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WEEK OF MARCH 28-APRIL 3, 2019

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POD PEOPLE

Across South Florida, professionals and amateurs alike are opening up new windows in the worlds of travel, news, music, crime, childhood, and more with their podcasts



INSIDE: What business podcasts are popular in South Florida? **A13**

BY EVAN WILLIAMS

ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

PODCASTS — THEY'RE EVERYWHERE. A 10-year-old North Port resident, Izzy Jerome, debuted her new "Reporting Live Podcast" this week.

On Fort Myers Beach at Pete's Time Out each Saturday morning, Kim Ryan and Ed Ryan stir the pot with their "Beach Talk Radio" podcast.

West Palm Beach-based podcaster Jaime ("Jemmy") Legagneur and co-host Glenn the Geek travel the

SEE POD, A8 ▶



Arts & Entertainment

Venice artist creates animal portraits from clients' photos. **A16** ▶



Society

Mote Marine's annual Party at the Pass. **A23** ▶



Donna the Buffalo

Group joins headliner JJ Grey & Mofro at Peace River Revival. **A29** ▶



Real Estate

Gran Paradiso home boasts private bass-stocked pond. **A31** ▶

Survey ranks healthiest counties in Florida; Sarasota is No. 6

BY ROBBIE SPENCER

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South Florida appears to mostly have its head on straight when it comes to living healthy lives, according to new data released by the state.

The University of Wisconsin and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, one of America's largest philanthropic organizations dedicated exclusively to health, released a wealth of data regarding the state of Florida's health and wellness, with Collier County listed as

the second healthiest county in the state with regard to health outcomes. Miami-Dade (No. 5), Sarasota (No. 6), Monroe (No. 8), Lee (No. 11), Palm Beach (No. 12) and Broward (No. 14) all were among the top 15 of 67 Florida counties in health outcomes. Charlotte County checked in at 28th.

The report defined outcomes utilizing two key criteria: how long people live and how healthy people feel while alive.

Collier ranked first overall regarding how long people live in the state of Florida and ranked second in quality of life. St. Johns

County ranked first overall in health outcomes and first in quality of life.

The news is not necessarily new for Southwest Florida — the city of Naples has consistently ranked among the healthiest or happiest cities in the U.S. of late in Gallup polls and other metrics.

"It is no surprise that Collier remains one of the healthiest counties in Florida. Our rankings are a result of the community making healthy changes in their lives,"

SEE HEALTH, A7 ▶

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OPINION	A4	ARTS	A16	PUZZLES	A25
HEALTHY LIVING	A6	CALENDAR	A20-22	COLLECTING	A26
BUSINESS	A13	SOCIETY	A23	CUISINE	A27
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COMMENTARY

Florida man shoots self in genitals



roger WILLIAMS
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they're 21 or older. And two, they'd have to buy an AR-15 military-style assault rifle if they're between 18 and 35 years of age and meet the legal qualifications.

Meeting the legal qualifications in the Show-Me State isn't that difficult, I figure. It probably requires residents only to show they weren't classified as Cro-Magnon Man, at least on their birth certificates. If they're classified as a Cro-Magnon man, that's different.

And they probably have to show they never lived in Florida or drank the water here. That's how we got Florida Man, obviously — something weird in the water.

"No sir, you can't have an AR-15. Our records show you lived in Florida and drank the water for three months, in the summer of 1996."

Missourians drink some strange water, too, that's for sure. Republican Andrew McDaniel had his reasons for proposing this legislation, apparently, and The Washington Post attempted to learn them. He explained he was just trying to get a new tax credit established for anybody who bought weapons in Missouri by calling attention to the problem of gun control by the nation's "leftists."

That must make the nation's premier gun lobbyists, members of the National Rifle Association, shiver in pleasure. A tax credit for a gun buy would mean all Missouri taxpayers get to help pay for that gun, not just the Missouri Man who buys it.

Here's how. Missourians pay taxes

into a big pool. Along comes a Missouri Man. He buys an AR-15 for \$800. Legislators then extract \$100 from the tax pool originally meant for schools and libraries or roads and bridges, and they give it to the gun buyer. Result: the gunmaker gets paid more, the gun seller gets paid more, the gun buyer gets to pay less, and gun-loving taxpayers — along with taxpayers who don't love guns — get to pay for everybody else's good deal.

I happen to love guns, myself. I have several. But if some politician proposes I get a tax credit for buying more guns I've been ordered to buy, good luck. That's socialism, by god, and they can pry my cold dead tax credits off my guns before I let the government turn me into a GD socialist.

But all that's unlikely.

Here in the cradle of Florida Man we're not as comfortable with this kind of thing as they seem to be in Missouri — not after these schools and night-clubs got shot up and all these lefty whiners started complaining about a little collateral damage.

Now we're ambivalent. In the current legislative session 29 bills that would require either more or less gun control have been proposed in the Senate and 23 have been proposed in the House, by my count. Most of them have companion bills in the other chamber, which means they have a better chance of getting heard and voted on before Friday, May 3, the last day of the session.

Some would limit gun-buying oppor-

tunities. But others not only aim to make military-style weapons easier to get, they would also allow guns to be carried in schools and other public places.

In Alaska, Idaho, Arizona and a few other states, people don't need permits to carry weapons. And they can carry them wherever they want. Why not here? It would be good for the genital-transplant industry, after all, especially in a state occupied by Florida Man.

There is at least one nationwide gun prohibition on law-abiding citizens: People recognized as mentally ill can't own or carry a gun. But that's extremely problematic. Right off the bat it disqualifies about 38 percent of the American people. That's right, 38 percent.

Here in Florida, too, a lot of people, including gun owners like me, are dismayed some 17-year-old Florida Man could easily get an AR-15 and murder 17 people at a Parkland high school. And 13 months later, a survivor of that massacre whose best friend was shot to death would take her own life. At 19, on St. Patrick's Day. Her name was Sydney Aiello.

Sydney was unable to survive her PTSD, people who knew and loved her said. Apparently, neither was a young man from the same high school, a sophomore. He killed himself Saturday, six days after Sydney.

All of that could long since have been prevented by the Florida legislature, of course — but they're chock-a-block with Florida Man.

What will those legislators do now, sit on their gun-control legislation? ■

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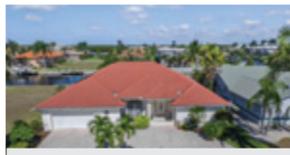
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OPINION

The final four



The Democrats could use some sex education. Right now, their candidates are multiplying like crazy, all clamoring for that top berth on the party's presidential ticket. They're clearly in need of some berth control.

Absent any family planning, however, they'll keep sprouting — young sprouts and old ones, black and white, male, female and alternative. There's even an avatar named Beto. Beto O'Rourke is an empty baseball-cap-wearing concoction of millennial clichés, sharing every facet of his existence on social media.

Thus far, Beto is coming across as being as authentic as a college admission application. Speaking of college (get ready for a totally clever segue), the Democrats should steal from college basketball to handle the logistics of their logjam of candidates, in arranging the debates for instance.

What better way to bring order to their party's madness than March Mad-

ness? The selection committee can choose up to 68 candidates to appear in the debates. (They're not there yet, but who knows?) They could be spread out over the country for their big dances. The Eastern regional would be held in New Hampshire. The state must have a big-enough arena somewhere. The Midwest obviously should be in Des Moines, even though the election game is played by completely weird caucus rules in Iowa. California, probably Los Angeles, would be the site of the Western region tourney, and South Carolina would host the Southern one. We'd do away with seeds. For those people too sane to get caught up in college hoops, a "seed" is kinda like a rating system, from the "top seed" on down. It's somewhat arbitrary. Besides, what politician would want to be chosen as the most seedy?

It would be an elimination, the winners determined by polls to choose the most scathing sound bite.

The losers would drop out of the brackets. (Yes, there would be brackets — how else would everyone gamble?) That would leave the "sweet sixteen" candidates. They'd play off in the Super Tuesday tournaments.

Ultimately, they'll end up in Mil-

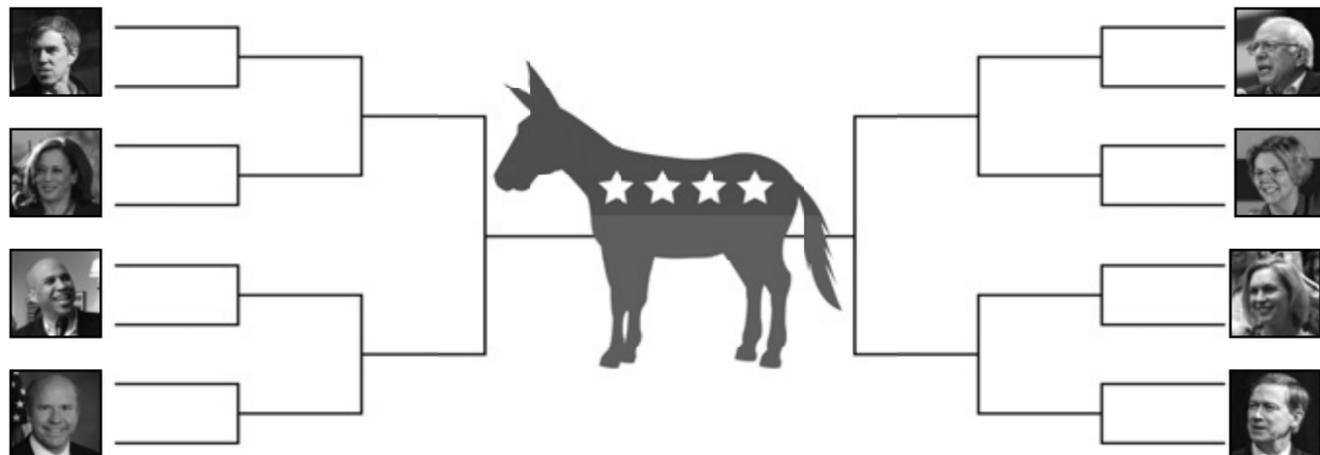
waukee, with the champions standing for president and vice president. That will probably be somebody and Beto O'Rourke, the grown-up and the empty slate. Much like George H.W. Bush and Dan Quayle. Or like Dick Cheney and George W. Bush.

But wait, we are just beginning. After all that, it's on to the REALLY big dance, the Final Four battle with the incumbent, Donald Trump, and his lackey, Mike Pence. Has anyone noticed, perchance, that Pence came from Indiana, just like Quayle? Not everybody in Indiana is thrilled about that.

But back to the election madness. When it comes to a competition with Trump, there are no fouls; in fact, there are no rules whatsoever. Therefore Democrats, whoever they are, would do well not to get too smug about their superior qualifications.

One would think that given Trump's unpopularity, it would be easy to wipe the floor with him. But that is anything but a slam dunk. ■

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



The SPLC designates itself



The Southern Poverty Law Center has designated itself an organization hostile to women and people of color.

It fired its co-founder Morris Dees for unexplained reasons and removed his bio from its website at the same time it pledged to train its management in "racial equity, inclusion and results."

Simultaneous with the cashing of Dees after nearly 50 years at the SPLC, roughly two dozen employees wrote a letter warning "allegations of mistreatment, sexual harassment, gender discrimination, and racism threaten the moral authority of this organization and our integrity along with it."

The missive is touching in its assumption that the SPLC still has moral authority or integrity. The scandal is, nonetheless, a remarkable comeuppance for an organization that has weaponized political correctness for its own money-grubbing.

Over the decades, the SPLC basically made the philosopher Eric Hoffer's famous line about organizational degeneracy its strategic plan: "Every great cause begins as a movement, becomes a business, and eventually degenerates into a racket."



SUSAN MONTGOMERY / SHUTTERSTOCK
Morris Dees, co-founder of the Southern Poverty Law Center.

Originally founded as a civil-rights group in 1971 and gaining fame for its campaign to bankrupt the Ku Klux Klan, the SPLC shifted to a catchall "anti-hate" group that widened its definition of hate to encompass more and more people as the Klan faded as a threat.

It used the complicity or credulosity of the media in repeating its designations to punish its ideological enemies and engage in prodigious fundraising. It raised \$50 million a year and built an endowment of more than \$300 million.

Imagine a left-wing outfit with the same shoddy standards as Joe McCarthy, but with a better business sense.

Usually, being named by the SPLC means having the designation routinely noted by the press whatever its merits, but occasionally there's recourse.

True to form, the SPLC somehow deemed Maajid Nawaz and his Quilliam

Foundation — devoted to pushing back against radical Islam — anti-Muslim even though Nawaz is himself a Muslim. He sued for defamation.

The SPLC steadily climbed down. First, it withdrew the "Field Guide to Anti-Muslim Extremists" that included him, then settled for \$3.375 million. "We would like," the SPLC said, "to extend our sincerest apologies to Mr. Nawaz, Quilliam, and our readers for the error."

The error? This makes it sound like the SPLC misspelled his name rather than going out of its way to include him in a research report meant to put a blot on his reputation forevermore.

There's a lot of talk of the need for more civility in our public life. Any journalist who believes this should shun the SPLC. Its business model is based on an elaborate form of name-calling. It lumps together people who have legitimate, good-faith opinions the SPLC finds uncongenial with hideous racists, using revulsion with the latter to discredit the former.

This is a poisonous form of public argument. Not to mention that many of the groups the SPLC smears have never had its employees complain about its hostile workplace culture. If the SPLC is going to engage in a period of self-reflection, it should think about what it's become — and recoil in shame. ■

— Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

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HEALTHY LIVING

Time eats sorrow after sudden loss

BY DEENA BAXTER

My friend calls with the news: Her nephew died by suicide after struggling with addiction. My heart aches. Losing a child strikes the family tree like a bolt of lightning. When it's a loss by suicide, accompanied by mental and behavioral health challenges, stigma and guilt amplify the pain.



BAXTER

For too long, society has viewed mental illness as a character defect, addiction as a moral failing.

I speak from experience. This happened to our family when we lost Kevin, our youngest adult son, to suicide, death by bipolar mental illness and substance abuse.

Life is a continuum involving each family member, both individually and collectively. When Kevin died, I felt like a foreigner in my own life, the "other" in the room. Six-plus years later, I'm still waiting for the deus ex machina to appear; the angel descending on a wire, stage right, who rescues the characters and makes everything all right. Life's not that simple.

There is no single "right path" through suicide loss. The journey is different for each person, but it helps to know there are others walking a similar path. That knowledge can help us stay grounded on our grief journey.

To fill the void left by sudden loss, many of us are driven to act, working overtime to honor the one who died. It's a way of coping. We don't realize or appreciate that it requires a great deal of resilience, courage and strength, often propelled by love and anger. It can be exhausting, both physically and emotionally. It's OK to be angry but learning to constructively channel that anger is critically important.

If that's you, consider taking a time out to chill, reflect and make friends with your grief and your guilt. They want to be set free, but they are still keeping us safe in their own way. They will come and go over time. Their visits will be less frequent and less demanding over time. The goal is healthy co-existence, not extinction. Be comfortable and patient with the ambiguity. That can be a challenge for those who are "doers."

On the other end of the spectrum, some members of my family pulled



inward, becoming bystanders rather than participants in life. They kept both feet planted in the past, when Kevin was alive.

We can help those who are stuck in their grief by letting them know they aren't alone. We can listen and invite them out for coffee or a meal. We can encourage them to pick up one foot and plant it in the present, and then the other one, a step at a time. Even if it's just a baby step, the toes can be pointing forward.

It's a sign of self-care to reach out for help if we're stuck. Seek a therapist, a bereavement or survivors-of-suicide loss support group, a pastoral care faith

leader. Rates of suicide have increased, as well as awareness of the impact and prevalence of mental illness and addiction in our community. Thankfully, there's a growing list of support services, including grief support.

The National Alliance on Mental Illness of Collier County is a good place to start. NAMI-Collier offers an array of helpful programs and services for individuals with serious mental and behavioral health challenges as well as for their families, friends and the community at large. In 2018, NAMI-Collier provided innovative education, support and advocacy services at no cost to more than 20,000 individuals.

Many things in life have a compounding effect. Some are joyful, some are sad. The Ojibwe Native Americans say it beautifully: "Sorrow eats time. Be patient. Time eats sorrow." ■

— Deena Baxter launched *The Surviving Suicide and Sudden Loss Project* in partnership with the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Collier County in 2014. The project's mission is to promote life-affirming mental wellness. It includes a creative arts website, www.writeonmy-mind.com, and a book titled "Surviving Suicide - Searching for 'Normal' with Heartache and Humor." All profit flows to NAMI-Collier.

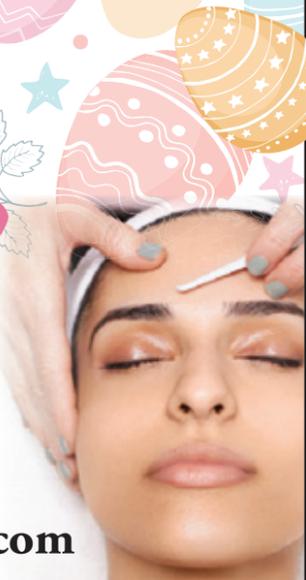


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HEALTH

From page 1

said Stephanie Vick, administrator for the Collier Department of Health. “The decisions our residents make, along with the dedicated work of a variety of stakeholders, impacts the health of our entire community. We will continue to work collaboratively throughout our community to assure that Collier County is the healthiest place to live, work and play.”

A wide range of data was used to come up with these rankings, mostly from 2015 through 2017. The data points are broken down very specific in some areas that reveal some underlying issues in Southwest Florida counties. For example, Collier ranks among the worst in the state with an uninsured rate of 22 percent. Palm Beach’s uninsured rate is 16 percent, closer to the state county average. Lee and Charlotte are at 17 and 16 percent, respectively.

“We have many reasons to celebrate, but the rankings also help us identify where we need to improve,” said Deb Logan, executive director of Blue Zones Project-SWFL. “With continued county-wide collaboration, we can do better.”

