalty & Hollywood Jewelry opens on Fifth Avenue South

Want to walk the red carpet? Then you won't want to miss a visit to Royalty & Hollywood Jewelry. The new boutique duplicates red carpet glamour by showcasing jewelry replicated from the private collections of Diana, Princess of Wales and former First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy as well as exquisite pieces that adorned Hollywood film and screen legends such as Marilyn Monroe, Audrey Hepburn, Lana Turner and Natalie Wood.

Customers can choose from more than 250 pieces of jewelry in the boutique's current anthology, with new arrivals added continually. Each piece is made in the U.S. of sterling silver with a 24K gold, platinum or rhodium overlay

and adorned with Swarovski crystals and comes with a certificate of authenticity, history card and an elegant box.

Royalty & Hollywood Jewelry is filled with larger-than-life sized black-and-white framed photos that tell the intimate stories behind each piece of jewelry, offering history aficionados a stroll down memory lane.

In the early 1980s, no single piece of jewelry represented a fairy tale romance more than Princess Diana's engagement ring. Diana had captured the public's heart, and her taste in fine gems became an icon for the royal feeling every bride wants on her wedding day. Diana chose an oval blue sapphire engagement ring that weighed 9 carats and was sur-

rounded by 14 diamonds.

Royalty & Hollywood Jewelry has a meticulously crafted reproduction of Diana's engagement ring in solid sterling silver with a Swarovski sapphire crystal and CZ diamonds. Also available is the choker the princess wore with the famous black "Travolta" dress at the White House.

Royalty & Hollywood Jewelry is at 663 Fifth Ave. S., two doors west of the Inn on Fifth Hotel. The shop is open from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, and from noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. For more information, call 692-9551. ■



COURTESY PHOTO

A 1980s fashion shoot

Gulfshore Life celebrates 40

2010 marks 40 years of continued publication for Gulfshore Life magazine. Throughout all of 2010's issues, contributors will recall Southwest

Florida's colorful past in images and stories. "We will be looking back over 40 years of life in our paradise," says Editor-in-Chief David Sandler. "It should be fun, touching and illuminating to track

the evolving fashions, manners, social scenes, cultural events and family lifestyles through the pages of Gulfshore Life. History will indeed come alive."

For nearly 40 years, Gulfshore Life has captured the vibrant spirit, style and natural beauty of Southwest Florida's Gulf Coast, from Fort Myers and Cape Coral down to Naples and Marco Island. Its coverage of local personalities and pursuits, from arts and entertainment to fashion, real estate and the luxury lifestyle, helps residents and visitors enjoy the best of the region. The magazine has earned numerous state and national awards for writing, design and publishing excellence, including recognition as Best Overall Magazine two years in a row from the Florida Magazine Association.

For more information, visit www.GulfshoreLife.com. ■



SENDER

State-of-the-art Byte Shop/style opens at Mercato

Newly opened at Mercato, Byte Shop/style LLC is a locally owned IT company and an expanded version of the original Byte Shop.

Byte Shop/style has a staff of certified home theater engineers and technicians who work with customer to ensure the finest service and experience possible.

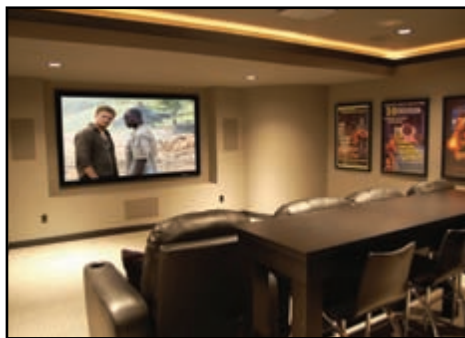
Inside the store, the ceiling grid with stage-style lighting shines a whole new light on shopping for computers, gaming systems and home theater systems.

Got a sick computer? Byte Shop/style MCSE and A+ Certified technicians can test your hardware to isolate the problem. They can detect and eliminate

viruses and repair printers.

Computer classes and training are also offered, in levels from basic to advanced in software programs such as Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Outlook and Adobe Photoshop.

For gamers, the shop is a state-of-the-art gaming LAN (local area network) at night, featuring the "fastest computers on the planet" courtesy of Hardcore Computers. Each game station is a liquid immersed system with all the market's latest and best hardware and preloaded with all of the must-experience games. Games include World of Warcraft, Everquest II, Lord of the Rings Online, Star



COURTESY PHOTO

Custom home theaters are a new offering at The Byte Shop/style.

Wars Galaxies and EVE Online.

The shop's Web site, www.byteshopstyle.com, has an online chat system.

For businesses, Byte Shop/Business Solutions offers full-service IT with expertise in networking, cabling, computer consulting, computer service, Web design, computer hardware, software support and sales.

The new store at 9118 Strada Place in Mercato is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Sunday. For more information, call 434-8087 or e-mail info@byteshop.com. ■

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BUSINESS BRIEFS



COURTESY PHOTO

TIB Bank presented Fun Time Early Childhood Academy a holiday donation made in the name of TIB clients. The gift will help the school, now in its 49th year, provide tuition assistance for preschool children of low-income working families in Naples. Pictured are, front row: Fun Time students with teacher Gwen Townsend; middle row: John Suddeth of Naples Capital Advisors and Michael Morris of TIB Bank; back row: Michael Watkins, Fun Time board member, Franny Kain, Fun Time executive director, and Sue and Peter Manion, Fun Time board co-chairs.

Start off the New Year at New Beginnings Expo

Learn how to change the way you feel at the inaugural New Beginnings Expo set for the Hilton Naples on Sunday, Jan. 17.

Organizers Philip Douglas, Doug Olsen and Peggy Sealton say have taken matters into their own hands in the face of the international economic tsunami and have planned the expo to reconnect people with hope and optimism in tangible ways.

"After 300 people came to learn how to enter the zero-stress zone with yogi master Gurudev Amrit Desai in September and having several friends lose jobs in the same week, Philip, Doug and I felt motivated to do something that could make a difference in our community," Ms. Sealton explains.

A melting pot of practical information presented in an entertaining way, the day will focus on self-improvement both inside and out.

A major component will be information

about job opportunities and re-training options. Area colleges, universities and technical schools will have information about acquiring new skills and adapting to the changing marketplace.

Products to help you feel and look better will also be featured. As the national spokesperson for Borghese, Philip Douglas will demonstrate new mineral makeup, and Marissa Collections will present style shows.

Representatives from Valpak of Southwest Florida will share ways to save money, and Stonewater Studio will display gemstone jewelry to reduce stress and improve health. Panache Desai will discuss ways to connect with your spiritual side.

Admission will be \$25 in advance and \$35 at the door.

To purchase tickets, visit www.NewBeginningsNaples.com or call 821-2266. ■

Town Hall speakers series starts with former Israeli prime minister

A former U.S. president and his former Florida governor brother, a former Israeli prime minister, a world-renowned art scholar and two colleagues from the staff of *The New Yorker* make up the 2010 line-up of Naples Town Hall Distinguished Speakers.

Tickets are on sale now for the nonprofit series that begins Wednesday, Jan. 13, with "Why Israel Matters," a lecture by Ehud Olmert, who was prime minister of Israel from 2006-2009.

Considered one of the most influential and respected leaders in Israel's history, Mr. Olmert forged intimate relationships with prominent world leaders including George W. Bush, Gordon Brown, Nicolas Sarkozy and Angela Merkel, which unified the global community with a shared vision for peace in the Middle East. As a speaker, he offers an in-depth analysis of the world's most difficult and complex issues, including international security, urban infrastructure, universal health care and education reform.

George W. Bush, 43rd president of the United States, and his brother Jeb Bush, 43rd governor of Florida, will participate in a moderated discussion at the Town Hall series on Tuesday, Feb. 16. Guest moderator Jim Angle is the chief Washington correspondent for FOX News and also serves as a substitute anchor for "Special Report with Bret Baier."

The Town Hall lecturer on Sunday, Feb. 28, will be Phillippe de Montebello, the former director of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. After 31 years at the helm, Mr. de Montebello became the first-ever director emeritus of the MMA and is recognized throughout the world as one of the field's most influential and articulate champions of



OLMERT



G. BUSH



J. BUSH



DE MONTEBELLO



GLADWELL



GOPNIK

integrity, authority, education and public access. Upon his retirement in December 2008, he was the longest-serving director in the Met's nearly 140-year-long history.

Bringing the 2010 Town Hall season to a close, Malcolm Gladwell, best-selling author of "Outliers," "Blink" and "The Tipping Point," will take the stage on Friday, March 26, with co-*New Yorker Magazine* essayist Adam Gopnik.

A staff writer for *The New Yorker* since 1996, Mr. Gladwell was named one of Time's 100 Most Influential People in 2005 and received the American Sociological Association's first Award for Excellence in the Reporting of Social Issues in 2007.

Mr. Gopnik is best known as a staff writer for *The New Yorker* and as the author of the essay collection "Paris to the Moon," an account of the five years he and his family spent in the French capital. His new book, "Angels & Ages: A Short Book about Darwin, Lincoln, and Modern Life," explores the way we live today by looking at the birth of the modern era through the lives of two extraordinary people born within hours of each other 200 years ago this year.

About the Town Hall series

Throughout its 27-year history, the Town Hall series has enriched the community through the presentation of non-partisan ideas and issues that stimulate thought, enhance understanding and promote dialogue.

Programs take place at the Naples Grande Beach Resort.

The series is sold as a subscription of four lectures. For more information, call 596-6524 or visit www.naplesdistinguishedspeakers.org. ■

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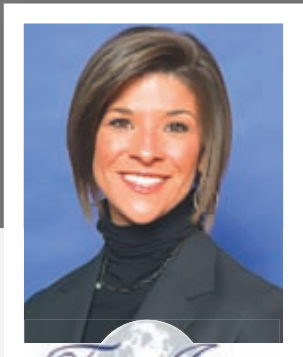
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COURTESY PHOTOS

A reception at Encore Bank for United Arts Council board members



JoAnn Smallwood, Scott Herstin and Ginette Carrier



Tom Ray, Encore president, and Dr. Marilyn Varcoe



Nicole Mihelich, Mark Klym and Pat Antonetti

COURTESY PHOTOS

We take more society and networking photos at area events than we can fit in the newspaper. So, if you think we missed you or one of your friends, go to www.floridaweekly.com and view the photo albums from the many events we cover. You can purchase any of the photos too. Send us your society and networking photos. Include the names of everyone in the picture. E-mail them to society@floridaweekly.com.

REAL ESTATE

WEEK OF JANUARY 7-13, 2010

A GUIDE TO THE NAPLES REAL ESTATE INDUSTRY

| B11

CBIA inducts its first Hall of Fame members

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

The Collier Building Industry Association has announced its first inductees into the newly created Housing Hall of Fame. At the annual CBUA installation banquet in December at Grey Oaks Country Club, the six inaugural honorees were recognized for their leadership in the building industry and for their contributions in building the foundation of the CBIA. They are:

- The late **Charles Morgan Abbott**, a longtime member CBIA member and advocate for the building industry — Mr. Abbott, who died Oct. 2, 2009, had lived in Naples since 1974 and began his career with the National Park Service. He owned and operated a construction and remodeling company for more than three decades. He served on the Development Services Advisory Committee in Collier County, as well as on several CBIA committees over the years.

Jeff Maddox presented the award to Mr. Abbott's widow, Linda, and remembered him for his "famous sense of humor, his passion for the building industry and its causes, his reputation as a true southern gentleman, and his devotion to his family, his country and his faith."

- **John Wiseman**, who has been a member of CBIA since 1987 — A graduate of the University of Florida School of Building Construction, Mr. Wiseman began his career with CORE Construction and ultimately served as the company's Florida president and grew it into a division with annual revenues of more than \$110 million.

Mr. Wiseman has held many positions within the CBIA, including president of the association in 1998. He was instrumental in starting the CBIA Trades Council and worked to insure that the council had a permanent seat on the CBIA board of directors. The association named him Builder of the Year in 2001. In addition, he has held every builder office in the Florida Home Builders Association, including president in 2006. He supports the Future Builders of America program and has served the community as a member of the Ad-Hoc Urban Fringe Committee, the board of Leadership Collier, the board of the Naples Area Chamber of Commerce and the President's Council of International College. He was also chairman for the Board of Leadership Institute.

- **Robert Fenton**, a charter member of the Collier County Builders and Contractors Association — With more than 20 years of participation within CBIA and the Florida Home Builders Association, Mr. Fenton has held numerous industry positions and received several awards and honors.

In 1987, the year Mr. Fenton served as membership chair, association membership grew from 600 to 800, and CBIA received top honors for membership growth and second-place honors for membership totals from the National Association of Homebuilders. Mr. Fenton was associate

SEE CBIA, B13 ►

"This purchase, coupled with the members' recent acquisition of the community's golf courses and beach club, should give prospective home buyers great confidence in their decision to invest in Mediterra."

— Mark Wilson, president of London Bay Homes



COURTESY PHOTO

The pool and outdoor living area of the Alicante

London Bay Homes closes on Mediterra purchase

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Naples-based London Bay Homes has closed on its purchase of the remaining 50 single-family home and villa sites in Mediterra, the luxury golf community developed by Bonita Bay Group. London Bay has also assumed immediate responsibility for the sales and marketing operations for the community. Terms of the acquisition were not disclosed.

London Bay now owns 100 home sites in Mediterra. The company's primary focus in Mediterra is in the Cortile and Lucarno neighborhoods, where it is building villa and estate homes priced from about \$1 million to \$4 million.

In addition to London Bay's home sites, approximately 50 individual owners own home sites in the community, while about 40 other home sites are held by two neighborhood builders. Mark Wilson,

president of London Bay Homes, says nearly every builder at Mediterra has agreed to continue to participate in the community's builder program.

"We are very excited about the opportunities that lie before us," Mr. Wilson says. "This purchase, coupled with the members' recent acquisition of the community's golf courses and beach club,

SEE LONDON, B17 ►

'Quick-build' villa already permitted at Belle Lago

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

The Saranac, a new quick-build villa home by Toll Brothers, has been released for sale at Belle Lago, a community of single-family homes in Estero.

Gene Gartlan, senior project manager, explains that quick-build homes have building permits in place, but construction has not yet begun. This allows buyers to select options that create a home to meet individual needs, yet with the permit in place, construction can begin as soon as selections are complete.

The Saranac, which has a Chateau exterior design, is a three-bedroom, two-bath home with a den. It encompasses



COURTESY PHOTO

The Saranac villa by Toll Brothers

SEE SARANAC, B16 ►



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CBIA

From page 11

vice president for CBIA in 1990 and associate vice president for FHBA in 1989. He was named CBIA Associate of the Year in 1987.

• **Hank Krehling**, a CBIA member for more than 20 years — Mr. Krehling has been honored with numerous awards over the years, including recognition as Associate of the Year in 1986. He is the founder of Krehling Industries concrete company, which has been a driving force in the building industry for more than 35 years.

• **John Hash**, a member of CBIA since 1986 — Mr. Hash served as CBIA president in 2000, when the association was recognized as top in membership growth with NAHB and became the third largest association in the state. Mr. Hash spearheaded the effort to build the current CBIA headquarters building and is one of the association's 25 Remodelers Council charter members. He led efforts to institute construction management programs at Edison College and International College and chaired the committee that developed the Academy

of Architecture, Construction and Engineering at Lely High School.

Mr. Hash continues to support the Collier Building Industry Foundation, which fosters career development in the building industry among high school students.