The reported rankings act as a snapshot of the health of counties across the state and emphasize that health is not a singular effort, but a combined work in progress with many community partners. The Blue Zones Project is one of those community partners.

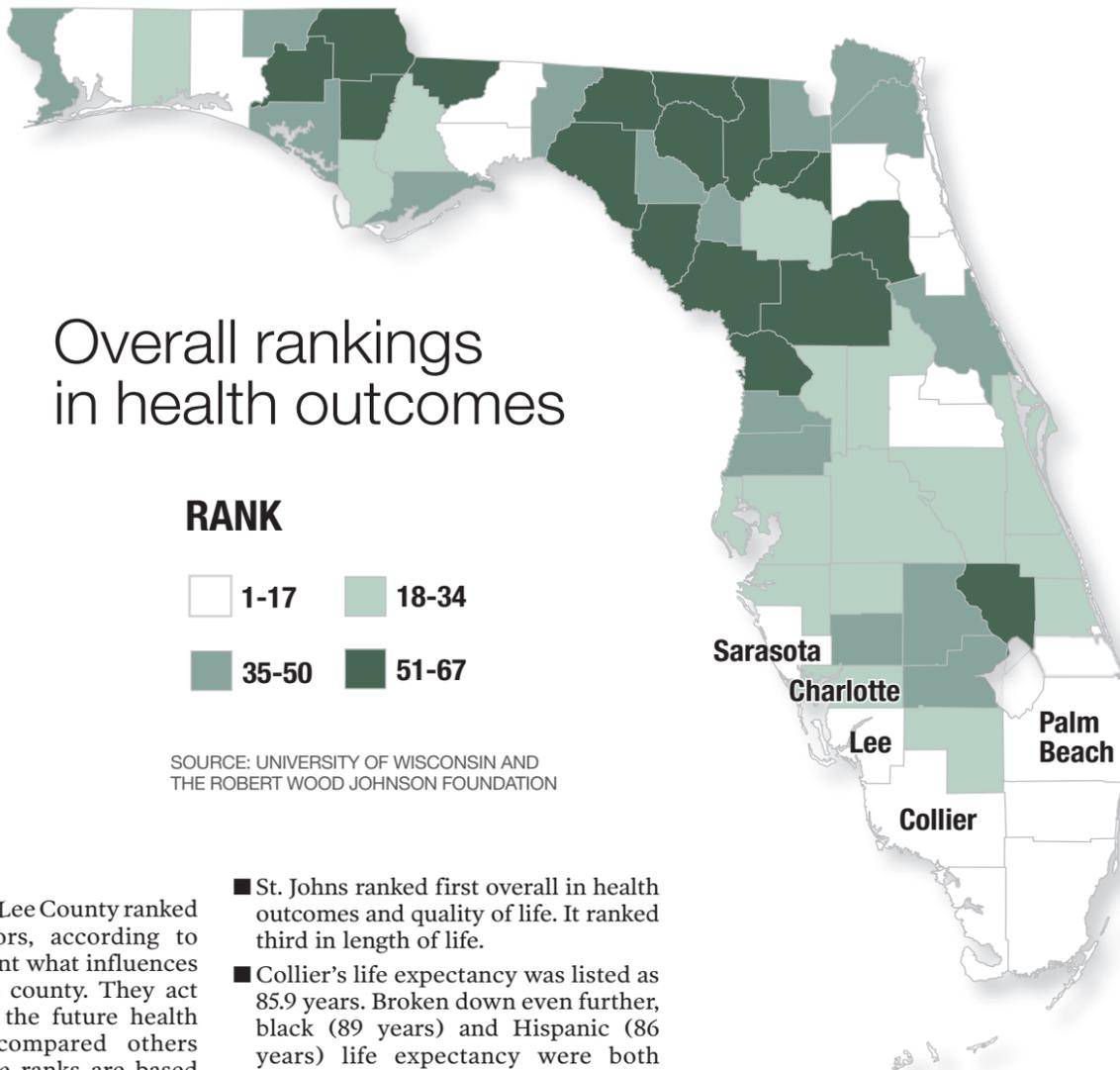
Started by National Geographic Society Fellow Dan Buettner and his New York Times best-seller, the global move-

ment is a community-wide well-being improvement initiative to make healthy choices easier for everyone in Southwest Florida, from healthy work spaces to having healthy options prominent on restaurant menus.

“(We) value these reports as they help guide our work,” Ms. Logan said.

Some other notable findings from the University of Wisconsin and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation’s 2019 County Health Rankings & Roadmaps report:

■ Collier, Palm Beach and Charlotte Counties ranked third, fifth and tenth, respectively, in overall health factors in the state. Lee County ranked 18th. Health factors, according to the report, represent what influences the health of each county. They act as an estimate of the future health of counties as compared others within a state. The ranks are based on health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic, and physical environmental factors.



Overall rankings in health outcomes

RANK

- 1-17
- 18-34
- 35-50
- 51-67

SOURCE: UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN AND THE ROBERT WOOD JOHNSON FOUNDATION

- St. Johns ranked first overall in health outcomes and quality of life. It ranked third in length of life.
- Collier’s life expectancy was listed as 85.9 years. Broken down even further, black (89 years) and Hispanic (86 years) life expectancy were both higher than whites (85 years). Life expectancy in Lee County was listed at 82.1 years, Charlotte 80.5 years and Palm Beach at 82.1 years. ■

Don Gasgarth’s Charlotte County Ford

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POD

From page 1

state as hosts of the podcast “Finding Florida.”

The Collier County Sheriff’s Office last month debuted the podcast, “Sworn Statement,” with the hopes of identifying a hiker found dead in the Big Cypress Preserve.

In Naples, Blake Harrison and Casey Lee host a podcast called “Cabbage Palm Radio,” an insider’s trip into the real Florida filled with their personal stories and those of their guests.

If you’re feeling overwhelmed because there is just too much to listen to and you can never get to it all, well, it’s much worse than you think. Along with the books you’ve never read, the TV shows and movies and plays you’ll never have time to watch, there is now a virtual universe of podcasts that just keeps on expanding.

But a glut of content — even of masterpieces — has always been an issue, at least in modern life. And as always, the smart people will figure it out. One way is to focus on the world as it is right at your doorstep or at least a short drive away. That’s not a bad place to start, wherever you end up.

And of course, that’s also good for business.

3 Song Stories

■ “3 Song Stories,” produced through local public radio station WGCU, is a deep dive into personal history through music. You can read Florida Weekly arts and entertainment reporter and critic Nancy Stetson’s recent story covering the podcast at floridaweekly.com. Three things we love about “3 Song Stories”: its narrow focus, with guests limited to choosing just three songs indelible to their history; laid-back host and co-creator Mike Kiniry’s exploration of his guests’ biography through music with honest curiosity and empathy; and that they play all the songs during the show even if they’re long (one was more than 20 minutes). The show’s collaborators have also started recording it as live performances, most recently at Nice Guys Pizza & Beer Lounge in Cape Coral. Find this podcast on the WGCU website and app, NPR One and iTunes.

Reporting Live Podcast

■ When was the last time you saw life through the eyes of a 10-year-old? Izzy Jerome will tell you about it on her weekly, 15-minute “Reporting Live Podcast” that debuts this week.

The fifth-grade North Port resident and her guests may explore issues such as time management, cyberbullying, saving money, how friends change as you grow up and what it’s going to be like to have a baby brother. Her mom is expecting in June.

“I’m very excited,” Izzy said. “At first I was like, ‘please be a girl.’ It was a boy and I was still excited. I was happy with either one.”

“I want to be able to help with my mom and be able to watch the baby when mom and dad are out or they’re on an anniversary or something and I can take care of both my siblings.”

Her dad, James, helps produce the podcast and arrange guests. Izzy (short for Isabel) and her dad had a previous podcast in which he had a larger role but now she is taking things in her own direction, and conducting her own interviews. She made adjustments as she learned, finding that balance between interview preparation and natural, flowing conversation that requires attention from new and old hands alike. Her advice to potential new podcasters: “Practice, practice, practice.”

And, she now prepares for shows by writing out bullet points and expanding



Mike Kiniry (at right) interviews Marc Davis for “3 Song Stories” at Nice Guys Pizza in Cape Coral.

COURTESY PHOTO



Kim Ryan and Ed Ryan record their “Beach Talk Radio” podcast and broadcast it live on Facebook at Pete’s Time Out on Fort Myers Beach.

COURTESY PHOTO

on them — allowing her own natural voice to come through — rather than typing up a script.

Izzy aims to give kids a voice, something they can relate to, both with her podcast and in the future.

“When I grow up I want to be a pediatric rheumatologist,” she says, “because I have juvenile arthritis. I feel like if I’m a pediatric rheumatologist I can relate with kids that are also diagnosed with arthritis.”

Check out her website reportinglivepodcast.com and listen on iTunes, GooglePlay or the Himalaya app.

Cabbage Palm Radio

■ Blake Harrison was hanging with friends one day, tailgating, telling stories. That was an initial inspiration for “Cabbage Palm Radio.”

“It was like some crazy stuff you haven’t heard before and then also the way things used to be down here back in the heyday, which wasn’t that long ago,” he was saying after work over a few beers at Beacon Bowl in Naples, “and we’re like ‘we should be recording this.’”

His co-host Casey Lee’s biggest inspiration for the show is NPR’s “This American Life” for its storytelling technique and empathy.

On the podcast the two 32-year-old Naples residents, who grew up here and whose lives are busy with seasonal work as outdoor guides, ease into stories about their pastimes, adventures and passion for Southwest Florida’s natural landscape and history.

Episodes yield insider insights on where you might plan a fishing or hunting trip, a recent account of an airboat crash and tales of the mythic Florida Skunk Ape with one of their guests, Dave Shealy. The long-form podcast lasts however long they want it to,

which tends to be two to three hours. That may leave you impatient if you’re used to soundbites but it’s also immersive and good company.

Their guests have included local musicians and prominent clean-water advocates among many. They record whenever they can, which is less often during the busy season. Check their website or Instagram for new episodes. You can also find more than a year’s worth already recorded on their website.

At Beacon Bowl, they were talking about possible future guests. Mr. Lee hopes writers Carl Hiaasen or Tim Dorsey might be on.

“That would be insane,” he said. “I would freak out. I would love that.”

Mr. Harrison’s dream guests include the legendary South Florida fisherman Flip Pallot, as well as people who are simply older, who can talk about South Florida’s landscape and history.

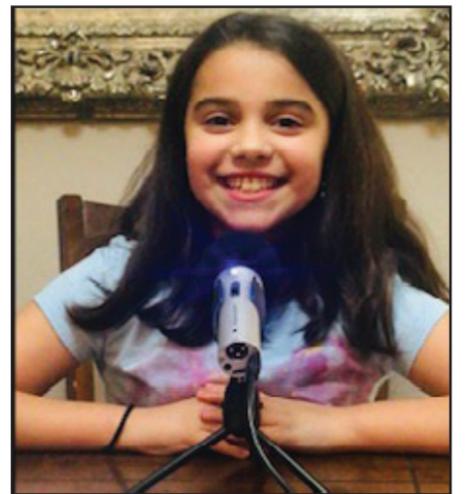
Listen on SoundCloud, iTunes, or visit cabbagepalradio.wordpress.com for more information.

Finding Florida and the Florida Podcast Network

■ A single mom who lives in a peacock-filled neighborhood in Boynton Beach, 39-year-old Jaime “Jemmy” Legagneur and her co-host “Glenn the Geek” bring you on their trips across the state in “Finding Florida.”

On “Finding Florida,” Ms. Legagneur is the coastal city girl to her co-host’s Central Florida, country boy personality. They launched “Finding Florida” on Halloween 2017. From Miami to Tallahassee, the pair has recorded their adventures all over the state but still has much to cover including the west coast and the Florida panhandle.

A former data analyst, Ms. Legagneur relaunched her career in the world of



Izzy the podcaster.

COURTESY PHOTO

podcasts as founder and owner of Flint Stone Media, a subsidiary of the Florida Podcast Network, that supports and promotes local shows.

Ms. Legagneur hopes to grow the Florida Podcast Network with about 20 shows on its website that feature community voices on subjects such as craft beer, the arts or boating.

“We see the Florida Podcast Network as the place for when people want to go get information about Florida, when they’re planning a trip here, when they’re moving here,” she said. “That’s my goal. I want that to be the legacy that I leave behind. I want to know that I’ve contributed to Florida’s media space in a very powerful way by building up this podcast network.”

At a recent major podcasters’ convention in Orlando, she sat on a panel that discussed the trend toward “geo-local” podcasts that included people from Salt Lake City, Philadelphia and Tampa. Noticing the diverse crowd in attendance there, she also has found that podcasts are giving a voice and platform to minorities who may not have one, particularly among online-savvy young people.

Many local podcasters don’t aim to make money or may possibly boost their primary business with episodes. But sponsored content, advertising, or asking listeners to pay for podcasts through a website like Patreon are possible routes for monetization or just to support a passion project.

“Podcasting, there’s such a low barrier to entry,” she said. “A lot of people are discovering that for a vehicle and a platform for their voices to be heard.”

That doesn’t mean recording a good podcast will be easy though, one of the assumptions that can be a pitfall for rookies. An episode of “Finding Florida” takes 10 or 12 hours on the production side. That’s why a lot of podcasts “pod-fade,” she said.

Here’s a highly simplified version of the production of “Finding Flori-

“It was like some crazy stuff you haven’t heard before and then also the way things used to be down here back in the heyday, which wasn’t that long ago ... and we’re like ‘we should be recording this.’” — **Blake Harrison**, “Cabbage Palm Radio”



PATRICK KIRK / COURTESY PHOTO

Blake Harrison and Casey Lee (at right) interview guest Dave Shealy on their “Cabbage Palm Radio” podcast.

da”: after recording hours and hours of audio, she clips out the good stuff and sends those to her co-host, who will stitch it together before she reviews the product and sends it back to him again with changes. Post production includes sound engineering, such as integration of stock music, and then creating show notes, links to sponsors and pictures for their website.

Check it out on iTunes, GooglePlay, Spotify or visit www.floridapodcastnetwork.com for links to episodes of “Finding Florida” and other local podcasts including “Reporting Live Podcast” with Izzy. Ms. Legagneur and Glenn the Geek also air “Florida Podcasting News,” which reports on inside information on the podcasting industry.

In Palm Beach County, “People of Palm Beach” debuted in February. It features conversations with local personalities hosted by Suzanne Boyd, a TV news veteran, talk show creator, branding expert, mom and yogi.

Beach Talk Radio

■ At 9 a.m. on Saturday mornings you can find Kim Ryan and Ed Ryan at their usual table at Pete’s Time Out on Fort Myers Beach hosting “Beach Talk Radio” — interviewing guests such as a local mayor or county commissioner — and trading affectionate insults with each other that carry a hint of brisk New York State bonhomie.

The show is broadcast live on Facebook and the audio is later posted to their website and other carriers.

Mr. Ryan is a “radio rat from back in the day.” He used to host a program out of Oneonta, N.Y., where he met his spouse and co-host. She is an occupational therapist and he is editor of Radio Ink Magazine. They started the podcast about six months ago. Why?

“Because my wife’s an egomaniac,” Mr. Ryan answered matter of factly early one Saturday morning during a recorded preshow interview.

“That’s the pot calling the kettle black right there,” she shot back, unfazed.

This is not entirely a ruse. Ms. Ryan said they really are like this in real life



Left: Jaime (“Jemmy”) Legagneur and her co-host Glenn the Geek record their “Finding Florida” podcast. Right: Adrienne Andreae at her home studio in Punta Gorda where she records “Small Town Sunshine.”

as well. But they do play on it for the podcast, a blend of community events, issues and politics aimed at being “entertaining and informative” that can also turn serious at times, depending on the topic. Featured on the show that morning: Sanibel Mayor Kevin Ruane.

Mr. Ryan has long been known as a community advocate who was named Florida Weekly’s “Best Rabble Rouser” in 2010 for his online paper, The Gateway Gazette. He’s been outspoken on many topics from dog parks to local political candidates and his support for them, or not.

Listen through Spotify, iHeartRadio, iTunes Apple Podcasts, The Pocket Cast Podcast App, the Beach Talk Radio app or visit www.BeachTalkRadio.com.

Small Town Sunshine

■ Punta Gorda resident Adrienne Andreae loves podcasts and wanted to start her own but wasn’t quite sure about what. Then she landed on a topic with roots in a cross-country bicycle ride she took with her mother.

“I’ve been interested in small towns in America for a long time because in 2011 I went on a bicycle trip with my mom across the United States,” said Ms. Andreae, 43. “We road from Oregon to New Hampshire. You go very slowly, along the back roads, and so we saw a lot of really cool small towns. And I was completely fascinated by some of the places we saw that you never hear of,



COURTESY PHOTOS

you never hear about.”

Some of the podcasts that inspired her include “What Should I Read Next,” “Pantsuit Politics” and “Serial.”

“You listen and think ‘I want to try this too,’” she said. “Because a lot of them are people like me who think this would be fun, or it seems like that.”

Ms. Andreae grew up in Punta Gorda and returned after a few decades away to join her family’s real estate business. Her latest podcast episode features an interview with Annie Philbrick, a Mystic, Conn., resident who followed her teenage son’s advice in becoming an independent bookstore owner. Now she runs both Bank Square Books in Mystic and Savoy Bookstore in Westerly, R.I.

Finding and scheduling guests is one of the most challenging aspects of the podcast so far for Ms. Andreae. She also struggled at first with the technical aspects of its creation. Hiring an editor at one point and an open-source audio editing program called Audacity helped.

“It was a very big mess in the beginning but now it’s kind of coming together to be still a mess, but a smaller mess,” she said.

Hosting “Small Town Sunshine” (like being a reporter) also gave her an excuse to research her interests and interview people she otherwise might never approach.

“I thought, if I have a podcast, I can get people to talk to me, I think,” she

said. “Which is interesting because I sometimes get responses and sometimes not, but it certainly is helpful in that sense.”

Listen through iTunes Apple Podcast or PodBean.

Sworn Statement

■ The Collier County Sheriff’s Office podcast “Sworn Statement” kicked off its first three episodes delving into the mystery of a hiker they call Mostly Harmless, after his body was found in the Big Cypress Preserve last July.

Photos reveal a youngish-looking man with a graying beard, but not his name. He had told fellow hikers he planned to hike all the way from New York to the Florida Keys.

Hosted by Kristine Gill, a CCSO media relations specialist and journalist, the podcast debuted in February and is posted on iTunes, GooglePlay and SoundCloud.

Chief Stephanie Spell, head of the Community Engagement Department for CCSO, had for some time had her eye on creating a podcast that would explore local cases.

“We were at a place in the investigation where we just needed more leads to identify him (Mostly Harmless), so we decided that would be a good launch for our podcast series,” she said.

“We knew the format and knew what the sound and the feel wanted to be. So we’re really proud of that and we’ll absolutely continue with cases and issues that are important in our area.”

The podcast delves into the specifics of the case and the realities detectives face that are so different from television. Listeners hear first-hand accounts from CCSO’s investigators as well as fellow hikers who met Mostly Harmless along his journey.

“We have generated a lot of comments on social media, a lot of tips,” Chief Spell said. “Unfortunately none of them have panned out to actually identify the gentleman but we’re hopeful the right person will listen to it or somebody will share that information with them.” ■

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Beware of tax scam phone calls

Tax season is underway, and unfortunately that means that phone scam season is also in full swing. Every year, the Internal Revenue Service sees a surge in scam phone calls to taxpayers, and each year the scammers seem to become more sophisticated and aggressive when targeting their victims. According to the IRS, scammers have bilked Americans out of more than \$63 million in the past six years. The Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida wants to ensure that the public is aware of these scams and that you know what to do if a scammer tries to contact you.

Most of these scams come in the form of phone calls claiming to be from the IRS. Potential phone scam victims are often told they owe money that must be paid immediately. Fake "IRS agents" may threaten their victims with arrest, prison, deportation or other penalties if they don't pay a bogus tax bill. When unsuccessful on the first attempt, phone scammers may call back trying a new strategy.

To try to fool their victims, scammers may use fake names and IRS badge numbers. They may be able to recite the last four digits of Social Security numbers, or even make it look like the IRS is calling by spoofing the IRS toll-free number on caller ID. If they know your email address, they might even send bogus IRS emails to their victims to support their phone calls.

While the situation might seem helpless, there are some important facts to keep in mind if you think you may be the target of a potential IRS scam. First, the IRS will always send taxpayers written notification via U.S. mail — not a phone call, not an email and not a text message. The IRS never asks for credit or debit card information or bank account numbers over the phone and will never demand immediate payment over the phone. And even if you owe the IRS money, agents will not take enforcement action immediately following a phone conversation.

While it's important to recognize these scams, it's equally as important to report them so others don't become victims. If you receive a call from someone claiming to be from the IRS, politely hang up then do one of these two things:

If you owe taxes — or think you might owe taxes, call the IRS at 800-829-1040. The IRS employee on the phone can help with your payment issue.

If you know you don't owe taxes — or if the caller makes threats of arrest, deportation or something similar — report the call to the Treasury Inspector



General for Tax Administration at 800-366-4484. Also contact the Federal Trade Commission and use its FTC Complaint Assistant at FTC.gov.

The local Area Agency on Aging has resources and information on how seniors can protect themselves from identity theft and other scams. Just call AAASWFL's Elder Helpline at 866-413-5337 (866-41-ELDER) to request materials or a presentation on these topics and other forms of financial abuse and fraud.



Forks & Corks University Master Class rescheduled

Rescheduled from its original January date due to inclement weather, the 2019 Forks & Corks Food & Wine Festival is offering foodies a second chance to experience its one-of-a-kind University Master Class from 1-3 p.m. on May 4 at Michael's On East Ballroom, 1212 South East Ave., in Sarasota.

Led by seven world-renowned industry professionals and winemakers, this exclusive wine seminar will showcase 14 award-winning wines from around the globe.

Guests will swirl, sip and savor as the passionate and accomplished panel leads them on a guided tour of wine from around the globe — no passport

required. Following the theme of "Technique & Terroir: A Discussion of Old World & New World Wines," the event will feature wines from California, Oregon, Portugal, Italy and more. Among the seven panelists are Steve Reynolds, winemaker and owner of Reynolds Family Winery; Bill Wolf, winemaker and owner of Eagle Eye Winery; Lorenzo Gatteschi, winemaker for Podere Ciona; John Zelko, winemaker and owner of ZIVO Wines.; and Bertrand Ambroise, winemaker and owner of Domaine Bertrand Ambroise.

Tickets are \$50 and include admission to the master class and admission to the Michael's Wine Cellar retail tasting, immediately following. Purchase tickets at Bit.ly/SMOUniversityMasterClassTix.

Forks & Corks events support The Ringling Foundation and All Faiths Food Bank and other local nonprofits.

Spring and allergies are here



Allergies. If you can't beat them, predict them. And that's exactly what Sickweather, the popular illness tracking app which powers illness forecasts for IBM's Weather Company and the pharmaceutical industry, is doing. The mobile health

app is forecasting a severe and active start to allergy season for many parts of the country. As some states continue to fight off the H3N2 virus, an early allergy season could mean a higher demand for OTC relief.

"Allergy season is already here — and it's going to hit people hard," said Laurel Edelman, Sickweather's chief revenue officer. "With the H3N2 virus still going around in some states where allergy season has already started, many people are going to be turning to over-the-counter medicines."

Sickweather is predicting an earlier start to allergy season for parts of the South and Southwest, and it will continue to peak until mid-May before slowing down.

"Geographically, our country is going to be experiencing allergy season at different levels of severity and times over the coming months," said Ms. Edelman. "This means that as a country, we're going to be experiencing a much longer allergy season and many more people may suffer from itchy eyes or runny noses compared to last season."

Sickweather has compiled a list of the top ten states where allergy activity is currently highest. The most "at risk" states from highest to lowest are Nevada, Texas, Oklahoma, Washington, Georgia, New Mexico, California, Florida, Maryland and Arizona.

"If you're an allergy sufferer and you're living in the South or Southwest, now is the time to take a trip to your local pharmacy and stock up!" Ms. Edelman said.

The Sickweather app is available for tracking flu, seasonal allergies and other 25 other illness conditions worldwide. Download the Sickweather mobile app at: iOS - <http://sick.io/ios>

Android: <http://sick.io/android>
Sickweather's predictive analytics products for commercial use are available at: <http://sick.io/pro>

City of Venice conducting fire hydrant testing

The city of Venice has hired Hydromax USA to perform fire hydrant maintenance and testing. Work is scheduled to begin on April 1 and be completed by Nov. 1. As part of the work, all fire hydrants within the city's system will be flushed, flow tested, inspected, and receive routine maintenance. Residents should expect to see employees of Hydromax USA operating the fire hydrants. Employees of Hydromax USA may be identified by company logos on their vehicles and their uniforms.

Businesses and residents may brief-

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For more information, call the city utilities department at 941-480-3333.



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Venice has made a list of 13 Best Beaches on Florida's Gulf Coast by digital travel magazine Trips to Discover.

Venice named to list of 13 best beaches on Gulf Coast

Venice has made a list of 13 Best Beaches on Florida's Gulf Coast by digital travel magazine Trips to Discover.

"Venice is an underrated Gulf destination in Florida, offering plenty of opportunities to enjoy water sports, fishing and boating, but this small town is famous for something entirely different," the listing reads. "Take a walk along its shores and discover unique souvenirs — a collection of fossilized shark's teeth that have washed up on

its pearly white beaches. Afterwards, explore the historic downtown area and admire the beautiful architecture, browse through the boutiques and dine at local seafood restaurants."

Downtown beautification project continues

On Monday, April 1, crews are scheduled to begin work on phase II, the Nokomis Avenue drainage project on Nokomis Avenue between Tampa and West Venice avenues. Work in Phase II will include underground drainage installation, roadway reconstruction,

utility work and replacement of sidewalk and curb and gutter on Nokomis Avenue from Tampa Avenue to Pensacola Road.

More details on the schedule of Phase II - Nokomis Avenue Drainage Project will be available soon.

Currently, crews continue landscaping, installation of sod, installation of lighted midblock crosswalks on West Venice Avenue, and installation of ADA features at the crosswalks. The contractor is also completing punch list items throughout the project. Motorists should continue to expect single lane closures to allow crews to safely work.

The majority of the new trash cans have been installed throughout the project. As a reminder, these trash cans are for downtown visitors. Businesses are urged to use their dumpsters instead of the trash cans along the sidewalks. For more information about dumpsters or trash pickup, contact the city of Venice at 941-486-2422.

All downtown roads continue to be open.

For additional project information, contact Jennifer Dorning, project PIO, at 239-338-7723 or jennifer.dorning@atkinglobal.com. ■

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NEWS OF THE WEIRD

BY THE EDITORS AT ANDREWS MCMEEL

Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Oh, the drama

Dog walker Michele Bilslund has become accustomed to strangers' alarm when her charge, Begbie, throws himself to the ground as they start out on their constitutional. Begbie, who lives with Roz Niblock and Matt Kennedy in Muthill, Perthshire, Scotland, stages his protest when Bilslund leads him on what he knows is the shorter route around the block, rather than his usual hour-long

jaunt through fields. On March 15, two workmen stopped to see if Bilslund needed help: "I told them he was fine and just having a tantrum and sulking," she told Metro News. Begbie, a 4-year-old Old English bulldog, continued his charade for at least a minute before getting up and getting on with his walk. "Begbie just has a very strong personality," Bilslund noted.

Just. Florida.

Arby's manager Le'Terria Akins, 21, was arrested in Royal Palm Beach for aggravated assault, battery and criminal mischief on March 16 after an altercation with Ernst Point Du Jour, an employee. FOX 35 reported that trouble started after Akins asked Point Du Jour if he could work late that evening, accord-

ing to police. When he refused, the two began arguing, and witnesses reported that as Point Du Jour got very close to Akins, she pepper-sprayed him. Point Du Jour ran out of the building with Akins in hot pursuit, wielding a long kitchen knife. Police said Akins did not stab Du Jour but did scratch his car with the knife.

People different from us

Researchers at St. Mary's Hospital in London had been stumped how 10 British men had contracted a rare virus called human T-cell leukemia virus type 1. The men weren't intravenous drug users and hadn't had transfusions; none of them displayed any symptoms, but doctors had identified the virus through bloodwork. Dr. Divya Dhasmana, co-author of a study published March 13 by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, was eventually tipped off to the source of the infections when she saw scars on one of the men's back: The

men participate in blood-shedding religious rituals, such as cutting or whipping themselves. The rituals the men reported include striking the forehead with a knife, then passing the knife to other men; or striking the back with a chain of blades. Dr. Dhasmana told the Associated Press that one infected man told her the blades were soaked in a bucket of antiseptic solution between uses, but that didn't prevent the virus' spread. "Our message is not 'Don't do it,'" said Dr. Dhasmana. "Our message is, 'If you do it, don't share equipment.'"

Lucky

A 43-year-old man in Nimbin, Australia, has the proliferation of modern technology to thank for his life. Reuters reported that on March 13, the unnamed man arrived home only to find a 39-year-old man "who was known to him," waiting outside with a bow and arrow. As Man A raised his mobile phone to take a picture of

Man B, Man B "engaged the bow and was ready to fire," according to a police report. Man B "fired the arrow at the resident, which pierced through the man's mobile phone, causing the phone to hit (Man A) in the chin. It left a small laceration that didn't require medical treatment." Man B was arrested at the scene, police reported.

Criminal ingenuity

Outside the North Fork Correctional Unit in Sayre, Okla., Kerri Jo Hickman was arrested on March 10 for delivering contraband to prison inmates, reported the Associated Press. Hickman's clever delivery method was a T-shirt gun, used by sports team mascots to shoot promotional shirts at fans. Hickman, however, launched

methamphetamines, cellphones, ear buds, phone chargers, digital scales, marijuana and tobacco to some lucky con on the other side, but police discovered the gun and another package in her car, and she was booked on charges of introducing contraband into a penal institution, conspiracy and drug trafficking in Beckham County.

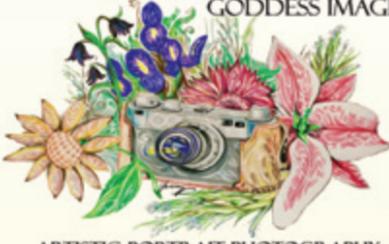
Bright idea

Topeka, Kan., police took the joy out of "joyride" on March 16 for Nicholas Hodgden, 40, who climbed into a forklift outside a Dillons grocery store that evening and set off down the road. The forklift, valued at \$1,500, had been left outside the store with the keys in the ignition, The Topeka Capitol-Journal reported. A spokesperson for the police department

said bystanders saw what happened and called police, who apprehended Hodgden as he drove along, holding an open can of beer. He also had a six-pack in the back. Hodgden was booked into the Shawnee County Jail on one count of felony theft and misdemeanor counts of driving under the influence and transporting an open alcoholic beverage container. ■



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

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

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

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

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Listen Up

The podcasts these business pros enjoy

BY EVAN WILLIAMS

ewilliams@floridaweekly.com

SOUTH FLORIDA'S business professionals are hard at work litigating, accounting for income, promoting commerce, performing all manner of tasks that keep those social and economic cogs running as smoothly as possible.

Like almost anybody, they (we) too are consumers of media and entertainment, and in that realm there is nothing if not options galore. The podcast form has its own often devoted followers. Podcasts used to be called audioblogs in the early days of the internet. Thousands of shows — many free — cover everything from the most mundane parts of everyday life to technical accounting procedures. Listeners can find polished

professional interviews and powerful personal stories, as well as unscripted rambling about whatever.

In this ocean of information, what has captured the attention of local professionals? Some of those contacted by Florida Weekly said they are not podcast listeners. Others are avid listeners and found meaningful connections, or at least a pretty good way to fill time on commutes or at airports, or to supplement yardwork. Here's a glimpse into the shows and episodes they're listening to.

Some responded to email questions while others were reached by phone. The interviews have been edited and condensed.

■ **Maryann Mize, CCIM**, senior vice president, senior credit officer, Charlotte

State Bank & Trust

• **Listening to:** "Freakonomics," "WSJ Podcasts" (Wall Street Journal), "Ted Talks" and NPR's "Fresh Air."

What drew you to it? What keeps you listening?

"I love podcasts because I can choose my content and what I listen to while driving, or traveling by air."

What's your favorite podcast?

"Ted Talks."

Where and when do you normally listen to it?

"I listen to podcasts in the car, at the gym while on the elliptical, and I download several of them when traveling by airplane."

Please tell me briefly about one of your

SEE LISTEN, A15 ▶

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BEHIND THE WHEEL

Mercedes AMG E 53 Cabriolet delivers the enthusiast's handshake

mylesKORNBLATT
mk@autominded.com



While the beginning of spring might seem like the right time to review a drop-top car, the new 2019 Mercedes-AMG E 53 Cabriolet is really for the tech lovers. Sure, there's plenty of open-top fun, but this is a showcase for engineering expertise and digital gadgetry that makes for a cutting edge premium sports machine.

The AMG model is distinguished from the next rung down the ladder, the E 450 4MATIC Cabriolet, by larger sport wheels, a more defined front bumper, AMG's dual bar grille, and a sporty rear end with quad tailpipes. The AMG E 53 Cabriolet base price is \$80,350 — \$10,550 more than the E 450 4MATIC. That's not much of a difference in the world of Mercedes, and the benefits can be worth it (HINT: it's the motor.)

All E-Class convertibles are soft tops, and because no car in the lineup is cheap, these are some of the best insulated folding roofs this side of Rolls-Royce. With the top down, Mercedes is out to keep the atmosphere quiet. There's a built-in deploying airfoil in the front and a wind-deflector in the rear. It's called the Aircap system, and it helps more air flow over the car, instead of into the cabin. The front seats even have a built-in vent providing heat directly to the back of the neck; Mercedes calls it an Aircar.

The AMG model offers the same decent interior space as the rest of the E-Class Cabriolet line. The front seats have ample legroom on their own, but if someone wants to sit in the back, compromises must be made. Basically, there's room for four adults, but no one gets to be selfish with individual space.

This upper-level AMG differs from the rest of the E-Class with a flat-bottom AMG steering wheel, sporty red stitching in the seats, and distinctive red seatbelt fabric. It also gets the 12.3-inch digital instrument cluster as standard. Optional on the other convertibles, it replaces the traditional gauges with a 12.3-inch screen in front of the driver that's as large as the central infotainment display. This needs to be standard in the AMG version, because there's a lot more technology going on under the hood, and the only way to properly track it is with special digital readouts.

The E 53 is a showcase for the return of Mercedes-Benz's performance inline-six motors. This is a storied history that includes the famous 300 SL Gullwing coupe of the 1950s and '60s. Today, it's a highly advanced power plant with turbocharging and a mild hybrid system called EQ Boost. It produces 429 horsepower, but the impressive part is how it's all delivered.

The EQ Boost is a 48-volt electrical system sandwiched in-between the motor and the nine-speed automatic transmission. It acts as a starter and generator. The primary functions include recapturing energy during coasting and running accessories like the air conditioning system. That makes for a more efficient motor that is also not hampered by extra belts running independent systems.

In AMG cars, EQ Boost also acts like an electronic supercharger. The system can individually produce as much torque as a Volkswagen Golf, and



because electric power is immediately available, it provides an ideal pairing. The EQ Boost assists the gas motor to make the E 53 quick off the line, and as the electric motor is reaching its limits, the turbocharger has spooled up to the ideal amount of boost. It creates such a smooth and speedy machine that we should call the linear performance handover process "the enthusiast's handshake."