• **Patti Decker**, a CBIA supporter for more than 20 years — Ms. Decker moved to Naples in 1976 from New York and spent many years working with Sam Colding in the Collier County Property Appraiser's office. In 1988, she founded Action Title Services and joined the CBIA, where she has served in key positions on various councils and initiatives, including the Sales and Marketing Council, golf tournament efforts and membership drives. She was awarded Affiliate of the Year with the Women's Council of Realtors and the Naples Board of Realtors and has participated in Kiwanis Club for the past 20 years.

Founded in 1985, CBIA is a 600-member association of builders, remodelers, interior designers and other housing industry professionals. It is one of 800 state and local associations and operates under the auspices of the Florida Home Builders Association and the National Association of Home Builders.

For more information about CBIA, call 436-6100 or visit www.cbia.net. ■

ULI announces Winter Institute

Trends and directions in real estate development and how to stay ahead of the curve is the theme for the 13th annual Urban Land Institute Winter Institute from 8 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Jan. 20, at Spanish Wells Country Club in Bonita Springs. Speakers include Gregory Miller, senior economist, SunTrust Banks; Bob Koch, AIA, of Fugelberg Koch Architects; author

Anthony Downs; and Patrick Slevin of The Slevin Group.

The ULI Southwest Florida 2010 Pathfinder Award also will be presented.

Registration is \$35 for ULI members, \$50 for non-members and \$20 for government employees and full-time students. There is also a special rate for those who are unemployed.

For more information, call 465-0266. ■



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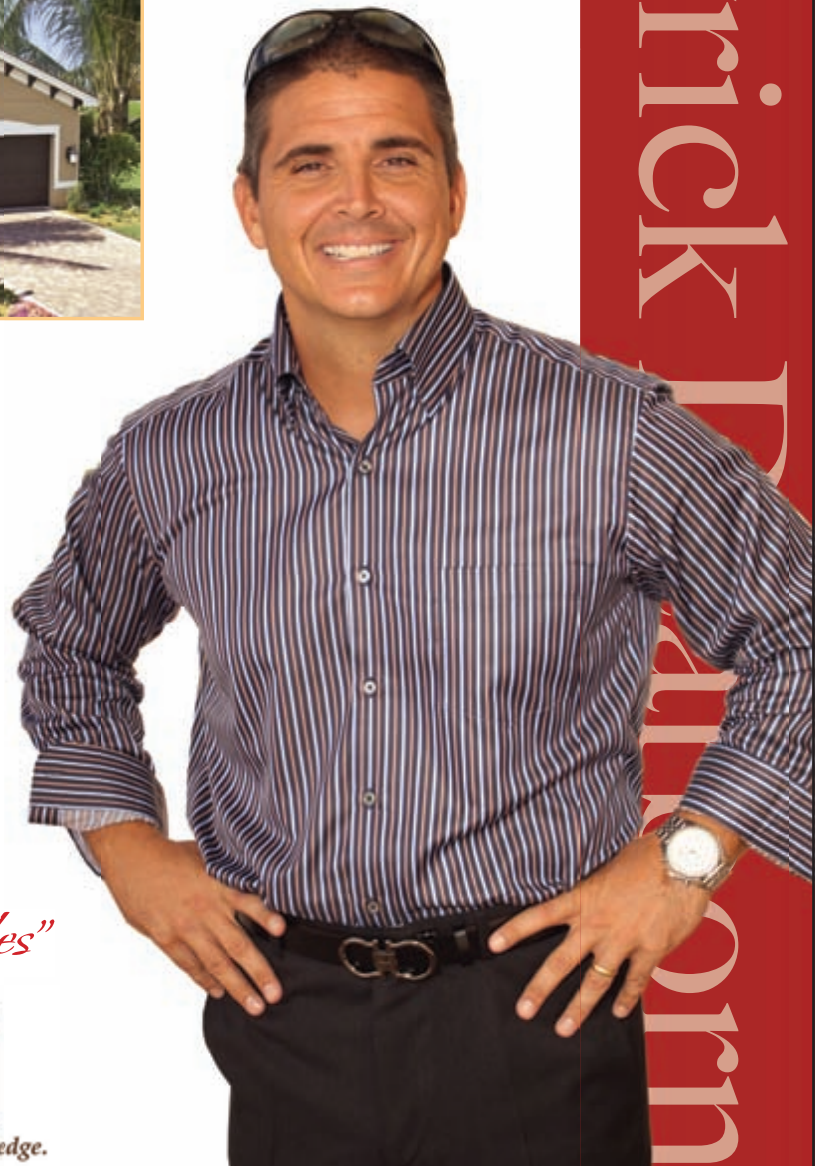
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SARANAC

From page B11

2,558 square feet under air. The master suite offers a generous sitting room of more than 100 square feet and two large walk-in closets. The

master bath has marble countertops, a Roman soaking tub, separate shower, private water closet, and glass block. The kitchen includes GE stainless steel appliances and granite counters. Originally \$493,995, the villa is offered for \$399,995. Belle Lago's amenities are completed and open for resident use and include

a clubhouse with fitness center, library/craft room, Internet café, card/TV lounge and locker rooms. Outdoors, there are Hydro-grid clay tennis courts, a half-court basketball court and a pool. Walking trails wind throughout the community, its nature preserves and parks. Toll Brothers offers 13 home designs within Belle Lago, ranging in size from

2,350 square feet to 4,356 square feet and priced from the mid-\$300,000s. Four designer-furnished models are open. The Belle Lago Sales and Information Center is open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sundays. For more information, call 243-9304 or visit www.tollbrothers.com. ■



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LONDON

From page B11

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

WEEK OF JANUARY 7-13, 2010

A GUIDE TO THE NAPLES ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT SCENE



Playwright
Michael Hollinger
and the music
of words ...

Opus

BY NANCY STETSON
nstetson@floridaweekly.com

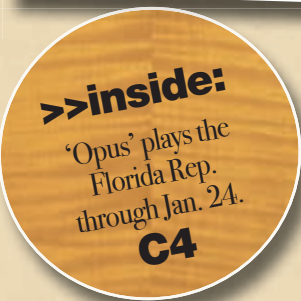
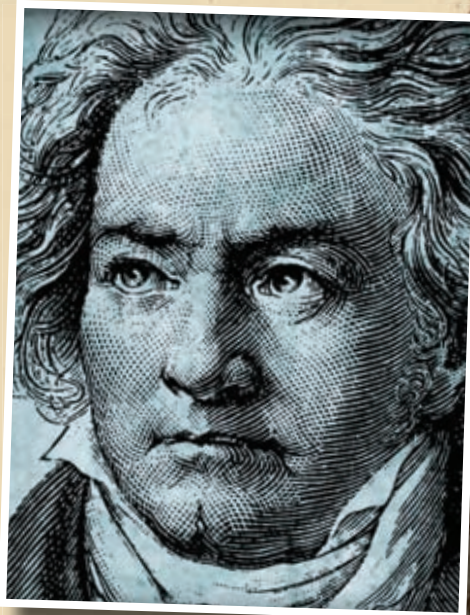
A marriage between two people possesses unique joys and challenges.

Now imagine being married to not one, but three other people. Some say that's what it's like to be a musician in a string quartet.

It's not just the amount of time spent together rehearsing, performing and traveling, but the intimacy of creating music together. Members in a string quartet are intuitively aware of each other and communicate on a nonverbal level; while performing, they even breathe in unison.

"In a way, the performance is the medium that this intimate relationship

SEE OPUS, C4 ►



COURTESY PHOTO

The cast of "Opus,"
from left: Chris
Clavelli, Rachel
Burttram, Davies
Giles, Brendan
Powers and Tom
Nowicki



C'mon to Harmon-Meek Gallery for a peek at museum collections

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Get a sneak peek at the art collection of the future Children's Museum of Naples by visiting Harmon-Meek Gallery between now and Friday, Jan. 15. The preview features the folk art collection of Dr. Ernestine O'Connell, which eventually will have a permanent home at C'mon.

Amassed over a period of more than 50 years, the collection is comprised of more than 2,000 ceremonial, decorative and everyday objects such as masks, textiles, dolls and puppets from countries including Kenya, Brazil, China, Australia, India

and Cuba. When C'mon opens next fall, the treasures will be exhibited at the museum's World Café, where a different culture will be celebrated every quarter through arts and crafts, music, language, food and geography.

Harmon-Meek Gallery also has on display through the middle of this month

SEE C'MON, C15 ►

COURTESY IMAGE

The mask of Ngady aMwaash, one of three used to symbolize royal ancestors of the Kuba kingdom in Zaire-Angola



WEEK at-a-glance



Opera at the movies

Three area theaters will broadcast "Der Rosenkavalier" with Renee Fleming live from the The Met. C12 ►



'Classical 3'

Music writer Peg Longstreth says don't miss violin virtuoso Ilya Kaler at the Philharmonic this week. C9 ►



Strange beasts

Terry Kovel reports Japanese monster toys from the '60s and '70s are a big hit among collectors. C24 ►



Strip-center surprise

Neither generic nor lackluster, Remy's Bistro brings Old World ambience to a busy Naples neighborhood. C31 ►

SANDY DAYS, SALTY NIGHTS

ChapStick sharing marks a moment of intimacy



I was sitting in a class recently, listening to the instructor run through the business of journalism, when during a break in the lecture the guy next to me asked, "Do you have any ChapStick?"

Now, I am a Chapstick fiend. I'm one of those people who own a dozen tubes at any given time — one for each of my bags, two for the car, a couple for the kitchen cabinets, anywhere where I might find myself in a dry-lipped frenzy, frantically searching for sweet petroleum relief.

So, when the guy from class asked if I had any on me, the answer, of course, was yes. But here's my dilemma: While I know him, and I might go so far as to say we're friends, would I share my lip balm with him? Let's be honest. ChapStick sharing can be an intimate ritual. It's like kissing by extension. And who knows where his mouth has been?

There's an old "Saturday Night Live" skit where Dana Carvey's character pulls out a tube of ChapStick and the man next to him says, "Oh, ChapStick! Can I borrow that?" Before Mr. Carvey has a chance to decline, the man takes the tube and applies it to his own

lips. The ChapStick then gets passed along to a string of increasingly grubby people, including a man with food trapped in his beard and a rough-looking hooker. Finally, an alien with giant, crusty lips rolls up and takes a swipe. When the alien finishes, it insists Dana Carvey take back the tube.

Then there's the story Ellen DeGeneres read on her show, the one about the mother who shared her ChapStick with her 3-year-old son. One morning, rounding a corner, the mother spotted her son applying the lip salve to the behind of the family cat. "Chapped," the boy said. In a flash of understanding, the woman realized that the tube of ChapStick she kept in the

bathroom cabinet — the one she used religiously — had been doubling as feline butt balm.

The decision to share lip ointment does not come lightly. I remember the first time I lent mine to the Captain, marking the moment when I trusted him enough — and cared about him enough — to allow his lips to grace my personal soothing agent. The moment came with a tub of Vaseline, the travel-sized variety that lasts three years for the moderate user and two months for the true addict. The Captain was visiting my place over the summer, and we had just come in long day of play-

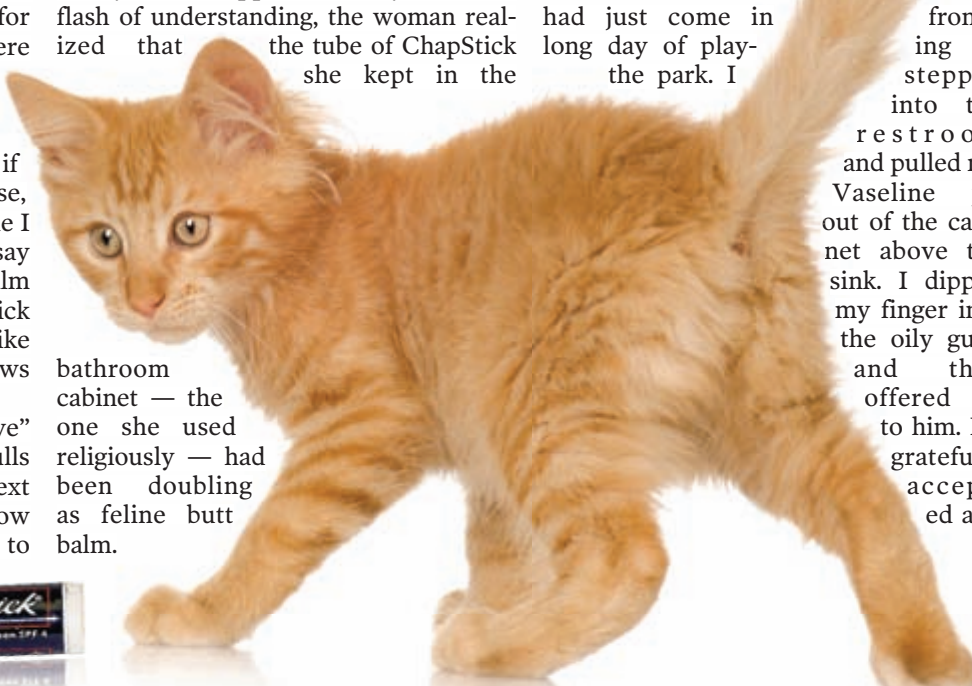
from a ing in stepped into the restroom and pulled my Vaseline jar out of the cabinet above the sink. I dipped my finger into the oily gunk and then offered it to him. He gratefully accepted and

"...the tube of ChapStick she kept in the bathroom cabinet — the one she used religiously — had been doubling as feline butt balm...."

stuck his own finger into the pot. It marked a symbolic moment in our courtship, a kind of baptism by petroleum jelly.

As for the guy in my business class? "Sorry," I lied. "I don't have any on me."

We just don't have that kind of relationship. ■



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OPUS

From page 1

exists within, just as on stage, two actors, through the medium of the play, can have a relationship that, in some ways, may be more intimate than their real-life relationships," says playwright Michael Hollinger. "I think, because music is wordless, it's closer to the expression of pure emotion, feeling without connotation.

"So when you look across your music stand and connect with another player who's joining your melody line, for example, something passes between you, if it's working well, that's kind of unimpeded by the usual constraints of social interaction."

Athletes on sports teams experience a similar intimacy, he says, working together intuitively, symbiotically.

Mr. Hollinger's award-winning play, "Opus," examines what happens to a world-famous string quartet when that careful balance and intimacy is disturbed. When the quartet is on the verge of playing a prestigious, televised concert at the White House, the violist disappears and they have to hire a new one, who's talented, but unproven.

"Opus" plays at the Florida Repertory Theatre through Jan. 24, and is produced by the same creative team that presented "Dancing at Lughnasa," "Doubt" and "Rabbit Hole," including director Maureen Heffernan and set designer Ray Recht.

Mr. Hollinger knows the dynamics of string quartets firsthand; he studied to become a professional musician, receiving a bachelor of music in viola performance from Oberlin Conservatory. He was accepted into the MFA program at Carnegie Mellon University, but realized he was burned out. He took a year off.

"Within about three months, I realized I didn't enjoy it," he says. "I certainly didn't like practicing. The viola can be physically uncomfortable, because it's a large instrument. I always had some physical discomfort. I didn't love orchestra work, which would've been my likely career path. And I certainly wasn't good enough to be a soloist."

But throughout his entire music career, he'd also been writing.

"They were always stealing time from each other," he says. "So, in a sense, it was really just owning up to being a writer."

"I left classical music for a secure job like playwriting," he jokes.

Instead of continuing his musical studies at Carnegie Mellon, he went to Villanova University and earned a master's in theater, where he is now an assistant professor of theater.

Known for plays such as "Red Heron," "Tiny Island" and "Incorruptible," in addition to "Opus," his awards include a Harold and Mimi Steinberg New Play Citation from the American Theatre Critics Association, the Roger L. Stevens Award from the Kennedy Center's Fund for New American Plays, two Barrymore Awards for Outstanding New Play, the F. Otto Haas Award for an Emerging Theatre Artist and a Mid-Atlantic Emmy Award.