There's more to this collaboration than just the motor. This car gets the 4MATIC+ all-wheel drive system. The "+" in the designation signals that the system was built for performance by allowing a rear-wheel power bias that sends more torque up front when traction is needed.

The suspension is exactly what's expected from an upper-level Mercedes. There are five selectable modes that completely change the driving charac-

teristics. It means the E 53 can be a rip-snorting sports car with a firm ride and hint of backfire, or it can be a docile and comfortable grand touring convertible.

Spring is a great time to fall in love with a drop-top car.

And for the select few who understand the importance of the enthusiast's handshake, the Mercedes-AMG E 53 Cabriolet is the blossoming of a new age in technology-driven performance. ■

LISTEN

From page 13

favorite episodes.

“Goodness ... I have to say that the ‘Ted Talks’ are my favorite because of the diversity of subject matter. When reviewing their offerings, and I have time to listen, there’s always something that intrigues me.”

■ Amanda J. Ross, *civil*

litigation attorney based in Fort Myers, Henderson Franklin

• **Listening to:** true crime podcasts including “Serial Podcast,” Season 1 and 2, “S-Town,” and “Up and Vanished,” Season 2.

What drew you to it?

“I was initially drawn to listening to ‘Serial’ after I attended Leadership Stetson 2017 at my alma mater, Stetson University. Our guest speaker was new Florida Rep., Michael Waltz. Rep. Waltz’s speech, dedicated to leadership, touched on his time serving as a combat-decorated Green Beret for the U.S. Army and he happened to mention being interviewed for the Season 2 ‘Serial Podcast.’ I’d never listened to a podcast before that, but after listening to my first episode, I was drawn in. A great non-fiction podcast has to have a great narrator, and find the perfect balance between commentary, fact, and interviews. That’s what keeps you listening.”

How long have you been a listener?

“I have been listening to podcasts for about two years. Before that, I had a very vague idea of what a podcast was.”

■ Charles H. Knox, CPA

with McHale, Caruso, Scullion & Knox, based in Fort Myers

• **Listening to:** “Make Me Smart,” “Journal of Accountancy,” “Current Federal Tax Developments”

Tell me about one of your favorite podcasts.

“It kind of bounces around. I guess the favorite one I think is most entertaining is one called ‘Make Me Smart.’ It features some people from their marketplace. And they explore just all kinds of crazy stuff. And it’s kind of got a little bit of a business twist to it. It brings it back to, what are we seeing in the marketplace from a business standpoint?... How is Artificial Intelligence going to influence us? How has Amazon upset the entire distribution mechanism? For someone in my business we want to know what’s happening out there.”

Do you find it enriching on a professional or personal level? If so how? Or is it just pure entertainment?

“Sometimes it’s pure entertainment. But it’s certainly, when they explore a deep technical subject it’s educational. It’s professionally developing. We have had a rather large tax bill, The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, that has literally caused a ton of research on a variety of subject and a good way to get caught up on some of this stuff is to listen to some of these podcasts about it.”

Please tell me briefly about one of your favorite episodes or just an episode that has happened to stick in your mind.

“You know there is one other technical one I listen to. It’s called ‘Current Federal Tax Developments’ and it’s by a guy named Ed Zollars. And Ed is a CPA. He’s a tax nerd from Arizona and he puts out a weekly podcast. He does a pretty good job as difficult as this sounds, but to at least make complicated tax subjects a little bit entertaining. So I would say some of his podcasts have been some of the ones I’ve enjoyed the most.”

Do you recall the last one of his you listened to?

“It was on section 199A: qualified

business income deduction. And that has kind of got every CPA in the world, well the United States, trying to figure out exactly what Congress intended and exactly how to apply it to our real-world situations.”

■ Chief Stephanie Spell,

Community Engagement Department, Collier County Sheriff’s Office

• **Listening to:** NPRs “How I Built This,” NPRs “This American Life,” “Serial,” “S-Town,” “The Tim Ferriss Show,” “Anchored”

What draws you in?

“The storytelling. I love that it’s a story and in an hour or less. And if it’s got good information, the personal stories of people who have overcome something, how they addressed something. They are very inspiring. They are very relatable. They are human stories.”

Tell me about the podcasts you’re listening to.

“‘How I Built This’ is a series of in-depth interviews with CEOs, presidents of companies that started small, started with an idea.

I love (‘The Tim Ferriss Show’). In fact, just this week I listened to an interview he had with Caterina Fake. She was one of the founders of the photo-sharing program called Flickr. When she finds herself doing some research on something and two hours later she finds herself going down the black hole of the internet and her productivity level is zero, she keeps a notebook (called) WNO ... Rather than get distracted she keeps notes on What Next Online to look up. And I’ve adopted that because I have a very curious nature. I see something and I want to learn more about it.

And on a personal level, too, I listen to some fly-fishing podcasts (such as) ‘Anchored’ by April Vokey.”

Do you find it enriching on a professional or personal level? How?

“I think whenever anybody shares their stories of opportunities and challenges it’s inspiring, it’s motivating, it’s reassuring. If you’re going through a difficult spell, (knowing) that somebody else has gone through it. I think it encourages kind of out of the box thinking and creative thinking.”

If you listen to multiple podcasts, which is your favorite?

“NPR’s ‘How I Built This.’”

Please tell me briefly about one of your favorite episodes.

“I really enjoyed the one with Caterina Fake and how she started the photo-sharing app. She felt she was challenged as a woman, getting investors to believe in her. When she made it, when her product was successful, she left the company and started a venture capital investment company focused on women’s initiatives.”

■ Brian Presley, MFA/OSJ,

investment advisor and asset manager, Presley Advisory based in Charlotte County

• **Listening to:** select podcasts with Wharton professor Jeremy Siegel and with Cleveland Clinic chief wellness officer Dr. Michael Roizen. (Professor Siegel is co-host of “Behind the Market” and Dr. Roizen hosts “YOU The Owners Manuel Radio Show.”)

What drew you in? What keeps you listening?

“One of the uses that I have for podcasts or whitepapers that are outside the investment profession is it gives me another window to assess where trends are. I listen to some of the stuff Dr. Roizen does who is the chief (wellness) doctor for Cleveland Clinic. He is a good one for me to keep up on what’s going on with pure food production, what natural phytochemical are proving to be really valuable, where they are able to use things they previously wouldn’t have prescribed to replace antibiotics. I’m able to keep up (with trends). It may be a biotech

company that’s close to fruition on some of their stuff. It may be about a Medtronic device. So it’s research gathering.”

You said you pick and choose individual podcast episodes that help with research related to your profession.

“I’m running a meritocracy selection process. The more valuable it is to me, the more immediate it is to me, or even if it is opposed to my views, if there is any sense to it, that’s what gets listened to.”

“I don’t really listen to anything for just pure entertainment. It has to have some value somewhere. It may not be professional it may be personally but as I said I’m not retired or bored. If I want to do something just for entertainment it’s called Netflix.”

■ Carlos Kelly, a business and real estate litigation attorney based in Fort Myers, with Henderson Franklin

• **Listening to:** “The Eminent Domain Podcast,” “The History of WWII Podcast,” “The Strenuous Life Podcast,” “The Grappling Central Podcast,” “The Nolecast,” “Jocko Podcast”

What drew you to it?

“What keeps me coming back to those (‘Eminent Domain’ and ‘Jocko’) and all of my podcasts are the knowledge and interest of the podcaster in his own material. His familiarity with his own material and his interest in it. Just like a great teacher.”

Do you find it enriching on a professional or personal level?

“My sort of primary field within real estate litigation is eminent domain or takings law. (‘Eminent Domaine’) is almost like having CLE (continuing legal education) available on demand about my special field.

“It’s very useful to hear how lawyers in other states are tackling similar problems and what the case law in their state might say about it. Ordinarily a lawyer, a trial lawyer, a litigator is going to use case law form his or her own jurisdiction and I’m the same way of course. (But) the field of takings law as even the cases will say themselves somewhat unsettled. So it is easier to persuade a Florida court to look to the law of another jurisdiction. So it’s almost like a cross training if you will.

“Now the Jocko podcast is hosted by a former Navy Seal. The way that each episode typically unfolds is that Jocko (Willink) will read a book or an expert from a book and typically it’s a first-person account of war time combat. And then he will extract leadership principles from the experts he’s read and then apply them to business.”

Please tell me briefly about one of your favorite episodes.

“The very first (podcast) episode I listened to was I think episode 63 (of ‘Jocko Podcast’). My frat brother knew I was a history student in college and into physical training and said ‘I’ve got a podcast for you’ and told me about it. And the interviewee was a man named Col. William Reeder, and the interview was about his life but focused mostly about him being a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War. So to hear of the things he went through and how he survived and how he came out on the other side and was not a bitter person but an enriched person, was remarkable to me. I was hooked. You know the skill of the interviewer in drawing this out and the willingness of the interviewee to share these very difficult times, I thought was very remarkable.”

■ Madeline Young, director of marketing and communications, Naples Chamber of Commerce

• **Listening to:** “Skimm’d from The Couch”

Tell me about one of your favorite podcasts.

“‘Skimm’d from The Couch’ is hosted

by the founders of the modern daily newsletter ‘The Skimm,’ Carly Zakin and Danielle Weisberg. The hosts interview successful female women in business and people ‘pushing the envelope.’ The hosts and interviewees always seem very authentic with their answers and pleased to be there, I also appreciate it when the speakers talk eloquently and clearly.”

How long have you been a listener?

“Since it started in early 2018, just over a year.”

Please tell me briefly about one of your favorite episodes.

“One of my favorite episodes is the interview with Mindy Grossman current CEO of WeightWatchers. I enjoyed hearing her story about how she graduated from college at age 20 and headed up companies including Chaps Ralph Lauren, the Home Shopping Network, and Nike. I often refer to her philosophy that she talks about, ‘Cool, curious, connected’ (specifically when hiring). And she encourages creating a culture where it’s OK to fail.”

■ Aaron Wormus,

AGuyOnClematis.com, @aguyonclermatis, CTO of SMARtX Advisory Solutions, West Palm Beach

• **Listening to:** “Democracy Now!,” “This Week in Tech,” “Congressional Dish,” “The Coffee Life”

Tell me about your favorite podcast.

“I was a very earlier listener to podcasts. The first podcast that I listened to was ‘Adam Curry’s ‘Daily Source Code’ in the early 2000’s. As a fan of Sci-fi TV I listened to podcasts that discussed episodes of TV shows like ‘LOST’ and ‘Battlestar Galactica’ as they were running.

“I travelled through Europe as a consultant during Hurricane Katrina and I remember that ‘Democracy Now’ was one of the first podcasts which crossed over from radio to the podcast format. I was able to stay up-to-date through that.

“Back in the day there was a lot of cross pollination among podcasters. One would be a guest on another’s show, or they would do shout-outs and reviews, so it was very easy to learn a lot about different types of podcasts. Unfortunately, most podcasts only had a 2- to 5-year life span and I out-lived many many shows.

“Thinking back on the single podcast that I’ve listened to the most over the years, and it’s been ‘This Week in Tech’ with Leo Laporte. The rotating guests kept things lively. I work in tech so hearing from the creators of some of the technology that we use every day is very enlightening and enriching.

“I enjoyed some of the bigger crime podcasts, but in my opinion they are over-produced and more like radio and audiobooks than podcasts. I also think they take themselves too seriously, but lack the journalistic vigor of radio or TV, and are pure entertainment.

“A local podcast that I enjoy is Sean Scott’s ‘The Coffee Life’ - I wrote an article on it here: <https://palmwestmonthly.com/2018/05/01/west-palm-beach-podcast-the-coffee-life/>”

“I usually listen when I’m working out, going to or from work, or working in the yard.

“‘Congressional Dish’ is one of my favorite podcasts. It does deep dives into legislation that is working through Congress. The thoroughness of the research is second-to-none, and the host is very entertaining and fair (while slightly left leaning). One of the best episodes was the election watch party, which was recorded live on the night of the 2016 election. The episode starts as a jubilant party with friends, and slowly deteriorates as it becomes clear that Trump was winning the election, ending in drunken tears. All politics aside, this was an excellent episode and gave a raw look into the rollercoaster which the country went through that night.” ■

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

HER PET PROJECT



JONES

Venice artist creates animal portraits from clients' photos



BY CHARMAINE ENGELSMAN-ROBINS
Florida Weekly Correspondent

AN ASTOUNDING 68 PERCENT OF U.S. HOUSEHOLDS, about 85 million families, includes at least one pet, according to the 2017-2018 National Pet Owners Survey conducted by the American Pet Products Association. That's a huge block of consumers/vot-

SEE PET PROJECT, A18 ►

ARTS BRIEFS

FST Improv mixes it up this spring with Improv Presents

Florida Studio Theatre kicks off its spring improv season April 13, with new performances every Friday and Saturday. FST Improv Presents: Tournament of Fools is FST's annual survival of the fittest competition. Cast members will compete in a series of games, songs, and scenes to capture the audience's support in order to win the noteworthy title of Champion of Fools. In this knockdown, drag-out comedy battle royale, FST improvisers earn points from the audience based on their performances. After each round, the improviser with the least points is eliminated.

Playing every Friday in FST's Bowne's Lab Theatre starting April 19 is "FST Improv Presents: Life's a Beach," a short-form, revue-style show that has become an audience favorite over the years. "FST Improv Presents: Life's a Beach" celebrates and satirizes what makes Sarasota one-of-a-kind: red tide, the plethora of roundabouts and its constantly changing population. "All of our locals and snowbirds love 'Life's a Beach' and its lighthearted look at our wonderful city," said Will Luera, FST's director of improv. "It's such a popular show that we want to extend its run to continue playing on Friday nights. The extension will feature new games as well as Sarasota-centric sketches written by FST Improv's new sketch team."

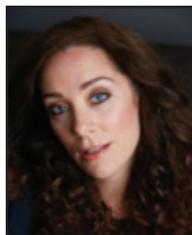
Continuing the fun and spontaneity every Saturday is "FST Comedy Freestyle," a free-form improv shows that removes the prescribed format and rules of other types of improv. Starting April 20, the production will challenge cast members to "follow the funny" and initiate a new scene or storyline whenever inspiration strikes. "This show keeps both the audience and performers on their feet throughout the show," said Mr. Luera. "Unlike most of our shows, which have at least some sort of framework or theme in place, 'FST Comedy Freestyle' has no road map and the cast makes up the show on the spot with help and feedback from the audience." Everything that takes place on stage is connected, no matter what unpredictable route the show takes. This fresh, fast-fast moving form of improv was created by FST's director of improv, Mr. Luera, while he was the artistic director of ImprovBoston, a

SEE ARTS BRIEFS, A28 ►

Florida Studio Theatre to showcase women playwrights

SPECIAL TO FLORIDA WEEKLY

Florida Studio Theatre will produce and host the NNPN Women in Playwriting Festival this spring in association with the National New Play Network. Part of FST's Sarasota Festival of New Plays, this three-week festival will take place during April and May, with staged readings of the featured plays in FST's Keating Theatre at 3 p.m. on April 26, May 3 and May 10, and in FST's Bowne's Lab Theatre on April 24. The series of staged readings is free and open to the public, but reservations are required. Reservations can be made online at flori-



BIERSTOCK



GANDHI



GOLDFINGER



ROMEIO

dastudiotheatre.org, by phone at 941-366-9000 or by visiting the FST Box Office, 1241 North Palm Ave., Sarasota.

New play development is at the core of FST's programming. The New Play

Development Program is dedicated to providing a forum for new works to be heard, discussed and workshopped. The four playwrights featured in this festival — Sarah Bierstock, Minita Gandhi,

Jacqueline Goldfinger and Lia Romeo — will each come to Sarasota for a week of rehearsals and development sessions with FST's artistic staff. At the end of each week, a staged reading of their play will be performed, followed by a talk-back session in which the playwrights will receive feedback from Sarasota's socially and politically diverse audiences. These sessions are essential to the development and creation of new plays and enable playwrights to view their piece from new perspectives.

In order to commemorate the bicentennial celebration of women's suffrage

SEE PLAYWRIGHTS, A17 ►

PLAYWRIGHTS

From page 16

in America, which is taking place in August 2020, FST has designated this year's Richard and Betty Burdick New Play Reading Series to be the NNPN Women in Playwriting Festival. This festival is just one of many events and programs that are part of FST's 18-month long arts and community initiative, "The Suffragist Project: Celebrating 100 Years of the Woman's Right to Vote."

"Now more than ever, it's so important for arts organizations to support women and amplify women's voices," shared Lia Romeo, one of the featured playwrights. "This festival of women playwrights will give each of us the chance to develop our own plays, with the support of a theater full of amazing artists and will also give us the chance to network and connect with other women writers. Community is the lifeblood of theater, and while every theater is a community in itself, NNPN allows theaters and playwrights from across the country to be in community with each other."

The festival begins the week of April 22 with an untitled work in progress by Sarah Bierstock, whose first play, "Honor Killing," received its world premiere production at FST last spring. Ms. Bierstock's next project focuses on the Ehrlichs, an all-female family that gathers together for the Christmas holiday following the death of the family matriarch. Daughters Sadie, Becca and Stephanie do their best to manage their mother's erratic ways while also navigating their own struggles with infertility, infidelity and health. FST will be the first theater to workshop this new

play, which will receive a staged reading on April 24 in FST's Bowne's Lab Theatre.

The festival continues with "Babel" by Jacqueline Goldfinger, which will receive a staged reading on Friday, April 26. In "Babel," prospective parents in a near-future society learn within the first weeks of conception which traits their child will have and what behaviors he or she is likely to exhibit. Based on these test results, the parents are either issued a pre-certification, which legally guarantees the baby will be a "good" person, or not. Without the certification, the child will be limited in what he or she is allowed to do. The play focuses on two couples, both early in their pregnancies, as they collide over what to do with their PRE certification test results. The play asks, with the rapid advances in reproductive technology that exist, how far will we go when playing God?