But when he started writing plays, he ignored the adage to "write what you know." He set his plays in different locales and time periods, doing months of research to get the details exactly right.

"Having taught young playwrights for a long time," he says, "I realized that there are essentially two poles that writers write from: those writers who begin with, 'Wow, I've had this experience of this relationship or this insight, and I really want to write that, I want to communicate that.' And there are other writers who say, 'Look at that thing over there. Wow, that's interesting. That



The cast of "Opus," from left: Chris Clavelli, Rachel Burttram, Davies Giles and Tom Nowicki.

COURTESY PHOTO

world, those people, that situation way over there, is fascinating. I want to know more about that. I think it's clear to me that I'm the second one."

The challenge for both kinds of writers is to move towards the center, he says. Those who begin with autobiography need to "find the fiction that tells the truth more truthfully than the true story."

So for example, he says, in "The Glass Menagerie," Tennessee Williams has the character based on himself work in a shoe warehouse, instead of being a shoe salesman. He gives the character of his sister a limp from polio, instead of struggling with schizophrenia, as his real-life sister did.

"He fictionalizes whatever he needs to fictionalize, to make a play that's better, truer, and more impactful than reality," he says. "That's the challenge for writers who come from autobiography. The challenge for writers like me, who tend to begin in alien time periods or milieu, is to discover in the writing, how these stories and these characters are also deeply personal and in actuality autobiographical."

"Opus" was the first time he began with a milieu close to his own: "middle-aged, educated guys making their living in art in a major northeastern city," is how he describes it.

"In some ways, the writing of 'Opus,' and its afterlife, have been felicitous," he says. "It's made me think about the 'write what you know' adage. Because I had to do less research, I didn't have to immerse myself in a different period or language or geography, and it felt easier."

Though he studied music in school, theater wasn't foreign to him. His parents were very involved in community theater in York, Pa., and he also performed as a kid.

"I'm very grateful for my experience growing up in theater," he says. His first role? Playing the mouse in "A Mouse's First Christmas" in kindergarten.

Acting on stage gave him an education he couldn't get elsewhere, he says.

I think you learn something about the

relationship between what's on stage and the people in the audience that you don't get anywhere else," he says. "You can't learn it in school. You learn it by being in the presence of it live. It's hard to describe. But what I think I learned over a long period of time is, what is the nature of the experience that passes between the stage and the audience. What is the nature of stage time, what is the nature of stage space? And it's not about language."

As a dramaturge who's worked with many new plays, he can tell which ones are written by actors and which ones are written by novelists.

"In my experience, the actors take to it much more easily than the novelists," he says. "They understand something essential about the nature of people on stage and what we demand of plays, versus what we demand of novels."

As a child, he'd help his parents learn their lines.

"I was told to note any deviation from the script, a missing 'a,' 'the,' or 'an,' and what it taught me from very early on is that my collaborators, ideally, will pay attention to everything I put on the page, and that every single thing makes a difference.... If I put enough clues in that people discover, that every time they look more deeply they find intentionality, they come to realize that nothing in the play is arbitrary."

"If you start to realize that something that you overlooked 10 times was there all along, I think you come to respect the script more and think, 'Huh, I should pay close attention to everything on the assumption that the way it's written, versus something close to the way it's written, matters.'"

Though "Opus" was first produced in 2007, Mr. Hollinger had the idea 20 years ago, that it would be fun to write a play about a string quartet in which the dialogue was musical in the way chamber music is obviously musical.

"You play chamber music, and you realize that different instruments interact as characters," he says. "They have qualities that are not unlike the qualities of characters in a play. And conversely,

characters in a play interact musically, because language is inherently musical.

"I think of all my plays this way, but 'Opus' gave me the opportunity to make this part of the point, to make it obvious for an audience, and to deliberately enjoy the parallels between language and music. And by extension, it encouraged me, on a larger level, to look at musical forms. So solos: monologues. Duets: Elliot and Dorian's duet about Bach. Four parts: quartet, where the four men discuss the same subject with their interviewer, or, in one or two places, where four characters speak heatedly at the same time. In a string quartet, that can be exciting and utterly harmonious at the same time. In the theater, where characters are speaking text, it's inherently disharmonious, because they obscure each other. You can't hear the individual line and the whole as you can in music."

And in some ways, the string quartet in "Opus" is a metaphor for the theater, he says. "It's live, it happens, then disappears. Its participants are utterly interdependent. And they are used up and employed in service to a work that may have been created hundreds of years ago that endures, even though their work is ephemeral."

Keeping them interested

As an experienced playwright, what does he teach his students about the craft?

"It all begins with one principle," he says, "and that is that the theater is demanding the impossible all the time. That the nature of human attention is to diminish over time, always. Every meal is less interesting three fourths of the way through than it is at the beginning. Every class, etc., unless we create artificial reasons for something to become more interesting over time. Which is what the theater has to do. Because it demands so much undivided attention, more than anything else, except film, which is very similar."

"So beginning with that conundrum, if we're in the theater swimming against the current, going against the physical law of attention, what do we have to do to capture attention, sustain attention, and increase attention, as time passes? And it's such an unrealistic goal that I think it lets students begin the process of humility."

Yes, he acknowledges, all good stories, all drama, contains conflict.

"You need conflict...but you have to ask why, what's special about it? Why do we need to be interesting in the theater? It comes back to me, what you're asking of an audience. You're asking them to give you a huge chunk of time, undivided."

It's unlike reading a novel, he says, where they can put the book down, or skip ahead, or go back if they missed something.

"The playwright says, 'you sit in that seat, and maybe I'll let you up to pee.' 'Opus' doesn't even do that, (it doesn't have an intermission.) It makes huge demands, unrealistic demands."

"If you strive to be more interesting, we may keep the theater audience. You can't afford to ever bore people." ■

if you go

>> **What:** "Opus"
 >> **When:** JAN. 8-24 (preview on Jan. 7)
 >> **Where:** Florida Repertory Theatre, 2267 Bay St. in the historic Arcade Theatre, downtown Fort Myers
 >> **Cost:** \$42 and \$38 (preview tickets \$25 and \$20)
 >> **Information:** 332-4488 or www.floriarep.org.

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■ **Bayside Seafood Grill & Bar** - 6-9:30 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday: Lynn Carol on the piano and vocals. In the Venetian Village, 4270 Gulf Shore Blvd. N. 649-5552.

■ **Capri, A Taste of Italy** - Thursday: Jebry's Jazz Jam; Friday: Manhattan Connection; Saturday: Frank Sinatra; Monday: Bob Zottola and The Expandable Jazz Band; Tuesday: karaoke with Steve Roberts; Wednesday: Mercy. In Riverchase Plaza, 11140 Tamiami Trail. 594-3500.

■ **Fitzgerald's Famous Pub** - Country and bluegrass every Saturday night. 9070 Bonita Beach Road. 949-2111.

■ **Fred's Diner** - Singer Songwriter Night hosted by Tim McGeary at 7 p.m. every Wednesday. 2700 Immokalee Road. 431-7928.

■ **Jack's Bait Shack** - Thursday: Soapy Tuna; Friday and Saturday: Ocean Roads; Monday: Overthrowing Amy; Tuesday: Geek Skwad; Wednesday: Love Funnel. 975 Imperial Golf Course Blvd. 594-3460.

■ **Naples Beach Hotel & Golf Club** - Thursday and Monday: Guitarist Kevin Bruce; Friday and Tues-



COURTESY IMAGE

Visitors to The von Liebig Art Center can enjoy a complimentary docent tour of "Henry Koerner: The Real and the Imagined" from 11 a.m. to noon Saturday, Jan. 9. The exhibit closes Sunday, Jan. 10. 262-6517 or www.naplesart.org. Above: *Childrens Palace* by Henry Koerner.

day: Guitarist Barefoot Geno. Saturday and Wednesday: Guitarist Don Ortiz. All from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at the Sunset Beach Bar. Sunday: High Voltage poolside from 6-9 p.m. 851 Gulf Shore Blvd. N. 659-4309.

■ **Paddy Murphy's** - Thursday: Justin; Friday: Barefoot Geno; Saturday and Tuesday: Michael "Maxi" Courtney; Monday: Patrick. 457 Fifth Ave. S. 649-5140.

■ **Riverwalk at Tin City** - Thursday: John Lowbridge; Friday: Merrill; Saturday and Sunday: Sal DeSatis. 1200 Fifth Ave. S. 263-2734.

■ **The Island Pub** - 5-8 p.m. Monday: Jebry's Jazz Jam. 600 Neapolitan Way. 262-2500.

■ **The Pickled Parrot** - Thursday: Nevada Smith; Friday: Steve Hill; Saturday: Michael "Maxi" Courtney. On the boardwalk at 1100 Sixth Avenue South. 435-7900.

■ **South Street City Oven and Grill** - Thursday: Open Mic Night; Friday: Michael "Maxi" Courtney at 5:30 p.m. and Justin Raymond at 9:30 p.m.; Saturday: Ocean Roads; Sunday: Live Reggae with Chaefin; Monday: Meagan Rose; Tuesday: Karaoke. 1410 Pine Ridge Road. 435-9333.

Theater

■ **High Spirits** - TheatreZone presents "High Spirits," starring Georgia Engel, on select dates through Jan. 17 at G&L Theatre at Community School of Naples. (888) 966-3352 or www.theatrezone-florida.com.

■ **Almost, Maine** - The Naples Players present "Almost, Maine" through Jan. 26 at the Sugden Community Theatre. 263-7990 or www.naplesplayers.org.

■ **Remember Me** - The Marco Players present "Remember Me" on select dates through Jan. 31. 642-7270 or www.TheMarcoPlayers.com.

■ **Mind of Poe** - "A Journey Through the Mind... Edgar Allan Poe," presented by Theatre Conspiracy, opens Jan. 8 and plays on select dates in the Foulds Theatre at the Alliance of the Arts, Fort Myers. 936-3239 or e-mail info@theatreconspiracy.org.

■ **George M!** - Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre in Fort Myers presents

"George M!" through Feb. 14. www.BroadwayPalm.com or 278-4422. See review on page C8.

■ **Opus** - Florida Repertory Theatre in Fort Myers presents "Opus" Jan. 8-24. 332-4488 or www.floridarep.org.

Symphony

■ **Classical 3** - The Naples Philharmonic Orchestra presents "Classical 3: Symphonic Journeys" Jan. 7-9. 597-1900 or www.thephil.org. See story on page C9.

■ **Gershwin Tunes** - The Southwest Florida Symphony presents "The Great Gershwins" Jan. 8-9 at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall in Fort Myers. 418-1500 or www.swfiso.org/tickets.

■ **Let's Dance** - The Naples Philharmonic performs "Pops No. 1: Let's Dance" Jan. 12-17. 597-1900.

Thursday, Jan. 7

■ **Trunk Show** - See the latest fashions for spring from Rena Lange and Zenobia today and Friday at Marissa Collections on Third Street South. 263-4333.

■ **Funny Guy** - The Off The Hook Comedy Club on Marco Island presents Jackie Mason tonight through Jan. 12. \$20; 389-6900.

■ **Art Event** - The Art Gallery at Florida Gulf Coast University and Romero Britto Studios present "An Evening with Britto" from 6-9 p.m. in the FGCU Art Gallery. 590-7199 or e-mail asturdiv@fgcu.edu.

■ **Cottage Art** - Riverside Park on Old 41 in Bonita Springs comes alive with art from 5-8 p.m. the second Friday of the month when artists turn out to greet visitors in the scenic riverside cottages.

■ **Circus Time** - Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey presents "Illusionation" today through Jan. 10 at Germain Arena. (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com.

■ **Author! Author!** - A reading/signing for Stephen Valentine's "Time-ship: The Architecture of Immortality" begins at 7 p.m. at Barnes & Noble in Waterside Shops. 598-5200.

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WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

■ **Village Nights** – Enjoy live entertainment while strolling and dining at the Village on Venetian Bay from 6-9 p.m. 261-6100.

Friday, Jan. 8

■ **Saddle Up** – The Southern States Bull Riders 2009 National Finals and the third annual Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwest Florida Rodeo are set for today and Saturday at the Hendry County Rodeo Grounds. (863) 885-1537 or www.ronaldrodeo.com.

■ **Mississippi Memories** – Tommy Owen and Charles Vaught, college students from Naples, share their adventures kayaking the length of the Mississippi River from 6:30-8 p.m. at the Rookery Bay Environmental Learning Center. \$5; 417-6310.

■ **Flamenco & Jazz** – Ottmar Liebert and Luna Negra perform at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts today and Saturday. 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

■ **Ad Libbing** – Naples City Improv starts at 8 p.m. at the Norris Center. 213-3058.

■ **Free Music** – Hear The Beadniks under the stars beginning at 8 p.m. at Gulf Coast Town Center. 267-0783 or gulfcoasttowncenter.com.

Saturday, Jan. 9

■ **Coffee Break** – Enjoy coffee with the Curator at 10 a.m. at the Patty & Jay Baker Naples Museum of Art with Michael Culver, who will guide visitors through the exhibitions marking the museum's 10th anniversary season. Afterward, adjourn to the Dome for coffee and conversation. 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

■ **Bluegrass Downtown** – Lou Reid and Carolina are the headliners and Frontline opens the evening at 7 p.m. at the Norris Center. \$20; 213-3058.

■ **Free Concert** – Rock out to classics by Wildfire beginning at 8 p.m. under the stars at Gulf Coast Town Center. 267-0783 or gulfcoasttowncenter.com.

Sunday, Jan. 10

■ **Strike Up The Band** – The Naples Concert Band presents its first concert of 2010 at 2 p.m. at the Cambier Park Band Shell in Naples. Bring lawn chairs and blankets for seating. Admission is free; donations appreciated. 263-9521 or www.NaplesConcertBand.org.

■ **Chamber Music in Church** – The Amernet String Quartet performs chamber music from Paris and Vienna with pianist James Tocco beginning at 4 p.m. at Trinity-by-the-Cove Episcopal Church. Free. 262-6581, ext. 207.

Monday, Jan. 11

■ **Dance Troupe** – Groovaloo, winner of NBC's "Superstars of Dance," performs at 7:30 p.m. at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall in Fort Myers. 481-4849.

■ **Violin Virtuoso** – The Philharmonic Center for the Arts presents

Itzhak Perlman at 8 p.m. 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

Tuesday, Jan. 12

■ **B-I-N-G-O!** – The Greater Marco Island YMCA hosts bingo at 1 p.m. every Tuesday through March 30. Free coffee, tea and snacks. Marcoislandymca.org or 394-3144.

■ **By The Book** – Philippe Grimbert's "Memory" is the topic of discussion beginning at 2 p.m. at the Vanderbilt Beach Library. Free, but registration required. 597-8444.

■ **Rat Pack Salute** – Three Men and a Baby Grand perform at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts at 8 p.m. today and Wednesday. 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

Wednesday, Jan. 13

■ **History Tours** – Walking tours of the Naples Historical District start at 10 a.m. at 137 12th Ave. South.

Requested donations are \$15 adults, \$5 children. Reservations are required: 261-8164.

■ **Check It Out** – See the 1954 film "Magnificent Obsession" starring Rock Hudson and Jane Wyman at 5:30 p.m. at Headquarters Library. The film screens again at 2 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14, at Naples Regional Library. Free, with seating first come, first served.

Upcoming events

■ **Opera @ The Library** – "Padre e Figlia," a program about father-daughter duets in opera, begins at 6 p.m. Jan. 14 at Headquarters Library. 593-0177. Free, but registration required.