Lia Romeo's "The Forest" is scheduled for May 3. It was developed at the 2018 O'Neill National Playwrights Conference. "The Forest" follows the journeys of Juliet, who is in the process of losing her marriage, and her mother Pam, who is losing her memory. Meanwhile, a mysterious forest starts to grow in the family's living room. The play explores unconventional love and how to proceed when there appears to be no right answers.

Concluding the festival is "Muthaland" by Minita Gandhi on May 10, which has been called "A funny, brash and truthful portrait of embracing one's past without being smothered by it" by the Chicago Tribune. Inspired by conversations with her parents about their life journeys, this play tells of a young woman's trip to India for her brother's arranged marriage. During the trip, she unearths family secrets, encounters a prophet, and ultimately discovers her voice within a culture of silence. In this dark comedy



A performance of Minita Gandhi's "Muthaland"

about identity, spirituality and sexuality, the distinction between familiar and foreign becomes blurred.

Public readings of select plays by female playwrights presented through the NNPN Women in Playwriting Festival will take place in FST's Bowne's Lab and Keating Theatres on April 24, April 26, May 3, and May 10 at 3 p.m. each day. This series is free of cost and open to the public, but

reservations are required. Reservations can be made online at floridastudiotheatre.org, by phone at 941-366-9000, or by visiting the FST Box Office. ■



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PET PROJECT

From page 16

ers, and there probably isn't a retailer or savvy politician in the country who doesn't recognize how much Americans love their pets. With such devotion to their animals it comes as no surprise that these pet-parents want to honor them and preserve their memories just as they do with their human family members.

Artist Daniele Jones recognizes this with every pet portrait she creates from the photographs people send her. "It's not just copying a photo, or making an artistic version of it," she said. "When I study these pictures, I think of how that particular animal's fur must feel. I look into their shiny little eyes and study their expressions. By the time I start the initial drawing I feel like I know this pet."

Judging by the responses her work brings, she is successful.

"It is so touching to me when I get a note from someone whose pet I've drawn or painted," Ms. Jones said. "Some of these portraits are presents that were commissioned as a surprise for that pet's person, and that person has never met or spoken with me. Yet, I'll get such heartfelt thank you notes from them. It's very meaningful to me, very moving."

That is especially evident when the portrait is a memorial gift for someone whose pet has died, or as most pet people refer to it, "crossed the Rainbow Bridge." Ms. Jones said she feels the sorrow and loss that people experience when this happens. Grief after the death of a beloved pet is so well recognized that the old attitude of "It's just an animal" as a reaction are long gone. Indeed, hospice even offers grief counseling now



for families who have lost a pet. One such deeply saddened recipient of a memorial portrait wrote to Ms. Jones expressing her gratitude for the painstaking work, stating that she hoped Ms. Jones realized that she is performing a service to pet lovers everywhere.

"I had never thought of it that way," Ms. Jones said. "But it was a good thing for me to learn and to remember."

So many gifted artists don't see themselves as having an amazing ability. They will explain that they'd just always drawn since childhood. They often underestimate the value of their gift until someone without it makes them see.

"It all started when a friend of mine who knew I could draw asked me to create a portrait of her dog that had just passed away," Ms. Jones said.

That was in 2007. Soon after, she was asked to do a portrait of a cat and started wondering if there were enough people who would want her pet portraits to make it worth reaching out. Her "day job" is designing websites, so she decided to build a website for



herself and see if it drew any interest. And boy, did it. She started getting a steady stream of clients. And repeat clients. And referrals.

This was not just memorial art; more families who got such joy from their animals wanted to honor them as they did other family members — with a beautiful piece of art.

"Within a week [of posting the website] I was getting inquiries," Ms. Jones said with a touch of amazement. "Strangely enough, most of them were from the Richmond, Va. area in the beginning and I've never even been to Richmond, though I've come to feel like I know the place and its people now through all my clients there."

Ms. Jones is from Colorado where she lived before moving to Texas. She and her partner often visited Southwest Florida and at one point the Art Center of Manatee contacted her to ask if she'd like to put her drawing in one of their shows. Of course she would, and did. By now she had moved to Florida and after being here for just a few months her work was part of a group show at that art center.

As her website www.pettable-portraits.com shows, Ms. Jones works in a variety of mediums including drawing, charcoals, colored pencils, paint and more. "Different subjects require



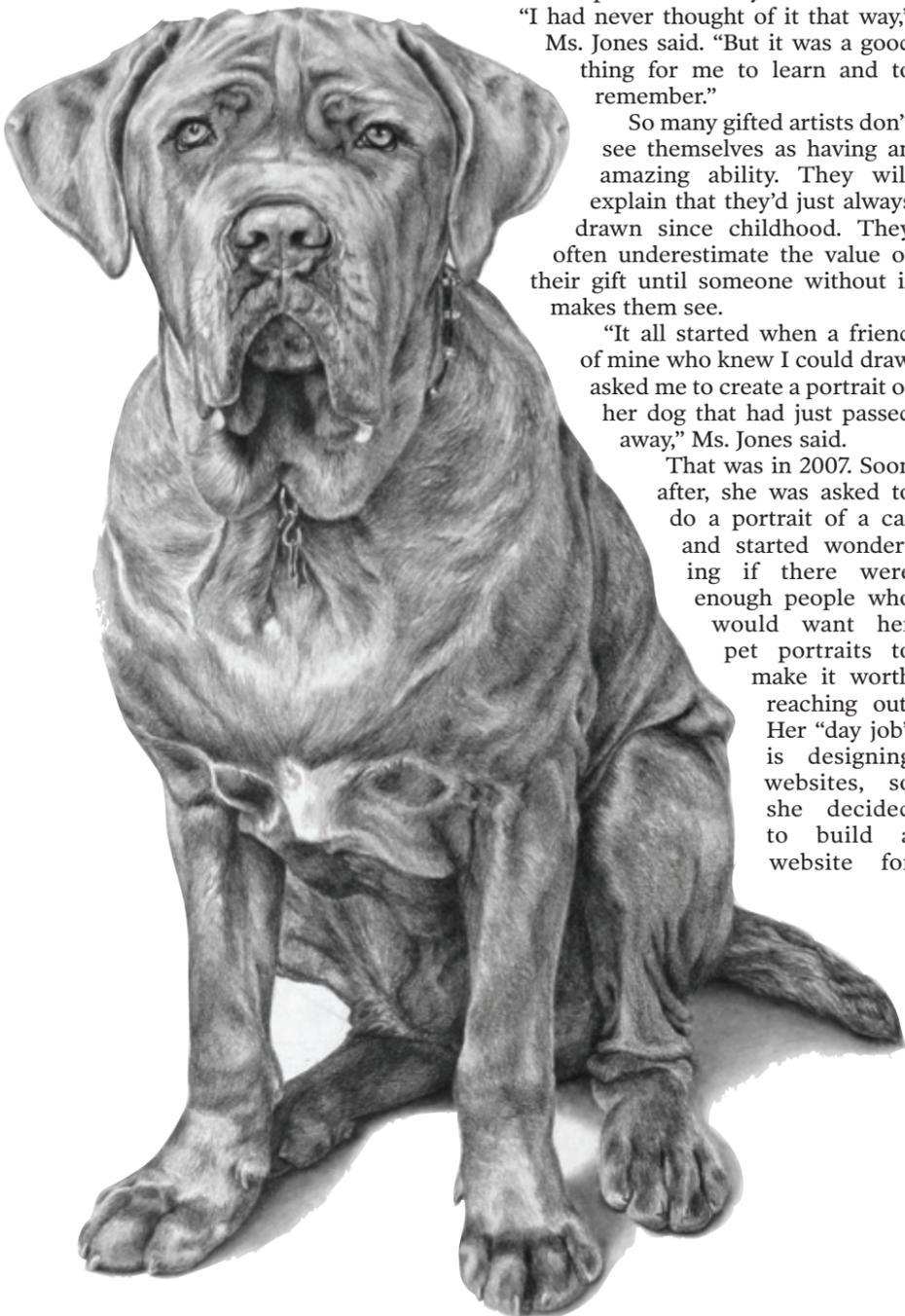
different textures," she explains, adding that curly fur is the hardest to recreate. Which is not to say she isn't up to a challenge; she welcomes commissions of pets of all shapes, sizes and descriptions.

For her own satisfaction, drawing is her favorite, not only of animals but of anything.

"My dad has this garage," she laughs, "and you know how dad's garages are ... they always have tons of stuff everywhere. One day I was out there and just started drawing some of the many, many things lying about. A wrench on the floor,

a pile of stuff ... it's just so satisfying, but also very time-consuming, slow work."

She has also gotten into sculpting lately and created a series titled "Songbird in your Heart." You can see this new series and many other bits of beauty on her website and, from time to time, in shows around Southwest Florida. ■



PET TALES

All ears

BY KIM CAMPBELL THORNTON
Andrews McMeel Syndication

The collies kept licking Edmund's right ear. When Rosemary George looked inside it to see what was so intriguing to the dogs, what she saw immediately sent her to the veterinarian with the 11-year-old cat. His ear canal was so inflamed that he required a course of antibiotics before the veterinarian could laser out the growths, which turned out to be the result of a ceruminous gland adenocarcinoma. That's a malignant tumor of the ear canal, usually seen — although rarely — in older cats.

removed, animals typically still have some hearing.

Occasionally, pets may develop a condition called Horner syndrome after the procedure. The usually temporary nerve damage causes the eye to appear sunken and the eyelid droopy. The signs usually disappear after three or four weeks. Edmund, now 14, had some residual damage to his blink reflex, which required application of eye drops several times daily, but the problem resolved in a couple of months. His pinna, the outer ear, droops a bit as well, resembling a flag at half-staff.

And he wasn't quite done with treatment. Because the mass was malignant,



In 2008, Edmund was voted Washingtonian Magazine's "Cutest Cat in Washington."

Edmund did well for about 18 months, but then the tumors began to regrow. A CT scan found that the cancer had spread to one lymph node. George was referred to a surgeon, who suggested a total ear canal ablation, or TECA: a delicate and complex surgery to remove the entire ear canal. It's commonly performed not only for pets with ear canal tumors, but also those with chronic ear canal infections.

The dramatic surgery is performed when there are no medical options for treatment of external or middle-ear disease, says Elizabeth Layne, DVM, a veterinary dermatology specialist at the University of Wisconsin School of Veterinary Medicine in Madison. The immediate recovery period can be intense, but afterward, there's no more need to medicate the ears, a bonus for pets and owners alike.

"It can really improve everyone's quality of life," Dr. Layne says. "It's a major investment in time, and it's relatively expensive, but then you're finished with this chronic, frustrating, painful problem."

Interestingly, cats can still hear after this type of surgery. Although the opening into the ear canal is closed, the ear is still able to process sound waves. The main difference is that sounds may be somewhat muted, the way they would be if you plugged your ears with your fingers. Even if both ear canals are

Edmund needed a course of chemotherapy. The laid-back cat accepted six treatments at three-week intervals without the need for sedation and experienced few side effects.

"They gave him anti-nausea medication at the clinic, and only once did he show any signs of discomfort the next day," George says. "He didn't want to eat and sat hunched. This resolved itself after about 12 hours. For the remaining two treatments, the oncologist instructed me to give him anti-nausea medication prophylactically the day after treatment."

The only other side effect was the response of Edmund's littermate, Clarence.

"Clarence hissed at him for a couple of days after treatment and refused to lie near him. That is apparently how long it takes for the chemo to leave his system," George says.

If a full-body CT scan next month determines that the cancer hasn't spread anywhere else in the body, Edmund's prognosis is good. For other people considering this procedure for a cat or dog, George says, "Find the most experienced surgeon for a TECA and oncologist that you can. It is an expensive undertaking, but the odds were good that Edmund would make a complete recovery and live a normal lifespan, so I went for it." ■

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WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

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THURSDAY 3/28

The 23rd annual Pinecraft Arts & Crafts Festival — 9 a.m.-4 p.m. March 28-30, Beneva Marketplace, 1231 S Beneva Road located at intersection of Beneva Road and Bahia Vista Streets, Sarasota. More than 40 exhibitors including Amish and Mennonite and upscale artists from around the suncoast area. Free admission. www.ourtownsarasota.com.

“No Place on Earth” — 1:30 p.m. March 28, Braden River Branch Library, 4915 53rd Ave. E., Bradenton. Part of the Just Reel Films Series which brings Jewish-themed films to local venues. Hosted by the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee. Free, but donations of canned food, toys and school supplies are encouraged, and RSVP is required at 941-343-2113; 941-371-4546; www.jfedrsq.org.

The 27th annual Silver Fox Show — 7:30-9:30 p.m. March 28 and 2-4 p.m. March 30, Venice Airport Festival Grounds, 610 Airport Ave. E., Venice. This is a troupe of professionally-directed, volunteer performers who love '60s comedic variety shows, in the style of the queen of comedy/variety Carol Burnett. \$25. www.venicestage.com.

Brown Bag Lunch Concert “Folies” — March 28 - April 14, The Players Centre for Performing Arts, 838 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. 941-365-2494; www.theplayers.org.

Series — Noon to 1 p.m. March 28, Phillippi Estate Park Gazebo, 5500 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. Bring your lunch and lawn chair. An art show by the Watercolor Wednesday painters and Light Chasers Plein Air painters begins at 11 a.m. Free. www.scgov.net.

FRIDAY 3/29

“Infamous Sarasota” Happy Hour Tour — Fridays, Discover Sarasota Tours, 1826 Fourth St., Sarasota. Call it the Throwback Happy Hour Tour and relive the glory days of sun and scandal with tour guide Jonny Mac. If there are secrets, he knows them. Tickets include beer or wine at the Trolley Cottage Tiki Bar before boarding. Reservations required. \$35 per person. www.discoversarasotatours.com.

“Jazz at Two” featuring the James Suggs Trio — 2-4 p.m. March 29, Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota, 3975 Fruitville Road, Sarasota. James Suggs, one of the area's most accomplished trumpet players, performed and recorded with the best orchestras from Glenn Miller to Tommy Dorsey. \$10 for Sarasota Jazz Club members, \$15 for nonmembers. 941-366-1552.

Suncoast BBQ & Bluegrass Bash — 5-9 p.m. March 29 and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. March 30, Venice Airport Festival Grounds, 610 Airport Ave E., Venice. A barbecue contest, chili cook-off, corn hole and sporting clays tournaments, concessions, a car and truck show. Free admission and parking. www.suncoastbbqbash.com.

The seventh annual Wine Walk to Ca' d'Zan! — 6-10 p.m. March 29, Ringling Museum Grounds, 5401 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota. Fine wine and food along the drive to the mansion, then live music. \$135 or \$200 for VIP, which includes early entry at 5:30 p.m., valet service and a champagne toast, access to the VIP lounge on the terrace, featuring more food and drink and a dedicated service staff. www.ringling.org.

Free Music Friday Night — 6 p.m. March 29 at the Gazebo in Centennial Park, 200 W. Venice Ave., Venice. Pauline Moss performs. Bring folding chairs or blankets. Free. www.venicestage.com.

Bugsy Malone Jr. — 7:30 p.m. March 29, Venice Theatre, 140 West Tampa Ave., Venice. This MainStage production features the ECS theatre arts class performing in partnership with Venice Theatre. Tickets: \$10 adults, \$8 kids. 941-488-1115; www.venicestage.com.

SATURDAY 3/30

Country Store Sale — 8 a.m.-1 p.m. March 30, Grace United Methodist Church, 400 Field Ave. E., Venice. 941-488-1374.

“History by Candlelight Tour” — 7-9 p.m. March 30, Gamble Mansion and Plantation, 3708 Patten Avenue, Ellenton. Stroll through the past and hear about living on Florida's frontier from 1840 to 1860. \$8 online in advance. \$10 at the door. www.gambleplantation.org.

Laughter Yoga — 10 a.m. March 30 at the Gazebo in Centennial Park, 200 W. Venice Ave., Venice. Learn to naturally laugh with others as an exercise that will make you forget you're exercis-

ing. www.laughteryogavenice.com

“A Beary Big Adventure” — March 30-April 20, Keating Theatre. Children's theatre. Florida Studio Theatre, 1241 North Palm Avenue Sarasota. 941-366-9000; www.floridastudiotheatre.org.

SUNDAY 3/31

The AACA Car Show — 8 a.m.-3 p.m. March 31, Centennial Park, historic Downtown Venice. Features 22 class awards, five individual awards. Entrants get T-shirts and dash plaques, plus entry into two cash drawings. Info: Dennis Nubile at dnnl72@yahoo.com or 413-531-9762 or Rich at rpalbrecht1@gmail.com or 518-321-5807.

The Sandbar Restaurant's 32nd annual Easter Egg Hunt — 9 a.m. March 31 at the Pavilion at the Sandbar, 100 Spring Ave., Anna Maria. BYO baskets. The Easter Bunny will lead kids down Pine Avenue to the Easter egg roll, and a bonnet contest will take place. Refreshments follow.

The Siesta Key Children's Easter Party & Egg Hunt — 9 a.m.-noon March 31, Turtle Beach, 8918 Midnight Pass Road. For ages 1 - 6. Games, prizes, goody bags, fire truck and ambulance tours, mounted Sheriff's Patrol, face painting. <http://events.siestakeychamber.com>.

GoldenFest X — from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, March 31, Doggy Heaven canine park at the Shell Factory & Nature Park, 2787 N. Tamiami Trail, North Fort Myers. Vendors, exhibits, pet portraits, dock dog diving, a doggy garage sale, refreshments, a raffle and silent auction. Hosted by Golden Retriever Rescue of Southwest Florida. All breeds of well-mannered, leashed dogs welcomed. Free. www.grrswf.org; 239-369-0415.

The free Ski-A-Rees Water Ski Team Show — 2 p.m. March 31, Ski-A-Ree Stadium, 1602 Ken Thompson Parkway, behind Mote Marine Aquarium. Free. 941-388-1666; www.skiarees.com.

MONDAY 4/1

Gulf Coast Mineral, Fossil and Gem Club Monthly Meeting — 6-8 p.m. April 1, Venice Presbyterian Church, 825 The Rialto, Room # 9, Free. The club meets the first Monday of the month. Email: gvest201@yahoo.com or call 941-408-1711.

TUESDAY 4/2

Bee-Dazzled: The Annual Spring Luncheon — 11:30 a.m. April 2, Michael's on East, 1212 East Ave., Sarasota. Learn the untold history of beekeeping in the region and discover how a local beekeeper is creating jobs for veterans and young people with developmental disabilities. Head beekeeper Alma Johnson speaks. Hosted by the Gulf Coast Heritage Association. Tickets: \$100. www.historicspanishpoint.org.

WEDNESDAY 4/3

Public Art Tour — 1-2:30 p.m. April 3 and 10. Tours depart from the DST Trolley Depot located at 1826 Fourth St., Sarasota. Painter and public art expert Jerome Chesley narrates this 90-minute air-conditioned tour of some of the city's 50-plus public art pieces. \$35. discoversarasotatours.com; 941-260-9818.

“Wednesday's Child” — April 3-May 24, Gompertz Theatre, Florida Studio Theatre, 1241 North Palm Avenue

Sarasota. 941-366-9000; www.floridastudiotheatre.org.

ONGOING

Joseph's Coat Skyspace — Thursdays and Fridays at sunset, Ringling Museum of Art, 5401 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota. Called “a triumph of technology, engineering and aesthetics,” this exhibition features a sophisticated system of LED lights changes the color of the space and the context in which you view the sky. Yoga mats are encouraged. Dress for outdoor conditions. Arrive 30 minutes prior to sunset. \$10. Free for members. 941-359-5700; www.ringling.org.

“Writers on the Air” — 3 p.m. Sundays, Common Grounds Meeting Hall, 12735 Tamiami Trail in the Springs Plaza, North Port. Writers, poets and comedians of all levels with family friendly content are wanted to perform three- to five-minute sets on the non-profit radio station WKDW-97.5FM. Sign up at 2:30 p.m. Spectators welcomed. BYOB. Free. Info: Linda at 941-223-1262.

Last chance for “The Crucible” — March 28, Asolo Repertory Theatre, 5555 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. 941-351-8000; asolorep.org.

Last chance for “The Lion King” — Through March 31, Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, 777 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. 941-953-3368; 800-826-9303; www.vanwezel.org.

Last chance for “Guitar Girls” — Through March 31, Florida Studio Theatre, 1241 N. Palm Ave., Sarasota. A celebration of female singer-songwriters including icons June Carter-Cash, Joni Mitchell, Janis Joplin, Dolly Parton, and Carly Simon. A girl with a guitar can make an undeniable impact. Hear “Coal Miner's Daughter,” “Big Yellow Taxi” and “I Will Always Love You.” 941-366-9000; www.floridastudiotheatre.org.

Last chance for “Art Exhibition: Spring Members Show” — Through March 29, Venice Art Center, 390 Nokomis Ave. S., Venice. 941-485-7136; www.veniceartcenter.com.

Disenchanted! — Through April 14, Venice Theatre, 140 West Tampa Ave., Venice. Poisoned apples and glass slippers are so yesterday! The subversive hit musical that is anything but Grimm. \$32 adults, \$17 college students and \$15 kids. 941-488-1115; www.venicestage.com.

Sunday Polo — Sundays through April 28, Sarasota Polo Club, 8201 Polo Club Lane, Sarasota. Located in Lakewood Ranch on 130 acres, find polo action, tailgating, picnicking, half-time entertainment, Clydesdale wagon rides, and divot stomping. Food and drinks are available onsite or BYO picnic basket. Adults: \$12, free for younger than 12. Leashed dogs welcomed. 941-907-0000; www.sarasotapolo.com.

“Order Systems:” Canadian artist Natasha Mazurka's first U.S. solo show — Through Sept. 8, the Ringling Museum of Art, 5401 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota. Part of the “Art of Our Time” initiative, the museum's commitment to showing the work of living artists whose methods move beyond traditional practices. 941-359-5700; www.ringling.org.

LOOKING AHEAD

Ringling Underground — 8-11 p.m. April 4, Ringling Museum of Art. Live music in the Courtyard by local and regional performers. Select galleries will be open. Free with Art After 5

in the know



REIK

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- >> **REIK** — March 29, The Fillmore, Miami Beach. www.fillmoremb.com
- >> **JOHN MELLENCAMP** — March 30, Ruth Eckerd Hall, Clearwater. www.rutheckerd-hall.com
- >> **REIK** — March 30, House of Blues, Orlando. www.houseofblues.com/orlando
- >> **KRISTIN CHENOWETH** — March 31, Artis-Naples, Naples. artisnaples.ticketof-fices.com

APRIL

- >> **WHY DON'T WE** — April 1, CFE Arena, Orlando. www.cfearena.com
- >> **BONEY JAMES** — April 3, King Center for the Performing Arts, Melbourne. www.kingcenter.com
- >> **THE BEACH BOYS** — April 4, Sunset Green Event Lawn, Key West. www.thekey-westtheater.com
- >> **2CELLOS** — April 13, Amalie Arena, Tampa. amalie.arenatampa.org
- >> **2CELLOS** — April 14, Amway Center, Orlando. amway.centerorlando.com
- >> **LEON BRIDGES** — April 19, The Fillmore, Miami Beach. www.fillmoremb.com
- >> **LEON BRIDGES WITH JESS GLYNNE** — April 20, House of Blues, Orlando. www.houseofblues.com/orlando
- >> **THE TEMPTATIONS** — April 26, Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, Sarasota. www.vanwezel.org
- >> **THE FLORIDA ORCHESTRA** — April 27, Mahaffey Theater, St. Petersburg. www.themahaffey.com

— Compiled by Janis Fontaine

WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

admission. \$15. Free for members and college students. ID required. 941-358-3180; www.ringling.org.

Venice Area Garden Club Flower Show — 10 a.m.-4 p.m. April 5-6, Venice Community Center, 326 Nokomis Ave. S., Venice. An NGC small-standard flower show hosted by the Fairy Tales Member of National Garden Clubs, Inc., Deep South Region and Florida Federation of Garden Clubs, Inc., District VIII. Free. www.venicegardenclub.com.

Still Life and Still Life Collaboration Opening Reception — 5-7 p.m. April 5, Venice Art Center, 390 Nokomis Ave. S., Venice. Art by collaborators and solo artists, but all examining “still life.” On display through May 3. 941-485-7136; www.veniceartcenter.com.

Sarasota Opera’s Diamond Anniversary Recital — 5 p.m. Friday, April 5, 61 N. Pineapple Ave., Sarasota. The celebration will be completed with a post-recital dinner at the Art Ovation Hotel. Tickets for The Diamond Anniversary Celebration are \$295, which includes premium seating at the performance and the post-recital dinner. Tickets for the recital only are \$10. 941-328-1300; sarasotaopera.org.

“Palm Avenue’s First Friday Walks” — 6-9 p.m. April 5, and the first Friday of the month, along Palm Ave., Sarasota. Theme: “An Affair to Remember.” www.palmavenue.org.

Rhonda Vincent & The Rage Band — 7 p.m. April 5, Riverview Performing Arts, 1 Ram Way, Sarasota. Bluegrass music by the best in the business, and this is definitely not your grandma’s bluegrass. \$29-\$49. www.riverviewperformingarts.com.

The Player’s SNAP Series: Around the World In 88 Keys: Broadway to Billy Joel to Bach — 7:30 p.m. April 5, The Players Centre for Performing Arts, 838 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. Starring Brian Gurl and Katherine Alexandra. Ticket: \$25 premium, \$20 general. 941-365-2494; www.theplayers.org.

“Classical Trios: The Goldstein/Peled/ Fiterstein Trio — 7:30 p.m. April 6, 3 p.m. April 7, at the Historic Asolo Theater, 5401 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota. A program of Beethoven, Scarlatti and Debussy on piano, cello and clarinet. Part of the Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota. \$25-\$45. www.Artist-SeriesConcerts.org; 941-306-1202.

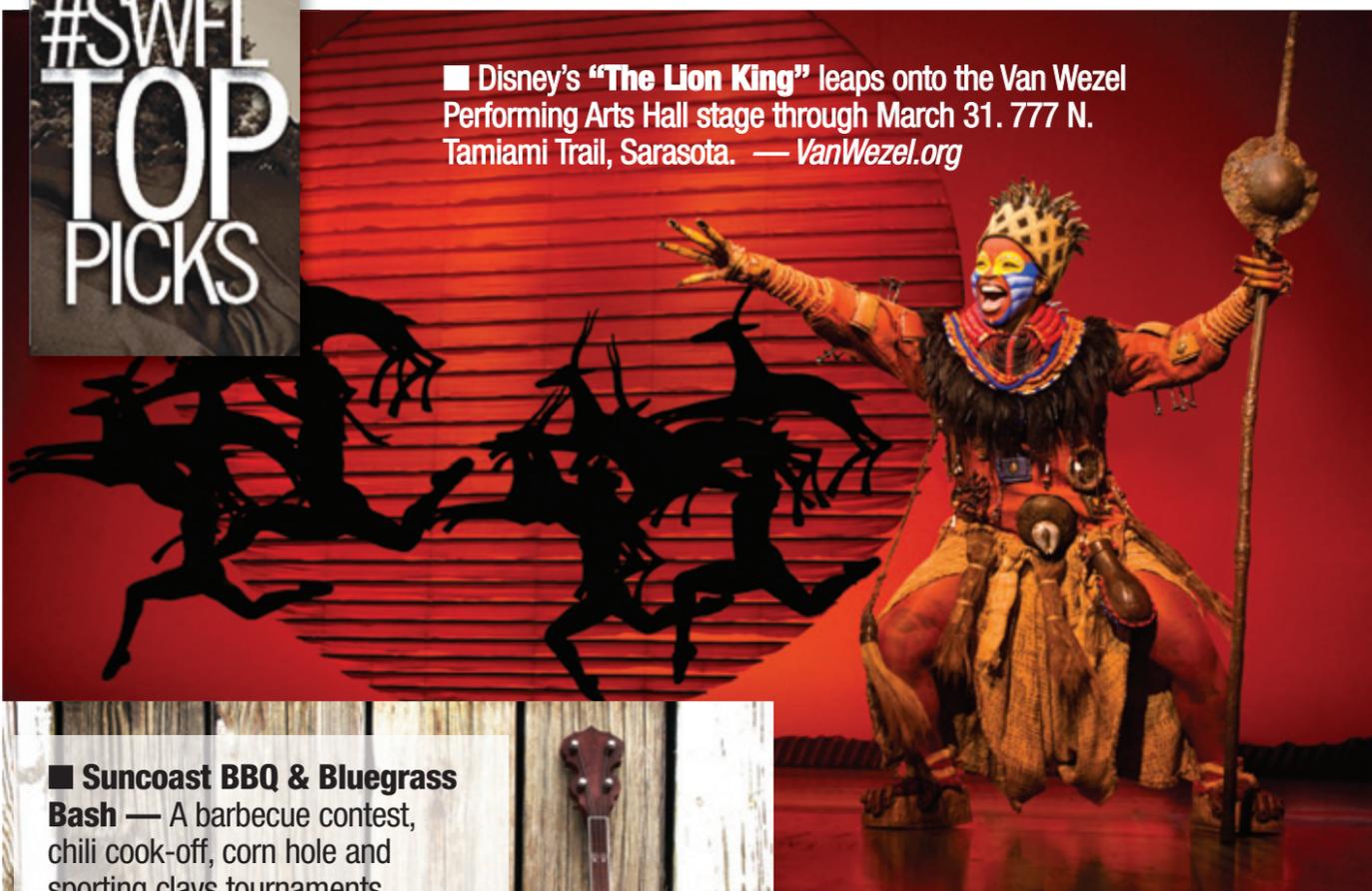
Support Our Soldiers Fundraiser — 6-9 p.m. April 7, 832 E. Venice Ave., Venice. The Veterans of Foreign War Post 8118 hosts an evening of dinner, comedy and music, plus silent and live auctions. \$30 Silent and live auctions. Proceeds benefit local veterans and their families. Call 941-484-8118.

City of Venice Casual Bike Ride — 10-11:30 a.m. April 10 and the second Wednesday of the month, leaving from the City Hall Parking Lot, 401 W. Venice Ave., Venice. A casual, 6-mile ride around the island of Venice along the Venice Island Loop. BYO bike and helmet. www.visitvenicefl.org. Email Culpepper at dculpepper@venicegov.com.

“Sammy Davis Jr. I Gotta Be Me” — 2 p.m. April 10, Temple Beth Israel, 567 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key. The film is based on the 1965 Davis memoir “Yes I Can: The Story of Sammy Davis, Jr.,” by Burt Boyar. Part of the Just Reel Films Series which brings Jewish-themed films to local venues. Hosted by the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee. Free, but donations of canned food,



■ Disney’s “The Lion King” leaps onto the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall stage through March 31. 777 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. — VanWezel.org



■ **Suncoast BBQ & Bluegrass Bash** — A barbecue contest, chili cook-off, corn hole and sporting clays tournaments, concessions, a car and truck show. 5-9 p.m. March 29 and 10 a.m.-6 p.m. March 30, Venice Airport Festival Grounds, 610 Airport Ave E., Venice. Free admission and parking.

— www.suncoastbbqbash.com



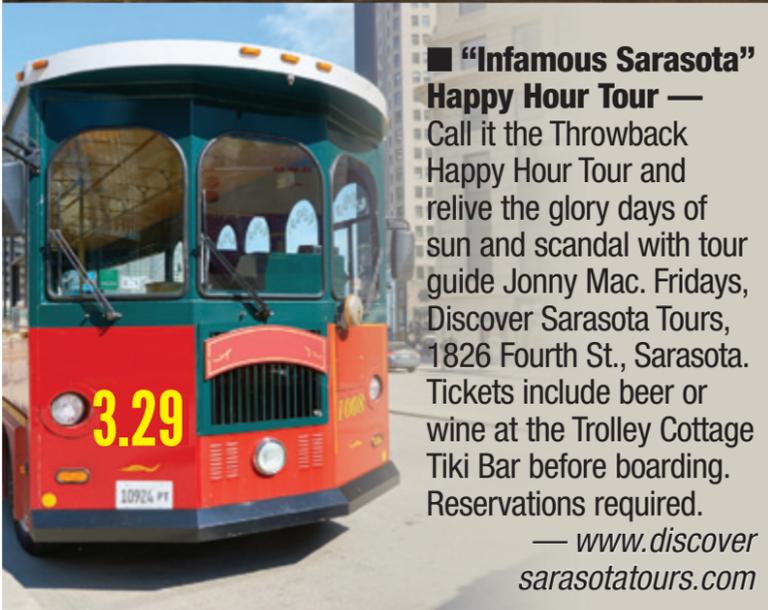
■ **The seventh annual Wine Walk to Ca’ d’Zan!** — Fine wine and food along the drive to the mansion, then live music. \$135 or \$200 for VIP, which includes early entry at 5:30 p.m., valet service and a champagne toast, access to the VIP lounge on the terrace, featuring more food and drink and a dedicated service staff. 6-10 p.m. March 29, Ringling Museum Grounds, 5401 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota.

— www.ringling.org



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— www.discover-sarasotatours.com



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— www.venicestage.com



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— www.ourtownsarasota.com



WHAT TO DO, WHERE TO GO

toys and school supplies are encouraged, and RSVP is required at 941-343-2113; 941-371-4546; www.jfedsrq.org.

Artini — April 10, Venice Art Center, 390 Nokomis Ave. S., Venice. Restaurants compete for most artistic martini and best tasting martini — you get to vote! — plus food pairings, live music, a reverse raffle and an open bar with beer, wine and mixers. Proceeds supporting the programs at the Venice Art Center. \$45 members, \$50 nonmembers. 941-485-7136; www.veniceartcenter.com.

Wine Walk — 5-8 p.m. April 11, 101 West Venice Ave., historic downtown Venice. www.visitvenicefl.org.

Gem, Jewelry & Bead Show — 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. April 12-14, Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, 801 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. Dealers from around the country selling gems, jewelry, beads, crystals. \$5 adults. www.frankcoxproductions.com.

Art Center Sarasota's Beau Arts Ball — April 12, at the Art Ovation Hotel. This costumed event features the 11th annual iconcept unconventional fashion show. 941-365-2032; www.artsarasota.org.

Artistic Rivals Series with Baila Miller — 1-2:30 p.m. April 16, Historic Spanish Point, 337 N. Tamiami Trail, Osprey. Topic: Jackson Pollock vs. Willem de Kooning. \$15 members, \$20 guests. 941-966-5214; www.historicspanishpoint.org.

The Venice Chorale performs "In the Land of the Living" — 7 p.m. April 16, Venice Performing Arts Center, 1 Indian Ave., Venice. The Brahms Requiem. \$20-\$25 and \$5 for students, 941-218-3779; www.thevenicechorale.org.

"Past, Present and Future: The Seminoles" — 7-8:30 p.m. April 16 at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice, 1971 Pinebrook Road, Venice. Speaker: David Scheidecker, research coordinator of the Tribal Historic Preservation Office, Seminole Tribe of Florida. This is the fourth in the Betty Intagliata Lecture Series, five lectures with theme "Southwest Florida's Native-Americans." 941-412-0151; www.veniceareahistoricalociety.org.