■ **Brassy Broads** – "Kathy Halenda: Brassy Broads of Broadway" plays Jan. 15-16 at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts. 597-1900 or www.thephil.org.

– Send calendar listings to events@floridaweekly.com



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ARTS COMMENTARY

All hype and no heart, 'George M!' doesn't play well with others



It takes a lot of self-confidence to make a living in the arts.

You have to believe in yourself when no one else does.

You have to believe you can create something great that will entertain people or move them.

You have to ignore those who don't share your vision or dream.

And you have to give it your all, even when the end result is not guaranteed.

That being said, there's a fine line between having self-confidence and being a narcissistic jerk.

In "George M!" at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre, the famous theatrical phenomenon George M. Cohan comes across, unfortunately, as the latter — a self-centered jerk who doesn't trust anyone but himself.

True, he penned such classics as "Give My Regards to Broadway," "Over There" and "Yankee Doodle Dandy," but as portrayed by John Ramsey, a lanky actor with keen tap-dancing skills, Mr. Cohan is a thoroughly unlikeable character.

Born into a vaudeville family (who changed his birth date and claim he was born on the Fourth of July), he's oohed and aahed over. Big things are expected of him. The next thing we know, Georgie is a teen, throwing his weight around in theaters, writing his family's songs and routines and negotiating with producers and theater owners.

Another talent

But he has just as much a talent for alienating people as he does for dancing. He never even considers the concept of win-win; so desperate to get to the top and perform in New York City, he simply steamrolls over everyone.

Apparently, no one ever told him that theater is a collaborative art.

The audience laughs when he proudly proclaims that he writes songs, jokes and dance routines *and* also directs and produces.

Instead of coming across as someone with so much talent and so much love for the theater that he's overflowing with ideas and enthusiasm, he's an egomaniacal performer who doesn't play well with others — an ugly little man for whom we have no sympathy.

Even later on, when Broadway has evolved and no longer wants his vaude-

ville schtick, it's difficult to feel sorry for Mr. Cohan, who still demands that everything be done the way he wants it, even when he's acting in someone else's show.

I doubt that was the impression director/choreographer Ann Nieman aimed for; I wish she'd directed Mr. Ramsey with a stronger hand, had somehow given us something about his character to like. It's like some directors who make science fiction films: They're so enamored with the special effects that they ignore the plot and don't pay attention to building realistic characters.

Where there's no spark...

This production of "George M!" pays a lot of attention to the dancing, but it's to the detriment of three-dimensional characters. Though the performers dance up a storm, their dialogue is wooden. It's as if they don't believe in themselves as their characters, but are just reciting lines.

This show lacks spark.



Agnes (Chelsea Witiak) talking with her husband-to-be, George M. Cohan (John Ramsey) COURTESY PHOTOS



John Ramsey as George M. Cohan, in jockey outfit, in the "Give My Regards to Broadway" scene

In fact, the stage doesn't come alive until the last scene of Act I. When Agnes (Chelsea Witiak) sings "Billie," a song about how she was christened with a boy's name, her heartfelt delivery made me sit up and take notice.

This fast-paced show, which first played Broadway in 1968, speeds through the life of Mr. Cohan. All the music, of course, is his. But the book, by Michael Steward and John and Fran Pascal, gets a little strange in Act II. Most songs are performed as if they're part of a stage act. But when Georgie and his father (Tommy Vance) have a fight, they suddenly burst into "Harrigan" and sing while mock boxing with each other. And when Georgie later learns that his father has died, he breaks out into a patriotic medley, singing "Over There"

and "You're a Grand Old Flag." It's just odd, to say the least.

Nothing to admire

Mr. Ramsey is a talented actor, but he fails to make us care about George M. Cohan. In fact, by the time the curtain fell, I harbored a distinct dislike for the man.

When his first wife, Ethel (Kara Farmer) divorces him, he just shrugs it off and immediately goes after another woman (the above-mentioned Agnes, played so well by Ms. Witiak.) What the show fails to mention is that Mr. Cohan was notorious for his many affairs, and that's why Ethel leaves him, despite the fact she's had a child with him.

"Give My Regards to Broadway," which closes the first act, is a real roof-raiser, with Mr. Ramsey literally dancing off the

walls. But it seems a little strange to have a jockey who's so tall he's towering over almost everyone else.

Andy Kopec plays a number of roles in this musical, from theater owners to a cop with a thick Irish brogue. Jennie Hollander also plays multiple roles; my favorite is the picketing actor threatening to go on strike. Christopher Russell also does an admirable job as Sam, Mr. Cohan's business partner.

But it is Ms. Witiak who knocks it out of the park as Agnes, every time she's on stage. You can't figure out what her character sees in Mr. Cohan, and want to advise her to pick someone better. As someone commented at intermission: "He's not brash and likeable, he's just cocky."

Tom Tutino's sets, however, are outstanding, from Madame Grimaldi's dining room to the streets of Broadway to a British pier.

And the songs in "George M!" are well known, especially to the senior audience that the Broadway Palm caters to.

But the man who was our country's first show business megastar — "the man who owned Broadway" — is neither impressive nor admirable in this production.

Mr. Cohan probably would've liked the exclamation point in the title, "George M!"

But take my word for it, it's just hype. ■

If you go

- >> **What:** "George M!"
- >> **When:** through Feb. 14
- >> **Where:** The Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre, 1380 Colonial Drive, Fort Myers
- >> **Cost:** \$27-\$53
- >> **Info:** 278-4422 or www.broadwaypalm.com

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THE MUSIC GOURMET

Violin virtuoso Ilya Kaler joins the Philharmonic for Classical 3

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Born in Russian 1963 into a family of musicians, Ilya Kaler — who performs with the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra in its Classical 3 concert this week — was barely past toddlerhood when he was selected to attend the prestigious School for Gifted Children in Moscow. The rest, as they say, is history.

By the time he was 23, he had become the first person to win the gold medal for all three of the world's most prestigious violin competitions: the Paganini in 1981, the Sibelius in 1985 and the Tchaikovsky in 1986. He also had earned his bachelor's, master's and doctorate degrees in violin, studying with some of the most highly regarded professors the world had to offer.

He emigrated to the United States and was appointed professor of violin at Eastman Conservatory of Music in Rochester, N.Y., where he also served as concertmaster of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra. It was there that Kaler and Jorges Mester, maestro of the Naples Philharmonic, met.

The two became instant friends, each with nothing but words of praise for the other. "Not only that," the maestro told me recently, "but Ilya Kaler is one of the funniest men you will ever meet. He's an incredible storyteller and jokester, with an endless supply of puns."

I asked Mester about his pronouncement of Kaler's virtuostic prowess made five years ago, the first time the violinist performed in Naples. Did he still consider Kaler, whose name is still unknown to many, to be the world's greatest living violinist?

"There is nothing he can't play," Mester reiterated. "He has incredible technique and is literally all over the violin. He's never yet performed with me in any venue when he wasn't anything less than amazing."

So why isn't this immensely talented musician not a world-renowned celebrity? Because, as Kaler told me perhaps three years ago, he has a wife and children whom he loves very much and is not willing to abandon for a life on the road. "I love teaching, and I love performing," he said. "This way I have the best of both worlds."

An exciting program

Two of the selections on the program for Classical 3 have, to the best of the

maestro's and my recollection, never been performed at the Phil: Bruch's "Scottish Fantasy," in which Kaler will be featured, and Mozart's Symphony No. 33 in B flat major.

Mester laughed as we discussed the balance of the evening's program. "Three of the four composers — Brahms, Bruch and Britten, all begin with 'Br.' I'm not certain," he added, "that there are any other composers whose names begin that way."

Cudgeling our respective brains for a moment, neither of us could dredge up another composer possibility.

"And then, you always need a little Mozart," he added about Symphony No. 33.

I also spoke with Kaler last week, catching up with him in Chicago, where he serves as professor of violin at DePaul University. (He is as revered by students and faculty alike there as he was at Eastman and at Indiana University.)

Although Bruch's Violin Concerto in G Minor is considerably better known than the "Scottish Fantasy," Kaler confirmed he was very excited about performing the lesser-known piece. "I have never performed it before, so for me the excitement is about the whole new set of challenges, the twists and turns — the phrasing — to master the piece. Although there are critics who regard the 'Fantasy' as second rate, I view it as one of the crown jewels of violin repertoire."

I reminded him of a long departed music critic who sniffed and dismissed Rachmaninoff's 2nd Piano Concerto as "overfull of notes," and we both laughed. No one knows (or cares) about the identity of the critic; Rachmaninoff has been awarded musical immortality.

So it will be with Bruch and his "Scottish Fantasy" — if Kaler, the maestro and the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra have their way.

Be prepared for a very special evening — and a very special performance by Ilya Kaler. I anticipate this bear of a man will stride onto the stage, turn and plant his feet — which will never move during his performance. And I fully expect to hear what I imagine to be the sounds of an angel. ■

— *Classical 3, featuring guest violinist Ilya Kaler with the Naples Philharmonic Orchestra, begins at 8 p.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Jan. 7-9, at the Philharmonic Center for the Arts; a pre-concert discussion begins at 7 each evening. For tickets or more information, call 597-1900 or visit www.thephil.org.*



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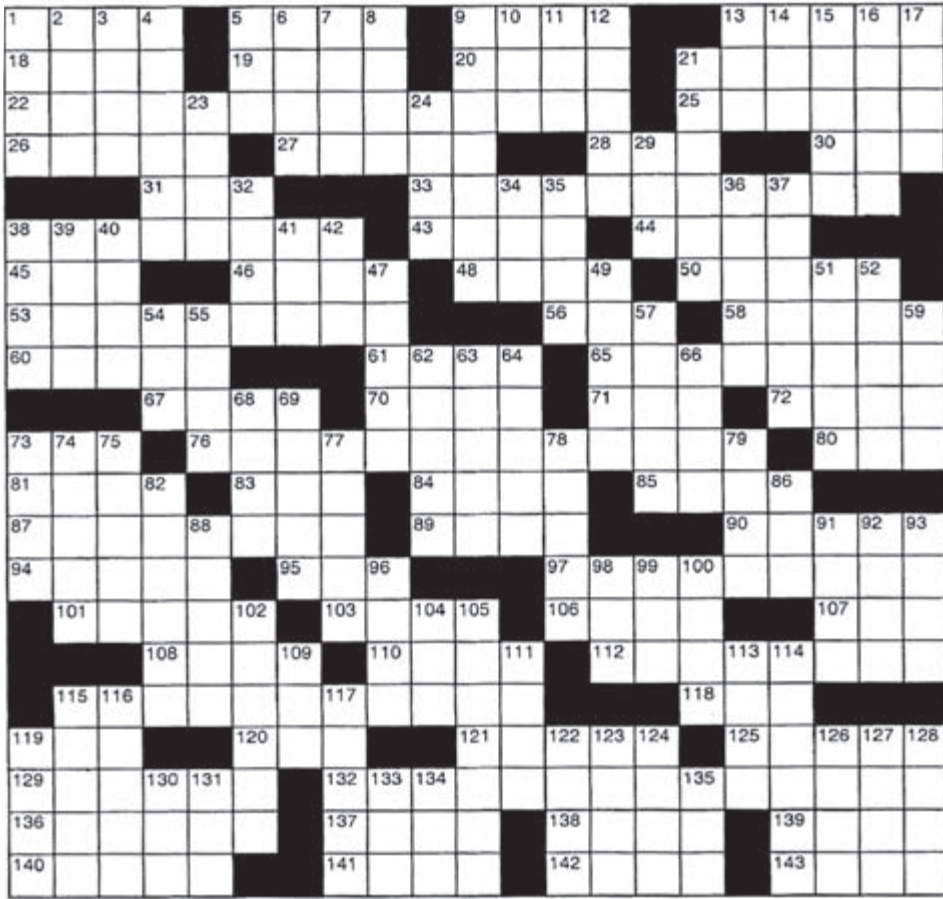
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- ACROSS**
- 1 Din from dynamite
 - 5 Iceberg kin
 - 9 Exclude
 - 13 Platonic character
 - 18 South Seas novel
 - 19 Sleber solo
 - 20 Iago or Othello
 - 21 Alligator relative
 - 22 Driven President?
 - 25 Procure
 - 26 "Rawhide" rope
 - 27 Muslim deity
 - 28 Select, with "for"
 - 30 Pig — poke
 - 31 Fluffy female
 - 33 Driven novelist?
 - 38 Might
 - 43 Art deco designer
 - 44 Caution
 - 45 Rush
 - 46 Son of Zeus
 - 48 Big man on campus
 - 50 Paris' pop
 - 53 Driven humorist?
 - 56 Shorten a skirt
 - 58 Aquatic mammal
 - 60 Trattoria treat
 - 61 "L—, c'est moi"
 - 65 Longfellow subject
 - 67 "Carmina Burana" composer
 - 70 Take the tube
 - 71 "Kidnapped" monogram
 - 72 Prepares to dine
 - 73 Part of EST
 - 76 Driven actress?
 - 80 Mushroom part
 - 81 Meat cut
 - 83 Thompson or Salonga
 - 84 — breve
 - 85 Barbecue
 - 87 Pangolin, for one
 - 89 Slender
 - 90 Heel type
 - 94 Mideastern pockets
 - 95 Smidgen
 - 97 Driven actor?
 - 101 Terra —
 - 103 Lauder powder
 - 106 Garment feature
 - 107 Accomplished
 - 108 Time to evolve?
 - 110 Valuable
 - 112 Rite
 - 115 Driven explorer?
 - 118 Be in debt
 - 119 "— Nidre"
 - 120 Pallid
 - 121 Victorian wit
 - 125 At attention
 - 129 Sheik spot
 - 132 Driven rock star?
 - 136 Real thing
 - 137 Actress
 - 138 — mater
 - 139 King or Satie
 - 140 Gibbons of "Entertainment Tonight"
 - 141 Rocker Rundgren
 - 142 Parent
 - 143 Dressing gown
- DOWN**
- 1 Piglet's papa
 - 2 Prefix meaning "both"
 - 3 Author Ephron
 - 4 Mitch Miller's trademark
 - 5 Remark from 31
 - 6 Role for Shirley
 - 7 "Show Boat" song
 - 8 It's often jumped
 - 9 Chekhov's "The Cherry —"
 - 10 — juice
 - 11 Springfield's st.
 - 12 Caruso or Corelli
 - 13 Use a shuttle
 - 14 Thwack
 - 15 Monitor message
 - 16 Contaminate
 - 17 Muffo of the Met
 - 21 Afternoon refresher
 - 23 "Cactus Flower" star
 - 24 Christen
 - 29 Basilica bench
 - 32 Richard of "Love Me Tender"
 - 34 Hwy.
 - 35 Beatles refrain
 - 36 Cupid's missile
 - 37 Legendary Colt Johnny
 - 38 Have a ball at the mall
 - 39 Buster Brown's dog
 - 40 Some wines
 - 41 Singing syllable
 - 42 "— a Rebel" ('62 hit)
 - 47 Sociologist Hite
 - 49 Indra Gandhi's father
 - 51 Tall story?
 - 52 Maestro Zubin
 - 54 Ike's domain
 - 55 "Cheers" patron
 - 57 Jazzman Davis
 - 59 Kind of file
 - 62 — wave
 - 63 Mr. Rochester's ward
 - 64 Electrical inventor
 - 66 '68 US Open winner
 - 68 Fedora fabric
 - 69 Cut loose
 - 73 Blow for a bouncer
 - 74 Pick-me-up
 - 75 "Same here!"
 - 77 Jeweler's weight
 - 78 All legs
 - 79 Suburban obsession
 - 82 Tidy up
 - 86 Ring counter
 - 88 Philanthropist Brooke
 - 91 Extinct bird
 - 92 Prepare to bear it
 - 93 Whirlpool
 - 96 Poet in the past
 - 98 Rapper Tone —
 - 99 Scrape by, with "out"
 - 100 Pianist Peter
 - 102 Regardless
 - 104 — Cruces, NM
 - 105 Dense
 - 109 — Na Na
 - 111 Oklahoma city
 - 113 Kind of pitcher
 - 114 Lyricist Johnny
 - 115 Mezzo Marilyn
 - 116 Make one's day
 - 117 Incompetent
 - 119 Film critic Pauline
 - 122 Inventive sort?
 - 123 Take-out order?
 - 124 Austen's Miss Woodhouse
 - 126 Continental currency
 - 127 Farm structure
 - 128 Little guy
 - 130 Show —
 - 131 "Make — double!"
 - 133 Milne creature
 - 134 Remnant
 - 135 Teacup part

SEE ANSWERS, C9

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HOROSCOPES

■ **CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)** Don't put off making decisions about someone close to you might have a financial problem and seek your advice. If you do decide to get involved, insist on seeing everything that might be relevant to this situation.

■ **AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)** A personal matter takes an interesting turn. The question is, do you want to follow the new path or take time out to reconsider the change? Think this through before deciding.

■ **PISCES (February 19 to March 20)** Moving into a new career is a big step. Check that offer carefully with someone who has been there, done that, and has the facts you'll need to help you make your decision.

■ **ARIES (March 21 to April 19)** Use that Arian charm to help make a difficult workplace transition easier for everyone. News about a long-awaited decision can be confusing. Don't jump to conclusions.

■ **TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)** Although you might well be tempted to be more extravagant than you should be at this time, I'm betting you'll let your sensible Bovine instinct guide you toward moderation.

■ **GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)** An opportunity for travel could come with some problems regarding travel companions and other matters. So be sure you read all the fine print before you start packing.

■ **CANCER (June 21 to July 22)** Make an effort to complete your

usual workplace tasks before volunteering for extra duty. Scrambling to catch up later on could create some resentment among your colleagues.

■ **LEO (July 23 to August 22)** A financial matter could have you rethinking your current spending plans. You might want to recheck your budget to see where you can cut back on expenses until the situation improves.

■ **VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)** One way to make your case for that promotion you've been hoping for might be to put your planning skills to work in helping to shape up a project that got out of hand. Good luck.

■ **LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)** Be careful about "experts" who have no solid business background. Instead, seek advice on enhancing your business prospects from bona fide sources with good success records.

■ **SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)** Standing up to support a colleague's viewpoint -- even if it's unpopular -- can be difficult if you feel outnumbered. But you'll win plaudits for your honesty and courage.

■ **SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)** While progress continues on resolving that recurring problem, you might feel it's taking too long. But these things always need to develop at their own pace. Be patient.

■ **BORN THIS WEEK:** Your warmth and generosity both of spirit and substance endears you to everyone.

By Linda Thistle

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Puzzle Difficulty this week:



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.

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging ★★★ Expert

SEE ANSWERS, C9



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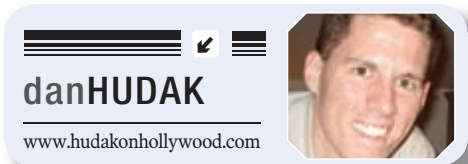
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LATEST FILMS

'Leap Year'



★ 1/2

Is it worth \$10? No

"Leap Year" is a terrible romantic comedy centered on a pseudo-holiday gimmick that's as dumb as the people who believe in it. Irish legend says that on Leap Year day, the quadrennial Feb. 29, women are allowed to propose to their boyfriends. This is good to know, because here I was thinking that in 2009, after suffrage and the fight for equal rights, women weren't allowed to take initiative and propose any time they see fit.

The bogus tradition is just the beginning of this movie's problems. Director Anand Tucker and writers Deborah Kaplan and Harry Elfont have gone to great lengths to make their main character, alpha-girl go-getter Anna (Amy Adams), an intelligent person who makes rational decisions. Her job is to stage apartments for real estate agents to show, and she's very good at it. Her boyfriend of four years is Jeremy (Adam Scott), a cardiologist who's travelling to Dublin for a medical conference.

Inspired by her drunken loon father (John Lithgow), the Irish Anna tries to travel from Boston to Dublin to propose to Jeremy on Leap Year day, but bad weather forces her to the scenic countryside. There she meets the standard local droolers, including a lowly bartender named Declan (Matthew Goode), who refuses to shave.

Let me tell you about Declan. He doesn't have a chip on his shoulder, he has a boulder. He's not cute, smart, intelligent, charming or interesting. Anna hates him at first, of course, but as they travel together to Dublin they grow closer, even though he looks like he smells like cigarettes. He has nothing to offer Anna besides an occasional wise-ass remark and (likely) bad breath, and yet she falls for him. Why? Because he defends her honor! He shows a sensitive side! He's everything she's always wanted, but didn't know she needed! Yeah, right. All this after knowing him for three this-movie-sucks days.

There's an occasional cute moment,



such as when Anna inadvertently blows the fuse on an entire village, but the comedy mostly clunks. Worse, Ms. Adams and Mr. Goode have zero chemistry, meaning not only do the characters not belong together, but the actors also apparently know this script has nothing going for it. Ms. Adams is incredibly talented, and still one of the best actresses we have today, but this crap is below her, and she should've known better.

I'm well aware many romantic comedies follow a similar premise, but that doesn't mean a movie that's trying to be realistic can get away with being completely unbelievable. Love may be funny and irrational, but falling in love after three days with someone who's completely different from you, and giving up a pretty good catch in Jeremy in the process, is idiotic. But fine. If the intelligent Anna, who seems to genuinely enjoy her job and living in the U.S., wants to give it all up for this cretin, more power to her. I hope they have a miserable life together. ■

Dan Hudak is the chairman of the Florida Film Critics Circle and a nationally syndicated film critic. You can e-mail him at dan@hudakonhollywood.com and read more of his work at www.hudakonhollywood.com.

Did you know? >> Including the sequences set in Boston, the film was shot entirely on location in Ireland.

CAPSULES

REVIEWED BY DAN HUDAK
www.hudakonhollywood.com

It's Complicated

★★★

(Meryl Streep, Alec Baldwin, Steve Martin) Jane (Streep) has been divorced from Jake (Baldwin) for 10 years and just recently settled in and found happiness. Complications ensue, however, when she develops feelings for a nice-guy architect (Martin) while having an affair with Jake, who remarried a younger woman (Lake Bell). Writer/director Nancy Meyers ("Something's Gotta Give") has cornered the market on adult romantic comedy, and thankfully she does it well. The characters

are engaging and likeable, and the story is fun too follow without getting too heavy-handed. Rated R.

Nine

★★★★

(Daniel Day-Lewis, Marion Cotillard, Penelope Cruz) In 1965 Rome, a director (Day-Lewis) seeks inspiration from the women in his life in this adaptation of the Broadway musical. Each big-name star (Cotillard, Cruz, Kate Hudson, Nicole Kidman, Fergie) gets at least one number all to his/herself, and most succeed admirably. With Rob Marshall ("Chicago") directing, we'd expect nothing less. Too bad the story has no structure and never comes together. Rated PG-13.

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POLLO (Chicken) /Vitello (Veal)

<p>Chicken Parmigiana Pan-fried chicken breast, baked in pomodoro sauce and mozzarella cheese</p> <p>Chicken Marsala Chicken breast sautéed in a mushroom marsala Wine sauce, served with angel hair pasta</p>	<p>Chicken Piccata Chicken breast sautéed with capers, fresh squeezed Lemon and white wine sauce, served with angel hair pasta.</p> <p>Veal Parmigiana Pan-fried veal medallions baked with pomodoro Sauce and cheese.</p>
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Pesce (Seafood)

<p>Shrimp Parmigiana Pan-fried shrimp baked with pomodoro sauce and Mozzarella cheese, served with angel hair pasta.</p> <p>Mussels Marinara Full shell mussels sautéed in garlic, basil and marinara sauce Served with linguini</p>	<p>Shrimp Marinara Jumbo white shrimp sautéed with a tangy marinara sauce, served with linguini</p> <p>Flounder Limone (13.99) Fresh Flounder dipped in egg and flour, autéed in white wine and butter sauce, served with linguini</p>
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Southwest Florida theaters broadcast opera live from The Met

Opera aficionados can see and hear soprano Renee Fleming live from The Metropolitan Opera in New York City when the matinee performance of Richard Strauss's "Der Rosenkavalier" is broadcast at area movie theaters beginning at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 9.

The theaters are: Hollywood Coconut Point 16, Estero; Bell Tower 20, Fort Myers; and Hollywood Stadium 20, Naples. Tickets are \$22 for the show that lasts approximately four hours and 45 minutes, with two intermissions. Each theater will also show an encore performance of "Der Rosenkavalier" at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 27.

Ms. Fleming and mezzo-soprano Susan Graham star as the aristocratic Marschallin and the young nobleman Octavian, respectively, reprising the acclaimed portrayals they last sang together at the Met in the 2000 revival of "Der Rosenkavalier." For the new production of the comic masterpiece of love and intrigue, Edo de Waart conducts an international cast that includes Christine Schäfer as Sophie, Eric Cutler as the Italian Singer, Thomas Allen as Faninal and Kristinn Sigmundsson singing Baron Ochs — all making their role debuts.

Saturday's live HD broadcast to theaters around the world is directed for the screen by Barbara Willis-Sweete and hosted by Plácido Domingo. It is the second in the 2009-2010 series of "The Met: Live in HD." The series continues with these performances, also showing at the above three Southwest Florida theaters:

• **1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 16:** "Carmen," by Georges Bizet, starring Elina



COURTESY PHOTO

Renee Fleming, left, and Susan Graham in "Der Rosenkavalier"

Garanca as the seductive gypsy of the title and Roberto Alagna as the obsessed Don Jose. Encore showing at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 3.

• **1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6:** Giuseppe Verdi's "Simon Boccanegra," starring tenor Plácido Domingo in the gripping political thriller's title role. Encore at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 24.

• **1 p.m. Saturday, March 27:** A new production of "Hamlet" by French composer Ambroise Thomas, starring Simon Keenlyside and Natalie Dessay. Encore at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 14.

• **1 p.m. Saturday, May 1:** Rossini's fanciful "Armida," starring Ms. Fleming as the mythical sorceress opposite six tenors. Encore at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 19.

For more information and to order tickets online, visit www.metoperafamily.org. ■

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BOOKS

“The Fighting Ethnic”

By L. C. Goldman
(Mountain Valley Publishing, 280 pages. \$16.95)

REVIEWED BY PHILIP K. JASON
Special to Florida Weekly



GOLDMAN

L.C. Goldman is the poster boy for productive seniorhood. This 82-year-old former advertising executive has launched a flotilla of new careers in Naples. He made his third appearance on Dave Elliot's WGUF radio show earlier this week; on Wednesday, Feb. 10, and again on Wednesday, March 10, he will discuss “Advertising Campaigns: Stories Never Told” at the Naples Center of FGCU. He is president of the Naples Chapter of the American Technion Society, raising consciousness about Israel's foremost university and research facility in science and technology. Mr. Goldman invites distinguished Technion professors in various disciplines here to speak about their work.

He also moderates “Great Decisions” sessions for the Naples branch of the Council on World Affairs.

Not enough to keep busy? Mr. Goldman writes columns for both the *Naples Daily News* and the *Pelican Bay Post*, mixing humor and thoughtful argumentation on a wide range of issues.

This energetic senior is probably best known as a novelist, however.

He made a huge splash several years back with “A Big Hit in Pelican Bay,” and since then has published three more books, the latest being “The Fighting Ethnic.”

In “The Fighting Ethnic,” three young men — a light-skinned Black, an Italian-American and a Jew — meet as Notre Dame roommates after hiding their ethnic identities to insure admission on athletic scholarships. They form a powerful bond, fighting against campus prejudices as well as the head football coach's prejudice against playing freshman on the varsity squad.

Mo Greene, the son of Holocaust survivors, has changed his name from Maurie Greenberg. His father is out-

raged that his son has betrayed his heritage by entering this bastion of Christianity. Tony Granelli isn't hiding his Italian heritage, just the fact that his father is a Mafia Don. And L.J. Jones, whose father passed as a white man, is tempted to do the same.

All three quickly drop their subterfuges, first to one another, then to the team and the larger community. After all, they have been accepted and they are on the Notre Dame football team. But it's the early 1970s, and they still have to fight prejudices — especially those running rampant in the mind and actions of the head coach, who does all he can to keep to keep each of them “in his place.”

Mr. Goldman is at his best when writing crisp banter among the three student athletes. He nails the personality and speaking style of each. He wins the reader over through his portrait of their strong bond and mutual respect, often manifest through the mock stereotyping gibes they toss at one another.

The author hooks readers into rooting for each step in the trio's success. His management of the family tensions affecting each main character, tensions in part resulting from their relationships with seemingly out-of-bounds women, complicates the story of the football season in engaging ways.

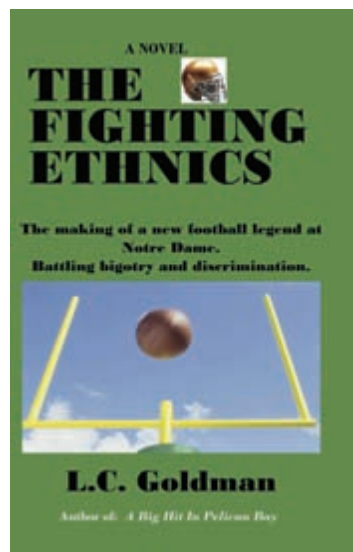
There are lapses in credibility, however, such as when readers learn that a

Jewish Kenyan princess has renamed herself after a minor Jewish holiday and celebrates it each year. The holiday, Tisha b'Av (meaning the ninth day of the Hebrew month of Av), is the saddest day in the Jewish calendar and for many a fast day. There is nothing to celebrate.

But all in all, Mr. Goldman has fashioned a lively, upbeat and often humorous tale that provides an important perspective on the workings of discrimination.

“The Fighting Ethnic” show their stuff as heroes on the football field, but more importantly as valiant warriors in the battle against prejudice. ■

L.C. Goldman talks about and signs his new book at Barnes & Noble in Waterside Shops) on Saturday, Jan. 9. The discussion begins at 1 p.m., followed by the signing at 2 p.m. For more information, call 598-5200.



Sanibel bookshop will host Mary Alice Munroe

Mary Alice Munroe, author of “The Beach House,” “Swimming Lessons” and “Last Light Over Carolina,” among others, will discuss and sign her books at the Sanibel Island Bookshop on Sanibel at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 23.

As a young writer, Ms. Munroe first pursued nonfiction and studied journalism. Later, she was the assistant to the general editor for Encyclopedia Britannica.

Not until years later did fate intervene. When her doctor confined her to bed for the final months of her pregnancy, Ms. Munroe's husband handed her a yellow notepad and pencil and urged her to write the novel she had always dreamed about. Knowing she might never again have that

gift of time, she wrote and wrote. “I gave birth to a baby and a book,” she says.

Although known for her intimate portrayals of women's lives, her writing has gained added purpose and depth with her move to the South Carolina Lowcountry. An active environmentalist, she draws themes for her novels from nature and its parallels with human nature, thus drawing attention to various endangered species and the human connection to the natural world.

Her next novel is due out in spring 2011.