Full Moon Walking Ghost Tours — 7, 8 and 9 p.m. April 19, Historic Spanish Point, 337 N Tamiami Trail, Osprey. A 90-minute, ¼ mile storytelling tour of historic houses and the pioneer cemetery. \$20. Register online at www.historicspanishpoint.org. Info: 941-966-5214.

The Venice Concert Band performs "Happily Ever After" — April 22, at the Venice Performing Arts Center, 1 Indian Ave., Venice. www.veniceconcertband.org.

"A View from the Bridge" — April 25 - May 5, The Players Centre for Performing Arts, 838 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. The Arthur Miller classic. 941-365-2494; www.theplayers.org.

The Venice Symphony performs "American Roots" — 7:30 p.m. April 26 and 3:30 p.m. April 27, at the Venice Performing Arts Center, 1 Indian Ave., Venice. Outstanding works by great American composers, including Duke Ellington, Aaron Copland and John Williams. 941-207-8822; 941-412-4725; www.thevenicesymphony.org.

The Sarasota Opera presents "Composers in Song" — 7:30 p.m.

Friday, May 10, 61 N. Pineapple Ave., Sarasota. Tickets start at \$10. 941-366-8450; www.sarasotaopera.org.

THIS SEASON AT MAJOR VENUES

Art Center Sarasota — 707 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. Gallery Hours: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Saturday. Free. 941-365-2032; www.artsarasota.org.

"Parts Unknown" — Through Oct. 4. Solo exhibits and site-specific work by local and national artists.

■ **Gallery One:** Walter Matthews' densely worked canvases create a reflection of the artist's intensity and anxiety.

■ **Gallery Two:** "Spectrum IV" embeds the independent work of three national solo artists into an experimental installation that blurs the lines between collaboration and contamination.

■ **Gallery Three:** "New Realities," a series of micro-exhibitions, features the unique perspectives and studio practices of junior level fine art students attending Ringling College of Art and Design.

■ **Gallery Four:** "Unbound," an open, all-media, all-subjects, juried exhibition.

Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota — www.ArtistSeriesConcerts.org.

Classical Recitals:

■ **"Classical Trios"** — 7:30 p.m. April 6, 3 p.m. April 7, at the Historic Asolo Theater, 5401 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota. With the Goldstein/Peled/Fiterstein Trio,

■ **"An Afternoon of Operetta"** — 4 p.m. May 12, Sarasota Opera House, 61 N. Pineapple Ave., Sarasota. A production, featuring soloists, chorus and instrumentalists, which showcases works by composers whose names are synonymous with operetta.

Soirée Series:

"Gershwin & Chopin" with Igor Lovchinsky — 3 p.m. Sunday and 7:30 p.m. Monday, April 21-22, at the Fischer/Weisenborne residence, 7459 Cabbage Palm Court, Sarasota. The Chopin Project artist performs. Tickets are \$48. www.artistseriesconcerts.org. Email: donna@artistseriesconcerts.org with questions.

BookStore1 — 12 S. Palm Ave., Sarasota. www.sarasotabooks.com; 941-365-7900.

A Passage to India Presentation: Travel to India with Princess Sita — 2 p.m. March 31.

Linda Fairstein speaks and signs "Blood Oath" — 5 p.m. April 3. Free but RSVP at www.eventbrite.com.

Student Poetry Marathon — 4 p.m. April 6. Talented local students read their poetry.

Poetry Local Mic featuring poets Bill Buchman, Pat Owen and Georgia Court — 2 p.m. April 7.

Cartoonist Cathy Guisewite, creator of "Cathy" — 5 p.m. April 8. She'll speak about and sign her new book "Fifty Things that Aren't My Fault." Tickets are \$32, which includes a copy of the book.

Copperfish Books — 103 W. Marion Ave., First Floor, Punta Gorda. RSVP to 941-205-2560 or copperfishbooks@comcast.net for all events. Info: www.cop-

perfishbooks.com.

Florida Studio Theatre — 1241 N. Palm Ave., Sarasota. 941-366-9000; www.floridastudiotheatre.org.

Winter Cabaret:

■ **Guitar Girls** — Through March 31, Goldstein Cabaret.

■ **The Wonder Years: The Music of Baby Boomers** — Through June 9, Court Cabaret.

Historic Spanish Point — 337 N. Tamiami Tr., Osprey. Exhibits and buildings that illuminate the local history through American artifacts, a pioneer home, chapel and cemetery, and the classic gardens of Mrs. Potter Palmer. Hours: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission: \$15 adults, \$7 age 5-12, \$12 age 65+ and military, free for younger than 5. 941-966-5214; www.historicspanishpoint.org.

Tea with Bertha — 2 p.m. Sundays (ongoing) in the schoolhouse. An old-fashioned tea party hosted by Mrs. Bertha Palmer, who will share stories about her life. \$30 members, \$35 nonmembers. Reservations required.

Scavenger Hunt Through History — Get your first clue and start your search of the grounds.

Tours: Three great ways to dig deeper.

■ **Walking tours:** Free with admission.

■ **Tram tours:** \$5. Involves some walking and standing.

■ **Boat tours: \$12.** Dependent on tide and weather. Reservations recommended.

McCurdy's Comedy Theatre & Humor Institute — 1923 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota. 941-925-3869; www.mccurdyscomedy.com.

■ **John Dicrosta** — March 27, 28, 29, 30 and 31

■ **Beneva Fruitville's Drag Queen Bingo Bonanza** — March 31, April 28, May 26 and June 30

■ **Twinkle in Concert** — April 1

■ **Vic Henley** — April 3-7

■ **Dale Jones** — April 10, 11, 12, 13 and 14

■ **Black Diamond Burlesque** — April 14

■ **Jim Mccue** — April 17, 18, 19, 20 and 21

■ **Kellen Erskine** — April 24, 25, 26, 27 and 28

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Ringling College — Temple Beth Shalom, 1050 S. Tuttle Ave., Building #1, Sarasota. 941-309-5111; www.olliatringlingcollege.org.

LWR Talks Speaker Series — 10-11:30 a.m., Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club, 7650 Legacy Blvd., Lakewood Ranch. \$10.

■ **April 16:** "Embracing Life Transitions" by Kathy Flora.

The Players Centre for Performing Arts — 838 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. 941-365-2494; www.theplayers.org.

Follies — March 28 - April 14.

The Ringling Museum of Art — 5401 Bay Shore Rd., Sarasota. 941-359-

5700; www.ringling.org.

Exhibitions:

Woodblock Prints from Postwar Japan — Through May 5.

Special events:

Bayfront Gardens Tour — 10:30 a.m. Sundays through April, Bayfront Gardens. A walking tour will introduce key botanical specimens and provide an historic overview of the development of the property. \$15 or \$10 for members at ringling.org.

The Sarasota Ballet — Performances 941-359-0099; www.sarasotaballet.org.

Giselle (Program 7) — April 26-27 at Sarasota Opera House.

Other events:

Backstage at the Ballet — 9:30 a.m. select Tuesdays and Thursdays. Get a guided tour behind the scenes as dancers prepare for the day. Free, but reservations are required.

Sarasota Concert Association — 838 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. 941-225-6500; www.sarasotacsa.org

Great Performers Series — Through April 2. Concerts take place at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall except the Pavel Hass Quartet, which performs at Riverview Performing Arts Center.

Scheduled performers:

■ **The Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra** — 7:30 p.m. April 3. Featuring JoAnn Falletta, conductor, Fabio Bidini, piano.

Music Matinee Series — Noon select Wednesdays through April 10, Beatrice Friedman Symphony Center, 709 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. Regional artists perform free concerts once a month in a variety of styles, including classical, jazz, folk and opera. www.scasarasota.org.

■ **April 10:** Hein Jung, soprano Grigorio Zamparas, piano.

The Sarasota Institute of Lifetime Learning's Global Lecture Series. www.sillsarasota.org; 941-365-6404.

■ **The U.S. Role in the World: Domestic Debates and International Context** — 10 a.m. March 29, Venice Community Center, 326 S Nokomis Ave., Venice. Kathleen Hicks speaks.

Sarasota Opera — 61 N. Pineapple Ave., Sarasota. 941-366-8450; www.sarasotaopera.org.

The Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall — 777 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. 941-953-3368; 800-826-9303; www.VanWezel.org.

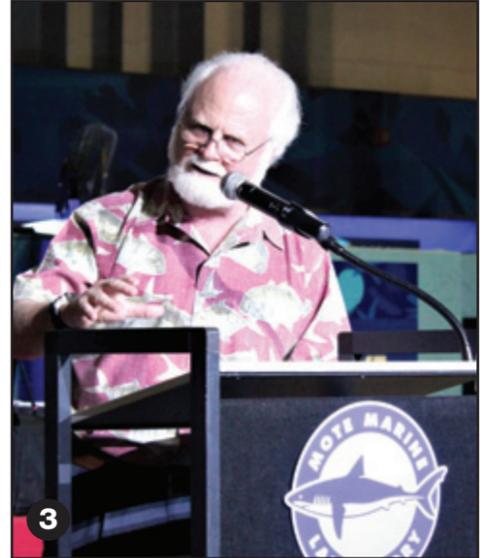
The Sarasota Orchestra — Through April 13. www.SarasotaOrchestra.org; 941-953-3434.

Masterworks Series: Peace and Joy (MW7) 8 p.m. April 5-6, and 2:30 p.m. April 7. Conductor: Anu Tali. Pops Series: Hollywood Hits — 8 p.m. April 12-13 and 2:30 p.m. April 13. Conductor: Andrew Lane.

Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra — 7:30 p.m. April 3, Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, 777 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. JoAnn Falletta, conductor; Fabio Bidini, piano. Produced by the Sarasota Concert Association. 941-953-3368; 800-826-9303; www.VanWezel.org. ■

SOCIETY

Mote Marine's annual Party at the Pass



CT Kimball,
Lynn Kukanza
and Jason Gall



1. Claire Opal-Levine
2. Carol Carter, Lynne Rubino, Kelly Rubino, Pat Short and Mark Short
3. Dr. Michael P. Crosby, president and CEO of Mote Marine
4. Christina Ostner, Missy Cooper and Kevin Cooper
5. DJs Ken Duquette and Jeff Fortin
6. Jen Ottemess, Erica Aultman, Jackie Elmore and Janel Shinn
7. Earl Layman, Ellen Layman, Susan Sherman and Ted Sherman
8. Laurie Kimball, Aden Russell and Susan May
9. Tracie Torxoer, Alex Jordan and Garrett Cadou
10. Jody Mayo and Steve Lansing

COURTESY PHOTOS

LATEST FILMS

'The Wedding Guest'

danHUDAK

punchdrunkmovies.com



★★★

Is it worth \$10? No

As "The Wedding Guest" opens, a man in a darkened room packs for a trip. He could easily turn the light on, but that would ruin the effect writer/director Michael Winterbottom is striving for, which is a sense of mystery and intrigue.

it merely checks off the list of expectations you have in your head, a list you were hoping the script would be clever enough to avoid.

Nonetheless, the film does reasonably well in holding our interest for four reasons: 1) Exotic locales (shot on location in Pakistan and India); 2) A smart use of modern technology affecting the journey, highlighting the impact of the 24/7 news cycle; 3) Convincing performances from Patel and Apte; and 4) The question of trust, avarice and emotion — the romance is inevitable, but what happens afterward is not. Money and greed are classic quandaries to dabble in, and are handled well here.



As ominous music plays, we see the man place multiple passports (among other things) in his luggage. We can't help but wonder who this guy is, what he is doing and why. It's intense. Mystery and intrigue accomplished.

The answers to these questions are initially interesting: The man is Jay (Dev Patel), and he's on his way to Pakistan. He's ostensibly travelling for an old friend's wedding, but in truth he's planning to kidnap the bride, Samira (Radhika Apte). She's to be part of an arranged marriage, and her lover (Jim Sarbh) has paid Jay to extract her from a lifetime of servitude. Jay does, but there are complications, and as the story progresses it becomes less compelling, culminating in a weak and anti-climactic ending.

In fairness, it couldn't have believably ended any other way, but that doesn't change how unsatisfactory it feels.

The film is a mix of good and bad, likely and unlikely, predictable and unpredictable. Given that we have two young and attractive leads, it's more a question of when, not if, romantic complications will ensue. When it happens, it's not dramatically interesting. Instead,

What's odd is how misleading the title is.

The story has nothing to do with a wedding, no wedding is depicted and nothing is wedding themed. Heck, Samira's arranged wedding is barely even mentioned. Given that the title suggests it's a romantic comedy, one wonders why and how this came to be the title.

Patel is best known for playing innocents in "Slumdog Millionaire," "Lion" and "The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel," so it's fun to see him play a bad guy who's rough around the edges. In contrast, Apte is a Bollywood star heretofore unknown in the U.S.; the limited effectiveness of "The Wedding Guest" will probably keep her relatively unknown, but she does have an appealing presence that could work in the right role in the right film. This, clearly, isn't it. ■

in the know

Writer/director Michael Winterbottom has made a number of films you've heard of but probably don't love, including "A Mighty Heart" with Angelina Jolie and the "Trip" trilogy with Steve Coogan and Rob Brydon.

FILM CAPSULES

BY DAN HUDAK

To Dust ★★★½

(Matthew Broderick, Geza Rohrig, Sammy Voit) A Hasidic cantor (Rohrig) seeks answers about his wife's death from a community college biology professor (Broderick).

It's an interesting, albeit a bit depressing, black comedy that smartly explores uncommon questions surrounding death. Rated R.

Captain Marvel ★★½

(Brie Larson, Jude Law, Samuel L. Jackson) The story of how Carol Danvers became Captain Marvel (Larson) is told as she fends off villainous Skrulls on Earth.

She's a bit of a bore as a lead character, but this satiates the palate enough to get us even more excited for "Avengers: Endgame" next month. Rated PG-13.

Arctic ★★★

(Mads Mikkelsen, Maria Thelma Smaradottir) Stranded in the Arctic after a plane crash, a pilot finds inspiration to keep going as he aids a wounded woman. Mikkelsen's strong performance and the no-frills story make this a struggle for survival that's worth seeing. Rated PG-13.

The Kid Who Would Be King ★★★

(Rebecca Ferguson, Patrick Stewart, Louis Ashbourne Serkis) With the ancient evil Morgana (Ferguson) about to resurface, King Arthur's descendant, tweener Alex (Serkis), pulls the sword from the stone and leads a band of knights to stop her.

It's a fun reimagining of the legend that has a nice message for any early teen who isn't the most popular kid in school. Rated PG.

The LEGO Movie 2: The Second Part ★★

(Voices of Chris Pratt, Elizabeth Banks, Will Arnett) It's Emmet (Pratt) to the rescue after monsters destroy his hometown of Bricksburg and kidnap his friends.

Although it's amusing for older kids and adults and the self-aware humor is welcome, the franchise itself is losing its luster. Rated PG.

They Shall Not Grow Old ★★★★★

(Directed by Peter Jackson) Comprised entirely of archival

footage, propaganda and photo stills that have been digitally remastered and colorized in 3D, the documentary is a look at the lives of British soldiers during World War I. Fascinating and filled with details, it's unlike any World War I movie you've seen. Rated R.

Stan & Ollie ★★★

(Steve Coogan, John C. Reilly, Shirley Henderson) Years after their Hollywood stardom, Stan Laurel (Coogan) and Oliver Hardy (Reilly) tour the United Kingdom as Hardy's health starts to wane.

Coogan and Reilly are solid as the titular pair, but the movie is dramatically uneven and not as funny as you'd expect. Rated PG.

Ben Is Back ★★★½

(Julia Roberts, Lucas Hedges, Courtney B. Vance) On Christmas Eve, drug addict teenager Ben (Hedges) leaves rehab and returns to his family home, thrilling his mother (Roberts) but making his siblings and stepfather (Vance) nervous. Roberts is in top form throughout, but the strong first half gives way to a cliché-ridden conclusion. Rated R.

If Beale Street Could Talk ★★★★★

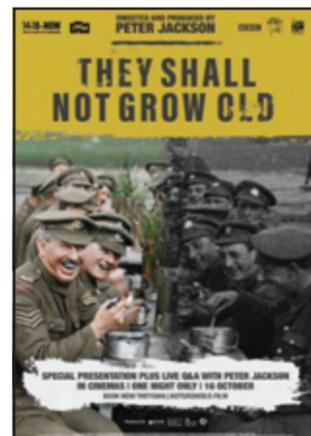
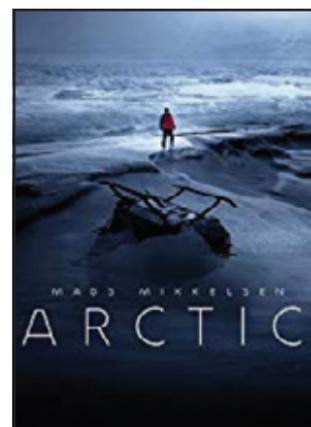
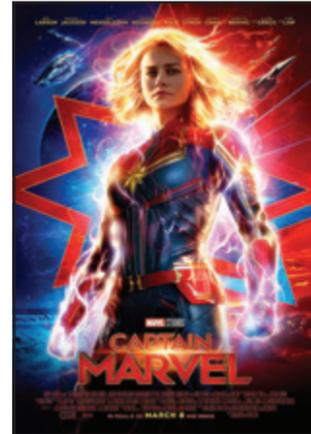
(KiKi Layne, Stephan James, Regina King) The loving courtship of Tish (Layne) and Fonny (James) is juxtaposed with scenes of prison visits after he's (allegedly) falsely accused of rape.

We see them fall in love and desperately try to hold onto that love, especially as Tish is pregnant. It's a beautifully made film from director Barry Jenkins ("Moonlight"), with music, narrative structure and performances (especially King as Tish's mother) are all outstanding. Rated R.

Mary Queen of Scots ★★★★★

(Saoirse Ronan, Margot Robbie, Guy Pearce) The story of Mary Stuart (Ronan), Queen of Scotland, as she had a "frenemy" relationship with her cousin, Britain's Queen Elizabeth I (Robbie).