For more information about Ms. Munroe's visit or to reserve assign copy of one of her books at the Sanibel Island Bookshop, call 472-5223. ■

C'MON

From page 1

a number of other works of art already collected and destined for a permanent home at C'mon. The subjects of children and animals are present in many different styles and media from the late 18th century to present. Some of the artists who have already donated works are Will Barnet, Richard Segalman, Jose de Creeft (estate), Colleen Browning (estate), Milton Hebal, Lorrie Goulet, Hunt Slonem, Robert Vickrey, Adolf Dehn (estate), Eliot O'Hara (estate), Herman Maril (estate), Byron Browne (estate) and Bob Kane. The inspiration for the C'mon collection theme came from an exhibition William Meek did three years ago called "Family Values in American Art 1783-2006."

Harmon-Meek Gallery is at 599 Ninth St. N., in the TIB Financial Centre. The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



COURTESY PHOTO

A modern devil mask from Oruro, Bolivia, used in the Festival of the Virgin to represent Supay, the deity of the underworld

Monday through Friday and Saturdays by appointment. Call 261-2637 or e-mail hmg@harmonmeekgallery.com. ■

Breakfast is served for current, prospective volunteers at NAA

The Naples Art Association invites current and prospective volunteers to an orientation breakfast from 10 a.m. to noon Monday, Jan. 25, at The von Liebig Art Center.

Attendees will hear highlights about the upcoming season, including the "Princess Diana: Dresses of Inspiration" exhibition, and learn about the many and varied volunteer opportunities provided via the NAA's art

festivals, exhibitions, opening receptions, special events and other activities, including gift shop and library duties.

Knowledge of art is not a requirement, and volunteers are welcome on an ongoing or one-time special event basis.

For more information, call Yvonne Gibb, manager of volunteer services, at 262-6517, ext., 105. ■

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Screening of Big Cypress documentary will help fund welcome center exhibits

The von Liebig Art Center presents a screening of "Big Cypress Swamp: Western Everglades," a documentary about the history of the Western Everglades preservation effort and the swamp's ever-evolving ecosystem, at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 14.

The hour-long film showcases the beauty of sawgrass and sunsets in the swamp, highlights the plants and wildlife there and includes stories of tireless efforts to preserve and manage the region. It features rare and primeval sights and sounds of swamp expeditions through cypress strands by foot, airboat, swamp buggy and helicopter. In the background is the "music" of Big Cypress: an orchestra of croaking frogs, wading birds, flowing water and approaching thunderstorms.

Producer Elam Stoltzfus is a master cinematographer whose projects capture the essence and glory of nature. For "Big Cypress Swamp: Western Everglades," the filmmaker invited fine art photographer Clyde Butcher to host the project and capture the swamp through his large format camera lens. The final touch in the documentary is the narration by Naples resident Peter Thomas.

The screening at The von Liebig begins with a wine and cheese reception, followed by a 20-minute version of the film and a presentation by Mr. Butcher and Mr. Stoltzfus at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$50 per person and include a full-length version of the documentary on DVD. Mr. Butcher and Mr. Stoltzfus will autograph DVDs and other related merchandise available in the art center



COURTESY PHOTO

Clyde Butcher at work in the swamp

gift shop.

A share of the evening's proceeds will benefit the South Florida National Parks Trust campaign to raise \$250,000 to purchase permanent exhibits for the Big Cypress Swamp Welcome Center being built on U.S. 41 near State Road 29. Although construction of the \$2.2 million center funded by the Big Cypress National Preserve is nearly complete, it will not be finished until exhibits are installed explaining the swamp's history, hydrology and habitats. All gifts will be matched dollar for dollar by the Big Cypress National Preserve.

The event at The von Liebig is sponsored by Fifth Third Bank, City Mattress, Gulfshore Life and Comcast. For tickets and more information, call 262-6517 or visit www.naplesart.org. ■

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Life in
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FLORIDA WEEKLY
THE NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT SOURCE

Here's your chance to own a Clyde Butcher photograph



Big Cypress National Preserve 1, Clyde Butcher

COURTESY PHOTO

Collectors and fans of preeminent Everglades and Florida landscape photographer Clyde Butcher will have a one-in-four chance to own a framed photograph from the artist's Naples Parks series, featured in Ken Burns' new PBS National Parks documentary, when the Naples Art Association presents "From Clyde Butcher's Collection to Yours" Friday, Jan. 15, at The von Liebig Art Center.

Throughout the evening, tickets will be drawn to find out which 60 lucky guests will take home a piece of art. Each winner will have just 90 seconds to make his or her selection.

In addition, one special 36-by-46 pho-

tograph will be auctioned to the highest bidder. "Loxahatchee River #1, 1991" is a silver gelatin photograph, edition 36/50, taken in Jonathan Dickinson State Park in Florida.

Just 240 tickets for the drawing will be sold for "From Clyde Butcher's Collection to Yours." Tickets are \$250 each (\$75 tickets provide admission for a spouse and do not include entry into the drawing).

The main event begins at 6:30 p.m. and includes hors d'oeuvres, wine and musical entertainment. Jackie Butcher Obendorf, Mr. Butcher's daughter, is the honorary chair. For more information, call the 262-6517, ext. 115. ■



The BBC's *World Have Your Say* with Ros Atkins in Southwest Florida

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Part 4: Tuning up for 'Fiddler'

Florida Weekly is keeping track behind the scenes as The Naples Players' spring production of "Fiddler on the Roof" takes shape. With its memorable score and universal theme of tradition, "Fiddler" has touched audiences around the world with humor, warmth and honesty. The full-scale musical runs March 3-April 3 on the main stage at the Sugden Community Theatre. Dawn Lebrecht Fornara is the director/choreographer; Charles Fornara is the musical director. The marketing plan and advertising materials are under development now, as these photos show. Next week: Cast members get into character as rehearsals begin.



THE NAPLES PLAYERS/
COURTESY PHOTOS
Above, Peggy Dunnagan, marketing manager for The Naples Players, and Rhona Saunders, marketing director, look over different concepts for the "Fiddler" logo and prepare to discuss marketing strategies. At left, in the box office at the Sugden Community Theatre, Ellen Gayle helps a customer with early "Fiddler" tickets.

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Big Cypress Marketplace now serving dinner theater

Big Cypress Marketplace introduces the Big Cypress Dinner Theatre to start the New Year with matinee shows by two Naples-based creator/producers: Southwest Florida's comedy duo Compton & Bennett, and Darlyne Franklin of Darlyne Franklin Productions.

Compton & Bennett's "Assisted Living: The Musical," starring Rick Compton and Betsy Bennett, launches the new theater on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 15-17. Tickets for \$32 include lunch at noon and the show beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Mr. Compton and Ms. Bennett have written and performed together for more than 15 years. "Assisted Living" includes the songs "Help! I've Fallen (For You) and I Can't Get Up," "These Halls Are Made For Walkers" and "Goin' To The Chapel and We're Gonna Get Buried." Slated to go on tour later this year, the show has received standing ovations at country clubs and cabarets throughout the region.

Up next at Big Cypress Dinner Theatre is "Joey and Maria's Comedy Italian Wedding," to which members of the audience are invited to witness the vows and attend the reception. The zany "wedding" is a one-time show at the marketplace on Saturday, Jan. 23. Tickets for \$42 include lunch at noon and the show beginning at 1:30 p.m.

Looking ahead

Known for shows that "skewer topics such as overdevelopment, environmental plunder and the hubris of public servitude," Compton & Bennett return to the stage at Big Cypress Market-



COURTESY PHOTO
Betsy Bennett and Rick Compton as Naomi and Ben in "Assisted Living The Musical"

place with "A Cracker at The Ritz" Feb. 12-14 and "A History of Collier County According to Us" March 19-21. Tickets are \$32.

Ms. Franklin, who serves as DJ and director for her productions, brings "Dancing with the Starz" to the marketplace on Sunday, Feb. 28, with dinner at 4 p.m. and show at 5:30 p.m. She brings "Sully & Sophia's Wedding," a raucous Irish-Italian celebration, to the stage on Saturday, March 6, with luncheon buffet at noon and the show at 1:30 p.m. Tickets are \$42.

The Big Cypress Dinner Theatre is complete with an original stained glass sign and posters from the now-closed Naples Dinner Theatre.

The marketplace is 20 minutes east of downtown Naples on U.S. 41. Tickets for all shows can be purchased by calling Big Cypress Marketplace at 262-4622 or visiting www.BigCypressMarketPlace.com. ■



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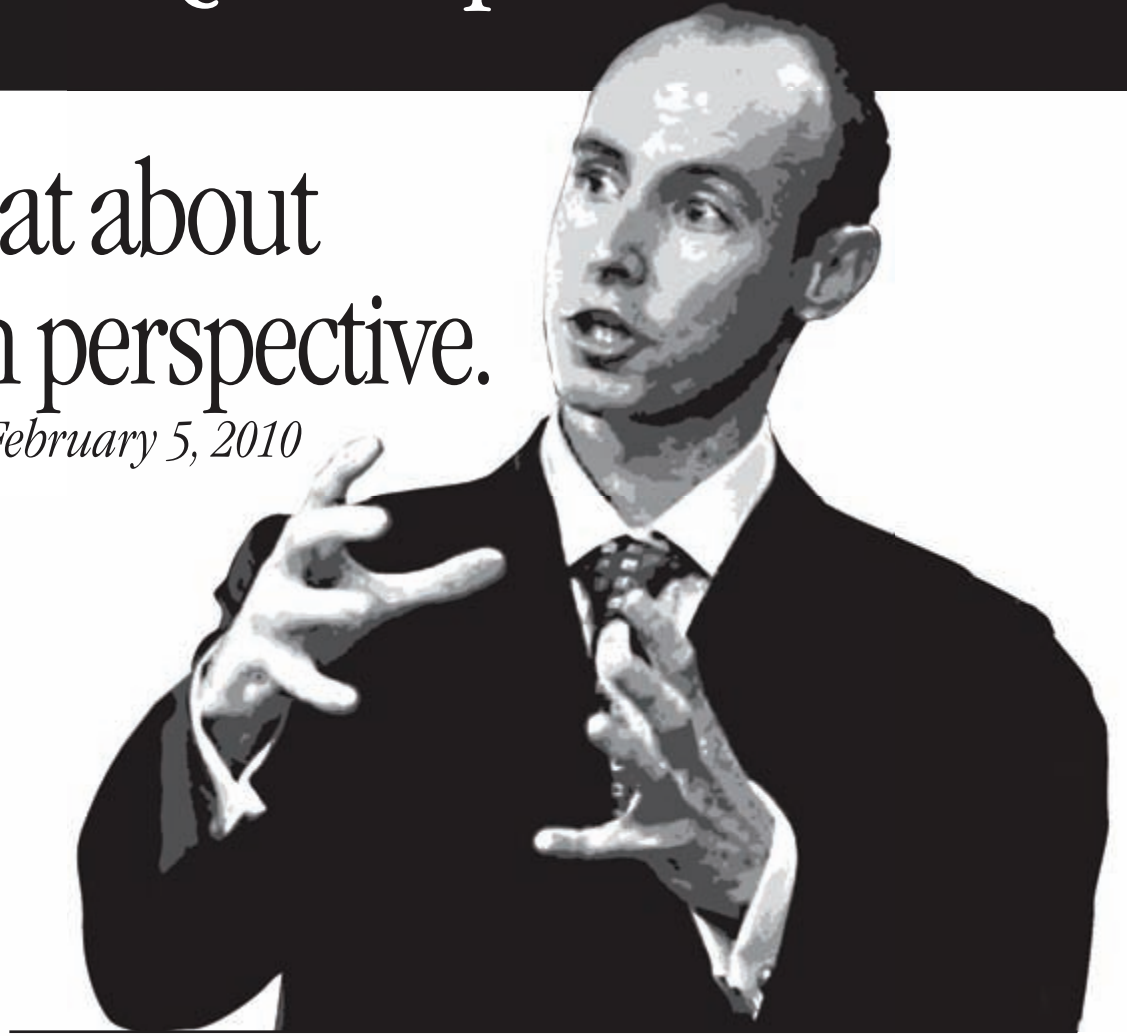
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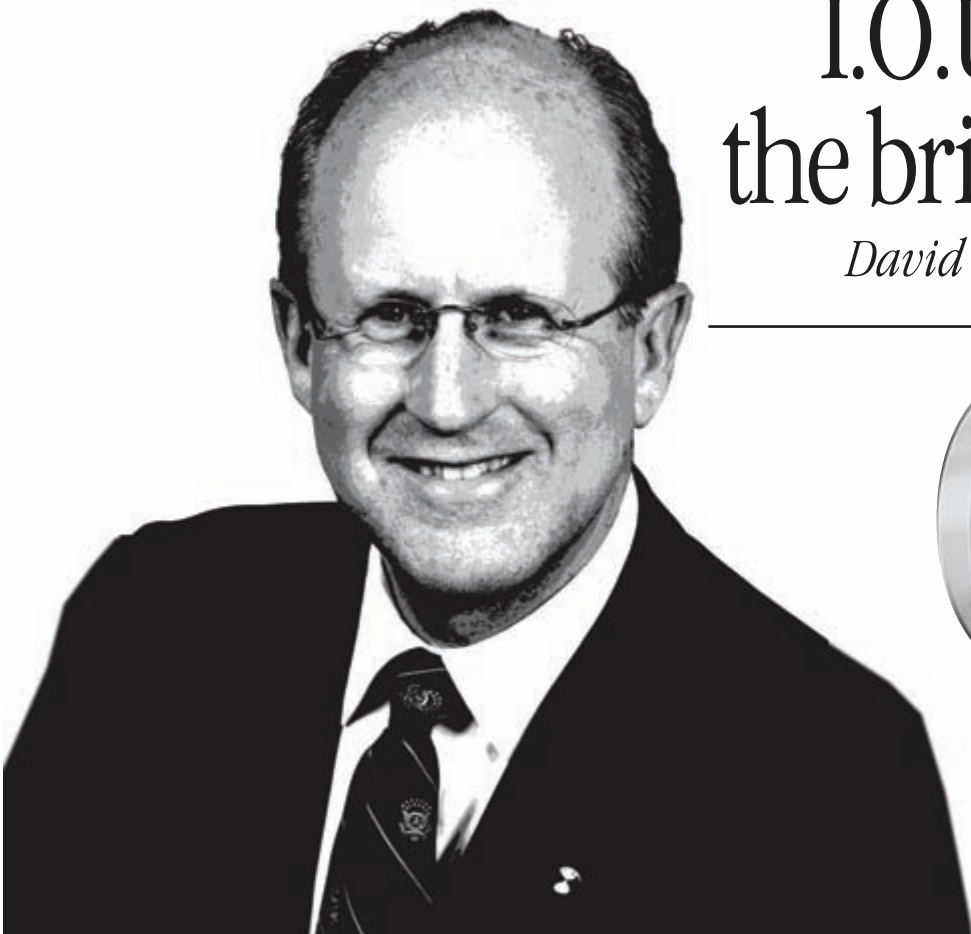
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the novels of Elizabeth Gaskell about everyday life in a small Cheshire market town.

► **MONDAY, JAN. 11, 9 P.M.**
American Masters - Sam Cooke: Crossing Over

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► **FRIDAY, JAN. 8, 8:30 P.M.**
Connect! Immokalee

The spotlight shines on grassroots efforts affecting a positive future, including a profile of Sister Kelleher, a nun who has devoted 30 years to helping undocumented immigrants transition into a safe and legal existence. Hosted by Jim McLaughlin.

► **SUNDAY, JAN. 10, 8 P.M.**
Nature - Hummingbirds: Magic in the Air

Hummingbirds represent one of nature's most interesting paradoxes: They are the tiniest of birds, yet they qualify as some of the toughest and most energetic creatures on the planet.

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► **TUESDAY, JAN. 12, 8 P.M.**
NOVA - Building Pharaoh's Ship



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► **WEDNESDAY, JAN. 13, 8 P.M.**
The Human Spark - So Human, So Chimp: Part 2

Host Alan Alda joins researchers studying simians — mainly chimpanzees, our closest living relatives — to discover what we share with them and what skills humans evolved since we went our separate ways. ■

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A photograph of the outdoor pool area at Harold's Place, featuring lounge chairs and palm trees.

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KOVEL

From page C24

Co., EP” surrounding an anchor within a shield.

A: Your tray is silver plate and was made by the Gorham Manufacturing Co. (GM Co.) of Providence, R.I. The “EP” mark indicates that the tray is electroplated. Gorham must have made it to order for a restaurant (Farmers Building Restaurant?). The anchor-in-shield mark was one of several that Gorham used on its silver-plated pieces. Gorham’s corporate name was Gorham Manufacturing Co. from 1865 to 1961, when it became Gorham Corp.

Q: My grandmother left me her trian-

gular fabric handkerchief holder. I know it predates the 1950s, but I don’t know by how much. It’s decorated in the corners and across the top with complex flower shapes made out of ribbon. Does that help you date it?

A: The flowers are “ribbonwork,” a women’s craft that was popular in the United States from about 1900 through the 1920s. That doesn’t mean some women weren’t doing it later. Ribbonwork also is called “ribbon craft” or “ribbonry.” It involves folding fabric ribbon into floral or other shapes and placing them on something else — a dress, coat, jacket, hat or even a handkerchief holder.

Q: I found an old political campaign button with the photos of two candidates identified as “McKinley” and “Clough.” I know Clough was the governor of Min-

nesota at the time McKinley first ran for president in 1896, but why is Clough on the button? Was he making a bid to be the vice-presidential nominee? The edge of the 7/8-inch button is marked “National Game and Novelty Co., St. Paul, Minn.” There are also two dates, 1894 and 1896. Any ideas about why this button was created and what it might be worth?

A: Political buttons that picture two candidates are called “jugates.” Your jugate is what collectors of political items call a “coattail” button — one that promotes a local candidate by linking him or her with a more famous national candidate. David Marston Clough (1846-1924) was running for re-election as governor of Minnesota in 1896, the same year William McKinley (1843-1901) was running for his first term as president. Coattail buttons are still common today. Your button sells

for \$15-\$20.

CURRENT PRICES

Current prices are recorded from antiques shows, flea markets, sales and auctions throughout the United States. Prices vary in different locations because of local economic conditions.

► Baseball pen and pencil set, miniature wooden bat shape, facsimile signature of Bill Dickey, Atlantic Oil Co. premium, 1930s, 6¼ inches, \$145.

► Toy copper airplane, windup, Marx, U.S.A., 18-inch wingspan, \$225.

► Hooked rug, fireplace scene, spinning wheel, rifle over mantel, black kettle, beige ground, black border, 1930, 38 inches by 56 inches, \$285.

► Effanbee Anne Shirley doll, sleep eyes, real eyelashes, human-hair wig, red-and-white check dress, brass barrette, marked, 1935, 22 inches, \$400. ■

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SAVE THE DATES

PACE pairs with California winery

PACE Center for Girls, Immokalee, is holding a wine tasting with Cinquain Cellars of California from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 28, at The Conservancy of Southwest Florida. In addition to learning about the California wines and pairing them with the right flavors, guests will be able to participate in a Chinese raffle for items including a private wine tasting for 20 at Total Wine.

Tickets are \$75 per person. For more information, call 377-9877 or e-mail collier@pacecenter.org.

Shore party anchors Avow regatta

Sailors and landlubbers alike are invited to the post-race party following the 2010 Avow Hospice Regatta. The fun begins at 5 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 30, at Pelican Isle Yacht Club and will include cocktails, dinner and dancing to The Manhattan Connection. Emcee and race chairman is Jerry Watkins.

In addition to prizes awarded by race class, one boat will earn the "Winds of Hospice" award for raising the most money for Avow.

Shore party tickets are \$100 per person. There's also special pricing for those who would like to book passage on a spectator boat to watch the races in the morning. Normally \$50, boat passage (which includes lunch) is just \$25 when purchased as a combo ticket with the shore party (\$125 total).

To purchase tickets, make a donation to Avow Hospice, or inquire about entering the races (entry deadline is 18:00 Friday, Jan. 29), call Bonnie Dinger at 649-3686. Information and race forms are also available at www.avowhospice.org.

Saddle up for the Cattle Baron's Ball

Break out your sexiest stilettos, tallest 10-gallon hat and best bandana for the American Cancer Society of Marco Island's annual Cattle Baron's Ball coming up Saturday, Jan. 30, the Marco Island Marriott Resort. Celebrity emcee will be Bill Wood of Fox4's "Morning



Blend." The Wild, Wild West evening begins with cocktails following by dinner, dancing to the sounds of Fakahatchee, a silent auction, gaming tables and pony races. Prizes will be awarded for best stilettos, hat and western outfit.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Bea Ferretti at 642-8800, ext. 112, on Monday, Wednesday or Friday or stop by the American Cancer Society office at 917 N. Collier Blvd. For the best seats, purchase tickets by Jan. 10.



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Chinese Auction with items such
as a private custom wine tasting
for up to 20 people!

**Call 239-377-9877
to purchase tickets
or e-mail collier@pacecenter.org**



SAVE THE DATES

The stars come out for Naples Players

Glamour. Sparkle. Culinary delights. And a splash of Broadway. Find it all at "A Starry, Starry Night," the annual gala to benefit The Naples Players on Saturday, Feb. 13, at The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort. After cocktails and dinner, The Naples Players will entertain with some of their biggest showstoppers. Saks Fifth Avenue will showcase fashions for the season, and a live auction will offer an array of items. One lucky guest will win a drawing for a five-carat diamond necklace.

For more information or to purchase tickets, call Patty Baker at 643-4824 or The Naples Players at 434-7340, ext. 10.

Fun Time Academy bound for Land of Oz

Fun Time Early Childhood Academy's third annual "play date fundraiser" will have the theme of "Follow the Yellow Brick Road." The evening of fine dining and fun will have a silent and limited live auction with Mayor Bill Barnett as auctioneer.

The adventure unfolds Thursday, Feb. 18, at the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club. Fifth Third Bank is the presenting sponsor; event co-chairs are Carol Munro and Kenneth Deedy.

Proceeds will help support the Fun Time academy mission to provide safe, affordable early childhood education and quality childcare for the children of low-income working families in the

community.

Tickets are \$250 per person. Patron tickets for \$350 include a private party the week before the main event. For more information, call 261-7411, 263-2673 or 262-4878.

Former NFL player will help mend hearts

Former NFL offensive guard Victor Rivas Rivers, spokesperson for the National Network to End Domestic Violence, will be the keynote speaker for the 10th annual Mending Broken Hearts with Hope luncheon to benefit The Shelter for Abused Women & Chil-



dren. The event, which typically draws a sellout crowd, is set for Friday, Feb. 26, at The Ritz-Carlton, Naples.

In his *New York Times* best-selling book, "A Private Family Matter," Mr. Rivers chronicles his journey from gang member to class president, including details of the child abuse and domestic violence he endured and witnessed as a child.

Tickets are \$300 per person. Sponsorship opportunities are available at several levels from \$1,000 to \$10,000. Call Mary Ann Green at 775-3862, ext. 211, or e-mail mgreen@naplesshelter.org.

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FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY

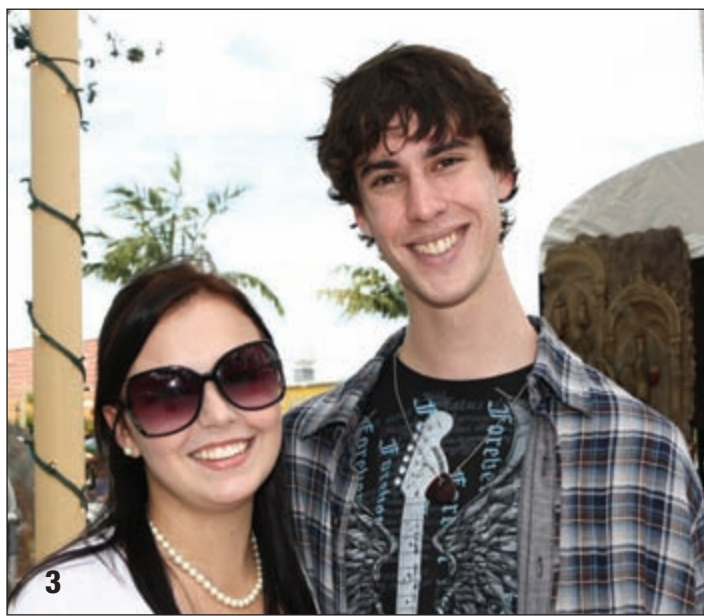
New Year's Art Festival on Fifth Avenue South



1. Sydney Thurwalker, Connie Cummins and Kayleigh Thurwalker
2. Maxine Bell and Bryan Klaver
3. Tess Rowan and Ian Diamond
4. Marte and Bill Seegmuller, Oliver the dog
5. Sam Condomina, Roy Isakson and Tilly, Dee Isakson and Violet, Martin McMahon and Pepe
6. Wilfrid Dantis

PEGGY FARREN / FLORIDA WEEKLY

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FOR UPCOMING PROMOTIONS & EVENTS

FLORIDA WEEKLY SOCIETY

The Italian American Society of SWF Holiday Ball
 Evening at the Country Club of Naples raises \$4,500 for Avow Hospice



New Year's Eve on Fifth Avenue South

1. Seated: Josette Russo and Melissa Chiappetta.
 Standing: Karen Stevenson, Robert Carsello,
 Richard Ballo, Karen Rollins, Dr. Paul Mitchell,
 Greg Russo and George Walters Jr.

COURTESY PHOTO

- 2. Manny and Barbara Silvia, Linda Novosel and Jim Bohn
- 3. Isabel and Zoe Houston, Marilyn Hall
- 4. Fionntan and Fionnuala Thinnes
- 5. Frank and Gina Colombo
- 6. Deborah Hann and Pam Flowers

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01/08: "The Suitors" at the Red Barn Theatre
01/08: The Southernmost AIDS/HIV Ride
01/09: Sculpture Key West 2010

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PAST REPASTS

Here are some capsule summaries of previously reviewed restaurants:

► **A Table Apart, 4295 Bonita Beach Road, Bonita Springs; 221-8540**

The décor's not fancy but it's warm and inviting with light jazz and soft lights creating an oasis that's well-suited to dining well. The menu showcases chef/owner Jeffrey Acol's imaginative style, which features surprising innovations, such as fried calamari coated with nam pla (fermented fish sauce) served with Thai dressing, and fries gussied up with herbs, Parmesan cheese and white truffle oil. The chilled summer soup tasted of the ripe oven-roasted tomatoes from which it was made, enhanced with a bit of wasabi and cucumber ribbons. Organic salmon prepared two ways — lightly blackened and topped with citrus salmon ceviche, and with a yuzu beurre blanc and blazing purple micro greens — was downright exciting. Mr. Acol lightens up a ribeye by adding a Mediterranean cucumber salad instead of potatoes. Both the elegant chocolate mousse and fresh brownie with ice cream were worth every calorie. Wine and beer served.

Food: ★★★★★½ Service: ★★★★★ Atmosphere: ★★★★★

► **Fuji Sushi Bar & Asian Bistro, 6355 Naples Blvd., Naples; 593-5550**

This relative newcomer manages to accomplish what many of the big boys don't: It delivers first-rate Asian fare with style and flair in an intimate, peaceful

setting. Owners John and On Augsondt-hung are from Thailand, but have a firm grasp on the intricacies of sushi, which Mr. Augsondt-hung expertly crafts while his wife handles the front of the house and an uncle whips up the Thai dishes in the kitchen. We loved the Fuji lobster roll, which melded tempura lobster, avocado, asparagus, scallions and masago. Another clever dish was tuna chips, which combined raw tuna, avocado, scallions and a spicy sauce with tortilla chips. Pad Thai devotees will swoon at Fuji's version. Other standouts include lettuce wraps, ninja shrimp, royal duck curry and fried bananas. Beer and wine served.

Food: ★★★★★½ Service: ★★★★★½ Atmosphere: ★★★★★½

► **Inca's Kitchen, 11985 Collier Blvd., Naples; 352-3200**

It's love at first bite at Inca's Kitchen, where the menu showcases the lively Peruvian culinary palette. Chef/owner Raphael Rottiers and partner Alfredo Ruiz make customers feel immediately welcome in this lovely, unpretentious Golden Gate establishment. Dinner starts with a bowl of roasted corn kernels and three flavorful (but not spicy hot) pepper sauces for dipping. The mixed ceviche was exceptionally good and the portion was large enough for two. Also good were the conchitas a la Parmesana (scallops on the half shell baked with Parmesan cheese). A delicious sashimi-like dish, dua tiradito, featured marinated fish served with pepper sauces. Inca's wari fish is seared on a

griddle, seasoned and baked to perfection then served with a mango salsa, corn and cilantro. Another standout was the lomo a la Huancaína, sliced beef tenderloin with red onions and creamy queso blanco. Not only is the food wonderful, the most expensive dish is \$17. Don't miss this one. Beer and wine served.

Food: ★★★★★½ Service: ★★★★★½ Atmosphere: ★★★★★

► **Mister Five, 1716 Airport Road South, Naples; 262-1555**

This tiny establishment packs a big diner punch with its down-home menu on which everything — yes, everything — is priced at \$5. It's as close to a Jersey diner as you'll find in these parts (with better prices) and is the brainchild of 20-something Anthony Chinaglia, whose family hails from the Garden State. Breakfast is served all day, including tuxedo pancake (with dark and white chocolate chips and chocolate sauce). We tried super crisp chicken wings with a just-right hot and sweet sauce; a Cape Cod salad, with lettuce, dried cranberries, apple slices, walnuts, tomato and onions; a creditable Philly cheesesteak; and a fried fish sandwich that was surprisingly good given that said fish was inexpensive basa. The accompanying fries were crisp and tasty, too. I can't think of a place other than fast-food joints where you get food for this price and none that equal its quality. Beer and wine served.

Food: ★★★★★ Service: ★★★★★ Atmosphere: ★★★★★

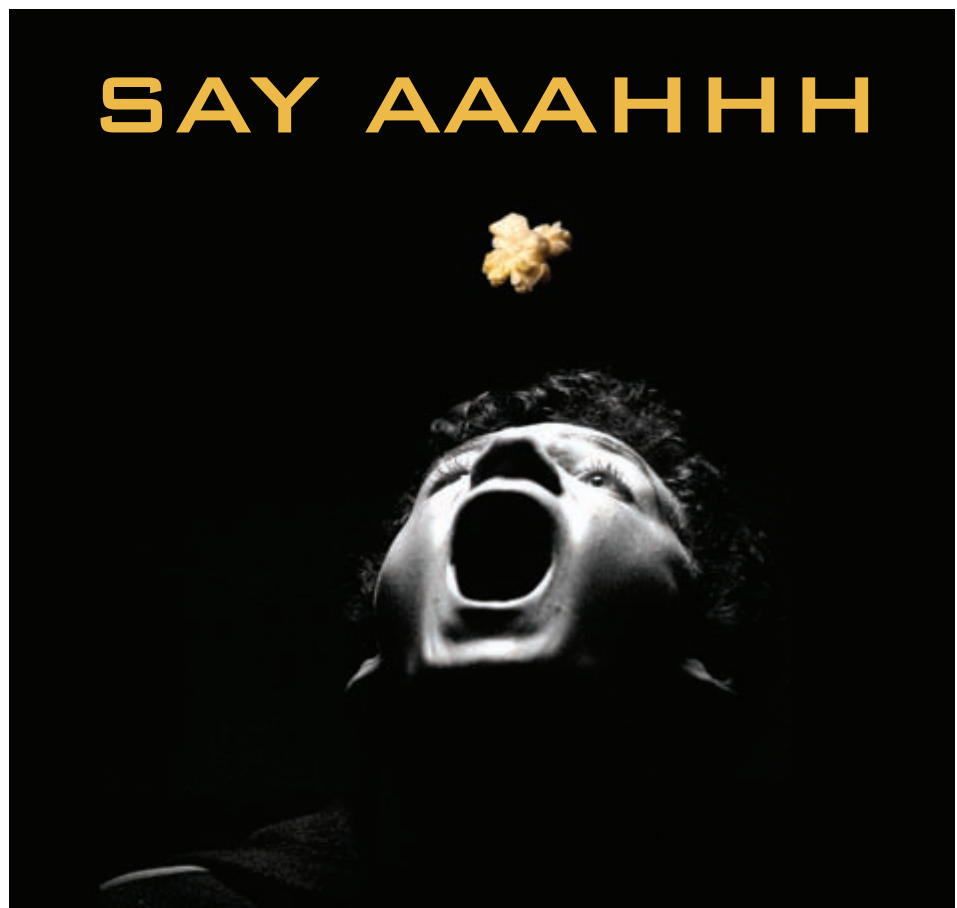
► **Sea Salt, 1186 Third St. South; 434-7258**

Chef Fabrizio Aielli was the darling of the Washington, D.C. political elite before he and his wife, Ingrid, decided to head south. And so was born Sea Salt. No expense has been spared in the chic, modern décor, the voluminous wine list or the painstakingly prepared food. The menu changes according to what's fresh and available. Curry coconut black mussels and a salad of red and gold beets with mache and pecan-crusted goat cheese were excellent starters, although those with a taste for carpaccio, raw oysters or meats and cheeses will find tempting options as well. Limoncello-marinated salmon with green lentil mustard sauce, as well as the wild halibut and veal osso buco ravioli were outstanding. Desserts include house-made gelato and a sushi-style menu of Norman Love chocolates. The pistachio gelato with tomato marmalade was rich and velvety, the tiny almond linzer torte three bites of bliss. Our pair of servers were true professionals, adding polish to an excellent meal. Full bar.

Food: ★★★★★ Service: ★★★★★½ Atmosphere: ★★★★★½

Key to ratings

★★★★★ Superb	★★ Fair
★★★★ Noteworthy	★ Poor
★★★ Good	



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FLORIDA WEEKLY CUISINE

Remy's brings Old World ambiance to bustling Naples neighborhood

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Whatever we were expecting when we pulled into a parking spot in the Target Plaza, Remy's Neighborhood Bistro wasn't it.

No matter how many lovely little restaurants I encounter in shopping centers, I continue to be surprised at what enterprising entrepreneurs can do with what could easily be generic, lackluster spaces.

Remy's is neither generic nor lackluster. It is, in fact, far more like the cozy European cafes in which I've whiled away an afternoon or evening after hours of arduous sightseeing. I'm fairly certain that some of the murals gracing the bistro's walls were scenes I'd glimpsed from the windows of those same cafes in places like Portofino, Naxos and Orvieto.

The room has a festive, relaxed feel to it. Substantial tables boast sturdy faux marble tops, banquettes line a half wall that divides the bar from the dining room, bottles of preserved vegetables form colorful displays along shelves, and a large bar — at which there wasn't a vacant seat — takes up an entire wall but for the wine rack on one side.

Above the windows that span two sides of the dining room are the aforementioned murals, each depicting a different Mediterranean scene. Even the

exposed ceiling gets gussied up with cloth panels adorned with painted plants hanging among the air-conditioning ducts.

A smiling host let us choose our table, and our server appeared and introduced herself moments after we sat down. The team effort makes a good first impression, signaling the staff's welcoming attitude.

Remy's has a full bar complete with a menu listing specialty martinis and other drinks. The wine list offers respectable variety. We ordered glasses of Penfolds shiraz and Banfi chianti, which tasted fresh but were served at a too-warm Florida room temperature rather than that of a slightly chilled wine cellar.

The menu has a Mediterranean flavor, with French and Italian dishes predominating — classic onion soup, nut-crusted Brie, caprese, frutti di mare and osso buco among them. Little surprises crop up here and there, such as duck spring rolls, blackened scallops and a seafood tower, for example.

Duck spring rolls (\$8.95) and shrimp and lobster bisque, the soup du jour (\$5.50), began our meal.

The bisque had the classic creamy consistency with some lobster flavor and what tasted like clam, which may have come from the stock. The spring rolls were attractively cut into easy-to-eat segments and set upright on the plate, then topped with crisp noodles. The rolls were crunchy and the duck stuffing chewy with delicate seasoning. The only flaw: They were just barely warm.

Next came entrees of osso buco (\$22.95) and seafood Provencal (\$19.25), both of which looked lovely. The Provencal consisted of a montage of good-looking seafood — scallops, salmon, shrimp and mussels swimming about in a pesto cream sauce over capellini. We'd both have opted for a more assertive pesto — more basil and garlic, please — but the mild sauce allowed the flavor of the seafood to emerge in a way it wouldn't have with a bolder sauce. (Remy's also offers seafood prepared fra diavolo or blackened, either of which no doubt would have had more lively sauces.)

The osso buco contained lamb rather than the more traditional veal, but it was



KAREN FELDMAN / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Seafood Provencal comes loaded with scallops, shrimp, salmon and mussels in a pesto cream sauce.

fork tender from long braising, and the mellow tomato-based sauce swathing it was delicious. Roasted red skin potatoes and medley of fresh veggies finished the plate.

After clearing away the entrée dishes, our server brought over a small but well filled dessert tray bearing a couple of rich chocolate items, an equally rich looking pecan pie and a lovely parfait glass layered with chocolate and caramel mousse (\$6.50). It looked like an ice cream sundae, but one spoonful made it clear that it was creamy mousse. Topped with a generous helping of whipped cream and a drizzle of raspberry sauce, it satisfied without being so rich and sweet as to make us regret eating it after a large meal.

That Remy's can deliver such a wide-ranging and accomplished dinner menu would be admirable enough, but the place also serves breakfast and lunch every day except Sunday. Omelets, fritata, French toast, pancakes, waffles and pastry nests are the stars in the morning, segueing into lunch with soups, salads, sandwiches, wraps and hot entrees.

All of which brings me back to those European cafes that seem to be perpetually open and ready whenever a weary traveler needs sustenance and hospitality. Remy's is such a place, and one to which I'll turn again when in search of good food and comfort. ■



KAREN FELDMAN / FLORIDA WEEKLY

Duck spring rolls topped with crisp noodles lend an Asian touch to the mainly Mediterranean menu at Remy's.

If you go

Remy's Neighborhood Bistro
Target Plaza, 2300 Pine Ridge Road;
403-9922

Ratings:
Food: ★★½
Service: ★★★★★
Atmosphere: ★★★★★

>> **Hours:** Breakfast served 7-11 a.m. Monday through Saturday; lunch served 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Saturday; dinner served 5-10 p.m. daily.

>> **Reservations:** Accepted

>> **Credit cards:** Major cards accepted.

>> **Price range:** Appetizers, \$5.50-\$10.25; entrees, \$14.95-\$23.50

>> **Beverages:** Full bar

>> **Seating:** Banquettes, conventional tables and chairs indoors or on the waterfront patio, high tops in the bar or at the bar itself

>> **Specialties of the house:** Remy's blackened sea scallops, duck spring rolls, Bistro famous French onion soup, Mediterranean caprese, frutti di mare, grouper Rockefeller, tuna piccata, seafood fra diavolo, osso buco

>> **Volume:** Moderate

>> **Parking:** Free lot

>> **Website:** www.remybistro.com

★★★★★ **Superb**
★★★★ **Noteworthy**
★★★ **Good**
★★ **Fair**
★ **Poor**

diningCALENDAR

> **Friday, Jan. 8,** 6:30-9:30 p.m., Decanted: "Bottle Shock" is the feature for movie night. The film chronicles the early days of California wine making and the 1976 Paris wine tasting in which a California wine won top honors; 1410 Pine Ridge Road; 434-1814.

> **Friday, Jan. 8,** 7 p.m., Robb & Stucky Culinary Center: It's date night, a great time to gather a group of friends or that special someone for a three-course dinner and wines to match; \$90 per couple; 26501 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs; (866) 206-3840. Reservations required.

> **Saturday, Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30,** 10

a.m.-2 p.m., Coconut Point mall: The Coconut Farmers Market takes places weekly through April, featuring produce and other goods; U.S. 41 adjacent to Panera Bread at the mall, Estero; 249-9480.

> **Saturday, Jan. 9, 16, 23, 30,** 7:30-11:30 a.m., Third Street South: The weekly farmers market features fresh produce, baked goods, hand-crafted items and more; behind Tommy Bahamas; 434-6533.

> **Saturday, Jan. 9,** 11 a.m., Whole Foods Market: Youngsters ages 5-15 who attend this session of Kids Club will learn how to roll their own sushi with fun

and tasty ingredients; free, Mercato, 9101 Strada Place; 552-5100.

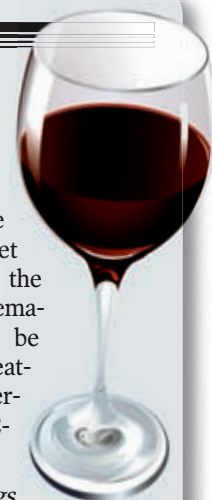
> **Saturday, Jan. 9,** 7 p.m., Robb & Stucky Culinary Center: Savor a multi-course dinner paired with just the right wines; \$75; 26501 S. Tamiami Trail, Bonita Springs; (866) 206-3840. Reservations required.

> **Monday, Jan. 11,** 6 p.m., Whole Foods Market: Real Seafood Co. Chef Brent Courson demonstrates five fast, simple, healthy and interesting seafood dishes that are easy to make at home; \$15, Mercato, 9101 Strada Place; 552-5100. Advance registration required. Go to

www.acteva.com/go/Life-styleCenter.

> **Tuesday, Jan. 12,** all day, Whole Foods Market: The market will donate 5 percent of the day's net sales to Barbara's Friends, the region's only outpatient hematology/oncology clinic, to be used for medical care, treatment and equipment; Mercato, 9101 Strada Place; 552-5100. ■

— Submit event listings to Cuisine@floridaweekly.com.





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Another Big Gain in Existing-Home Sales

Existing-home sales rose again in November as first-time buyers rushed to close sales before the original Nov. 30 deadline for the recently extended and expanded tax credit, according to the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®.

Existing-home sales <<http://www.realtor.org/research/research/ehsdata>> – including single-family, townhomes, condominiums and co-ops – rose 7.4 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.54 million units in November from 6.09 million in October, and are 44.1 percent higher than the 4.54 million-unit pace in November 2008. Current sales remain at the highest level since February 2007 when they hit 6.55 million.

Lawrence Yun, NAR chief economist, said the rise was expected. “This clearly is a rush of first-time buyers not wanting to miss out on the tax credit, but there are many more potential buyers who can enter the market in the months ahead,” he said. “We expect a temporary sales drop while buying activity ramps up for another surge in the spring when buyers take advantage of the expanded tax credit, which hopefully will take us into a self-sustaining market in the second half of 2010.

In all, 4.4 million households are expected to claim the tax credit before it expires and balance should be restored to the housing sector with inventories continuing to decline.”

CONDITIONS OPTIMAL FOR BUYERS

An NAR practitioner survey shows first-time buyers purchased 51 percent of homes in November, compared with an upwardly revised 50 percent of transactions in October. According to Freddie Mac, the national average commitment <<http://www.freddiemac.com/pmms/pmms30.htm>> rate for a 30-year, conventional, fixed-rate mortgage fell to 4.88 percent in November from 4.95 percent in October; the rate was 6.09 percent in November 2008. Last month's mortgage interest rate was the second lowest on record after bottoming at 4.81 percent in April 2009.

NAR President Vicki Cox Golder said conditions are optimal for buyers in the current market. “Inventories have steadily declined and are

closer to balanced levels, which indicate home prices in many areas are either stabilizing or could soon stabilize and return to normal appreciation patterns,” she said. “This means buyers still have good choices but are purchasing near the bottom of the price cycle with historically low mortgage interest rates. Throw a tax credit on top and it really doesn't get any better for buyers with secure jobs and long-term ownership plans.”



\$172,600 in November, which is 4.3 percent below November 2008. Distressed properties, which accounted for 33 percent of sales in November, continue to downwardly distort the median price because they generally sell at a discount relative to traditional homes in the same area.

SINGLE-FAMILY HOMES

Single-family home sales jumped 8.5 percent to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 5.77 million in November from a level of 5.32 million in October, and are 42.1 percent above the pace of 4.06 million in November 2008. The median existing single-family home price was \$171,900 in November, down 4.4 percent from a year ago.

CONDOS

Existing condominium and co-op sales in November were unchanged from a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 770,000 in October, but are 60.1 percent above the 481,000-unit pace a year ago. The median existing condo price was \$178,000 in November, which is 3.1 percent below November 2008.

BY REGION

Sales in the Northeast rose 6.6 percent to an annual level of 1.13 million in November, and are 52.7 percent higher than November 2008. The median price in the Northeast was \$223,400, down 13.1 percent from a year ago.

Existing-home sales in the Midwest increased 8.4 percent in November to a pace of 1.55 million and are 53.5 percent above a year ago. The median price in the Midwest was \$140,800, a decline of 0.4 percent from November 2008.

In the South, existing-home sales rose 4.8 percent to an annual level of 2.39 million in November and are 44.8 percent higher than a year ago. The median price in the South was \$151,400, down 1.4 percent from November 2008.

Existing-home sales in the West increased 10.6 percent to an annual rate of 1.46 million in November and are 28.1 percent above November 2008. The median price in the West was \$231,100, which is 4.1 percent below a year ago.

Source: NAR

INVENTORIES FALL

Total housing inventory at the end of November declined 1.3 percent to 3.52 million existing homes available for sale, which represents a 6.5-month supply at the current sales pace, down from an 7.0-month supply in October. Raw unsold inventory figures are 15.5 percent below a year ago. The last time there was a lower supply of homes on the market was April 2006, when it was at a 6.1-month supply.

“Nearly all markets experienced a solid sales gain from one year ago,” Yun said. “The only markets with measurably lower sales were in San Diego, Riverside, and Sacramento (Calif.), where inventory shortages for lower-priced homes are limiting sales.”

SALES RISE ACROSS THE BOARD

For the second month in a row, sales have risen in all price classes from a year earlier. Prior to October, the only consistent gains were in the lower price ranges. The national median existing-home price for all housing types was



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HOT HOMES



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\$2,495,000
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4484 BRYNWOOD DRIVE
\$2,395,000
4BR+DEN • 6,213 A/C SQ. FT.



4484 WAYSIDE DRIVE
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4BR+DEN • 4,730 A/C SQ. FT.



28901 CAVELL TERRACE
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4BR+DEN • 4,904 A/C SQ. FT.



13770 PONDVIEW CIRCLE
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5BR+DEN • 4,250 A/C SQ. FT.



6265 HIGHCROFT DRIVE
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4BR+DEN • 4,850 A/C SQ. FT.



4172 BRYNWOOD DRIVE
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