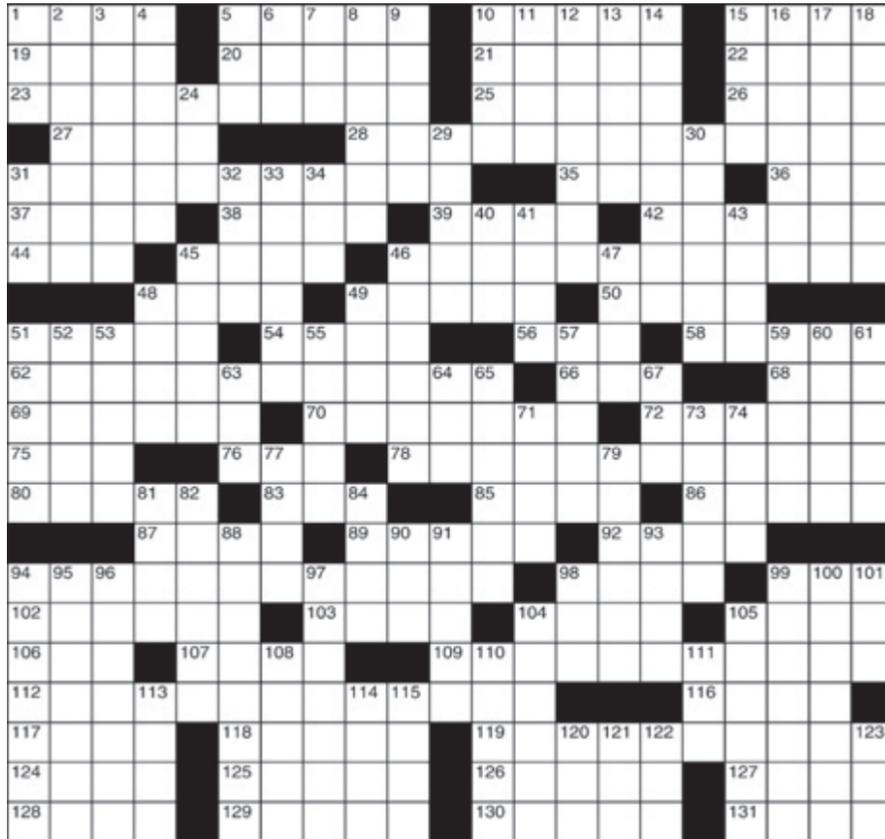
Robbie has the higher-profile role, but it's Ronan who shines as the beleaguered Mary. It's not a great movie, but the performances are good enough for its leads to be in the awards conversation. Rated R. ■



PUZZLES

ANIMAL ADAPTATIONS

- ACROSS**
- 1 Cut, as film
 - 5 "— I lie?"
 - 10 Grows dim
 - 15 Opera parts
 - 19 Major- (butler)
 - 20 Region of old Greece
 - 21 Fictional belle Scarlett
 - 22 Tales of old
 - 23 One stealing a serpent?
 - 25 Houses, to Hernando
 - 26 Came to rest
 - 27 Aid in antiquing
 - 28 Escort a wild canine?
 - 31 Slender, like stags tend to be?
 - 35 Suit jacket
 - 36 35mm camera inits.
 - 37 Wimple wearers
 - 38 King Kong and others
 - 39 Caucus state
 - 42 "Capeesh?"
 - 44 Golf prop
 - 45 Glass rims
 - 46 Grizzly who's a country music star?
 - 48 Battery part
 - 49 Vital artery
 - 50 Norse deity
 - 51 Of the eyes
 - 54 Verdi opera
 - 56 Vim
 - 58 Terminate
 - 62 Choice between an impish practical joke and an aquarium fish?
 - 66 Boomer's son, say
 - 68 Sequoia, e.g.
 - 69 Gobbling fowl
 - 70 Show open disdain for
 - 72 Neighbor of Kenya
 - 75 Butyl ender
 - 76 Feline sign
 - 78 Young sheep from an ancient Palestinian region?
 - 80 Varnish stuff
 - 83 Antelope of Africa
 - 85 Went lower
 - 86 French novelist Jules
 - 87 Octa- plus two
 - 89 Belie
 - 92 \$5 bills, informally
 - 94 Pinniped
 - 98 Certain Fed
 - 99 K-12 org.
 - 102 Mrs. monster
 - 103 Make at work
 - 104 Singer Andy
 - 105 Outward appearance
 - 106 — hunch
 - 107 Tiny, to tots
 - 109 Steed native to the Garden State?
 - 112 The absolute best
 - 117 Thus burrowing rodent?
 - 118 Gymnast Comaneci
 - 119 Gratitude expressed by a chatty bird?
 - 124 Retail (for)
 - 125 Wicked things
 - 126 Innately know
 - 127 — Tzu (dog)
 - 128 Sequoia, e.g.
 - 129 Chief belief
 - 130 Trample
 - 131 Totally fill
- DOWN**
- 1 Mag staffers
 - 2 Phil who had a talk show
 - 3 Conceive of
 - 4 Coin substitutes
 - 5 Jokester
 - 6 "Nice one!"
 - 7 Octa- minus seven
 - 8 Feudal superiors
 - 9 "Platoon" actor Willem
 - 10 Points where rays meet
 - 11 At the drop of —
 - 12 Windshield-attached recorder
 - 13 Muse of hymns
 - 14 Glided down the runway
 - 15 "There oughta be —!"
 - 16 Huge statues
 - 17 Singer doing a vocal quaver
 - 18 Emancipate
 - 24 Time period of interest
 - 29 More twisted, as humor
 - 30 Running shoe brand
 - 31 Blasting material
 - 32 Go by sea
 - 33 Materialize
 - 34 — Moines, Iowa
 - 40 Granola bar bit
 - 41 End a shoot
 - 43 — Reader (magazine)
 - 45 "Willard" actress
 - 46 Moored ship used as lodging
 - 47 Get by
 - 48 Opt for
 - 49 Yemen port
 - 51 Ferret cousin
 - 52 Pare down
 - 53 Car's four
 - 55 "Let's do this thing!"
 - 57 Praise highly
 - 59 Seven-Emmy Ed
 - 60 Neighbor of Ethiopia
 - 61 Get by
 - 63 Popeye's Olive
 - 64 Stephen of "Still Crazy"
 - 65 Amount that can be carried
 - 67 Hairpiece, slangily
 - 71 Help in a bad deed
 - 73 Accepted fact
 - 74 Toby brews
 - 77 The same, to Henri
 - 79 Served in blazing brandy
 - 81 Notion, to Henri
 - 82 Reporter, colloquially
 - 84 — Major
 - 88 Musical clicker
 - 90 Always, in sonnets
 - 91 Bluegrass instrument
 - 93 Wee toddler
 - 94 Most quickly
 - 95 Cold-shoulder giver
 - 96 Make dirty by trailing through mud
 - 97 Entered, as data
 - 98 Mil. enlistees
 - 99 Nasty fish
 - 100 Diagnostic package
 - 101 Hex- follower
 - 104 Less cheery, to a Brit
 - 105 Boggy tract
 - 108 Barrel slat
 - 110 "Nightmare" film setting: Abbr.
 - 111 "So there!"
 - 113 Part in a play
 - 114 Really peeve
 - 115 Gigantic
 - 120 Rome-to-Vienna dir.
 - 121 Slow — snail
 - 122 Politico Cruz
 - 123 That vessel



SEE ANSWERS, A26 ►

HOROSCOPES

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A suggestion from a colleague on how to work out a problem might not sit too well with you. But before you suspect his or her motives, why not just accept it as a friendly gesture?

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) An associate might seek your counsel on a workplace dispute with another co-worker. Listen to what she or he has to say, but withhold advice until you've heard the other side of the story.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Use your Twin gifts for creativity and practicality to score points in landing an opportunity that could open doors to a new career. Someone returns after a long absence.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Although things are pretty hectic through much of the week, some quiet time with loved ones helps restore balance. An unexpected visitor brings welcome news about a mutual friend.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Getting used to change isn't always easy

for the Big Cat. But make the adjustments gradually, and soon you'll hardly remember when things were any different from how they are now.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Continue to stay the course you've chosen, and avoid distractions that could throw you off track. Some knowledgeable folks are happy to provide guidance if you need it.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Although you earned plaudits from most co-workers for your recent stand on a workplace situation, you also raised the envy quotient among others. Tread carefully for now.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You feel more positive about that delayed project, and you're ready to pick it up on a moment's notice. However, you might need to re-motivate those who have since lost interest.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Some welcome news should be coming your way. In the

meantime, use that Sagittarius charm to convince some still-reluctant colleagues that your ideas have merit.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Don't wait for a misunderstanding to work itself out. Instead, ask for a chance to explain the circumstances before those bruised feelings lead to an irreversible break.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A physical problem should be checked out in order to avoid it going from just being a nuisance to something more serious. Your social life takes an unexpected but not unwelcome turn.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Yours might be the wisest sign in the Zodiac. But you still could benefit from the wisdom of a close friend who has suggestions on how to handle a perplexing personal problem.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your passion for doing the right thing inspires others to follow your well-trodden path toward justice. ■

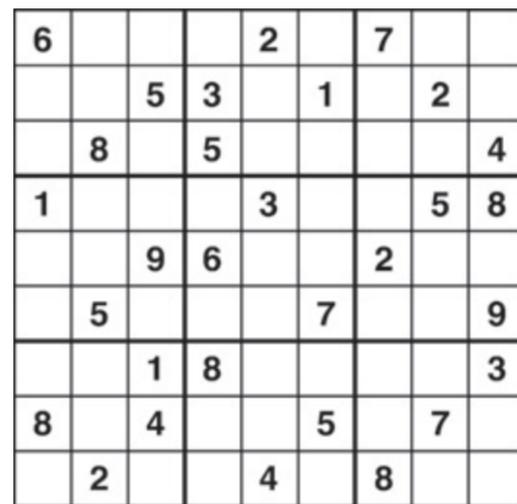
SUDOKU

Difficulty level:



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

By Linda Thistle



SEE ANSWERS, A26 ►



3D Guided Dental Implant Placement • Fixed Dentures • Same Day Crowns
Full Mouth Restorations • IV Sedation • Expert Teeth Whitening



Dr. Brent Beyer

Dr. Charles Davis

Dr. Frank Lewicki

Choose a package for your Loved ones this Easter!

Package ONE

Custom Facial w/either toner or a cleanser

\$100

Package TWO

VI Peel w/Precision Plus Dual Booster

\$200

Package THREE

Micro-Needling (3 appointments) pre paid

\$400

15% off Gift Certificates Available



COLLECTOR'S CORNER

A reminder: If you've got it, use it and enjoy it



scott SIMMONS
ssimmons@floridaweekly.com

I saw a happy-making sight this weekend — a friend hosted a 60th birthday party for himself, and he trotted out the finery.

It wasn't a formal party, either — many of the guests were wearing shorts or jeans.

But who says we have to save the good stuff for fancy occasions?

Since settling into a new home, my friend Wayne has quietly been collecting a favorite silver pattern, Whiting's Lily.

Lily, first made in 1902, is a quintessential Art Nouveau pattern, encrusted with foliage and with big lilies vaguely reminiscent of something Georgia O'Keeffe might have conjured decades later.

Simply seeing a few serving pieces brings pleasure and sparks oohs and ahs.

An oyster soup ladle was perfect for scooping out portions of pasta with shrimp — which were served from an elegant punch bowl. The nearly foot-long salad-serving spoon and fork were ideal for their intended purpose, doling out bundles of greens and cherry tomatoes. And the huge carving set sliced out servings of beef, served rare and accompanied by a horseradish sauce on the side — yes, he had a cream ladle

set aside for that purpose.

Those pieces of silver were the grace notes of the table — along with exquisite cuisine, of course — and they lent a little pomp to an otherwise casual affair.

Earlier that day, I'd stopped by Kofski's, a Palm Beach antiques shop that recently marked its 80th anniversary.

Kofski's is packed with the finest of the finest of dinnerware and accessories from the last two centuries — Spode and Royal Crown Derby plates compete for space alongside Steuben, Lalique, Baccarat and St. Louis crystal. I don't need a thing, but it's fun to look, and I do have my eye on some dinner forks Kofski's has for sale.

One by one, customers wandered in, admired pieces and chuckled over how their children no longer wanted their things. Of course, I'm wagering that these ladies almost never use their finery anymore — if they ever did.

But as the play "Our Town" teaches us, it's not the special occasions that make us appreciate people and things, it's the day-to-day interaction, repetition and familiarity that spark love.

It's that interaction that might encourage the kids and grand-



kids to want to use that gravy boat or that silver.

Wayne said it perfectly: "If you've got it, use it."

As he proved, you don't necessarily have to make a big fuss — three or four

pieces make nice grace notes on any table.

And it's important to remember that it's the people with whom the objects are associated that make them special. ■



REPLACEMENTS LTD.
A Whiting Lily teaspoon, first made in 1902.

FLORIDA WEEKLY PHOTO
A 12-inch Fiesta compote dates from the 1930s or '40s.

THE FIND: A large 1930s Fiesta cobalt-glaze compote.

The Place: The Church Mouse, 374 S. County Road, Palm Beach; 561-659-2154 or www.bbts.org/about-us/church-mouse/.

Paid: \$28.

The Skinny: I love finery, but I love my Fiesta ware, too.

Both of my grandmothers had sets.

The maternal grandmother bought hers in 1937 and chose a mixed set of cobalt and ivory. Alas, she couldn't deal with the lint that showed on the dark glaze and gave the set away. I have a chipped ashtray from her set.

My paternal grandmother bought

her turquoise set around the same time. Her set had accent pieces in yellow and ivory. I rescued it from a bean hamper in a barn on the family farm around 1985.

This large compote makes an impressive centerpiece — I can picture it filled with fruit or flowers or even an elegant salad. The footed bowl will look great with my turquoise Fiesta.

It dates from the 1930s or '40s.

There's nothing highfalutin' about it, but Fiesta does set a pretty table. The Art Deco lines of the dinnerware are elegant and the colors spark a smile.

Sometimes, a smile is all you need. ■

Bat maternity season begins

If you believe there are bats in your house, now is the time to check your attic, eaves or chimney spaces to exclude them. Bat maternity season begins April 15 and runs through Aug. 15, and during this time it's illegal to block bats from their roost.

"This is a critical time of year for bats, when they give birth and raise their young," said Terry Doonan, a Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission biologist and mammal conservation coordinator. "If bats are excluded from a building before their young can fly, they can become trapped inside and die."

Florida is home to 13 resident bat spe-

cies, including listed species such as the Florida bonneted bat. Some bat species roost in artificial structures, including buildings and houses. Although it is illegal to harm or kill bats in Florida, rules have been developed stating legal exclusion of bats has to occur outside the maternity season. Bats cannot legally be captured or relocated, a news release said.

Exclusion guidelines on how to remove bats from buildings can be found at www.MyFWC.com/Bats.

If you need assistance, contact your closest FWC Regional Office to speak with a regional wildlife assistance biologist for more information. ■

PUZZLE ANSWERS

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CUISINE

First Watch's rising star: Chef Shane Schaibly

BY EMILY LEINFUSS

FLORIDA WEEKLY CORRESPONDENT

First Watch had long been a destination for Venice breakfast (and lunch) lovers willing to travel to Sarasota for their morning meal. Then a few years ago the restaurant made his pancakes, Benedict, or bacon-and-eggs dreams come true locally, when the Bradenton-based franchise opened in Jacaranda Plaza in June 2016.

"It was huge, because a lot of those people were driving 45 minutes or maybe an hour to get to their nearest First Watch. So they were very, very happy," said Shane Schaibly, First Watch's vice president of culinary strategy.

Mr. Schaibly has had a significant hand in making and keeping First Watch customers happy since he took the job in 2014, after a mutual friend connected him with the now CEO and president of First Watch, Chris Tomasso. "Chris lured me down with the opportunity join a brand that had been around for 30 years, that I remember going to as a child," said Mr. Schaibly. "He told me they wanted someone who was young, had vision and would be willing and able to help them evolve the brand."

The Schaiblys — Shane, his wife Lisa and son Jackson — were living in Tampa at the time. Within three months the family had moved to Bradenton, had daughter Olive, and he was ready to go help transform the restaurant into the award-winning, daytime-only, made-to-order place it is today. From the start the idea was to not get pigeonholed into one type of restaurant. "We set out to do things differently, like you can have healthy meals that easily fit into a dietary trend, or you can have chocolate chip pancakes and other indulgent items. We let the customer decide," he explained.

High-rise chef

Mr. Schaibly has been doing things differently his entire career by excelling and rising quickly through culinary ranks, starting with graduating at the top of his class at Johnson & Wales University in 2005. "I was 21 when I entered culinary school, working at The Ritz-Carlton at 22 and by 25 I was corporate chef at Front Burner Brands in Tampa," he said.

He credits his success to a dedication to the craft and his love for food and cooking. "I started working in the industry when I was 14 years old, although I may have claimed I was 16 at the time," he joked. Born and raised in Pinellas County, Mr. Schaibly really was 16 when



he and his fellow surfer buddies would make the "big" drive down to the Venice Jetties to surf. "Those are my earliest memories of Venice," he said.

Today he sees local Venice restaurants, and those in smaller towns all over the country, gaining real culinary credibility. "It's already happened in cities like Sarasota and Tampa/St. Pete," he said. Now, in places like Venice and Dunedin (where he grew up) "there are lots of great craft restaurants and breweries."

Sassy in the kitchen

From day one, Mr. Schaibly knew the restaurant industry was the place for him. "I liked the camaraderie and the sassiness. It didn't matter what country or race, whether you were covered in tattoos or had a Mohawk, we were all family in the kitchen. In fact, he enjoys being the tattooed guy in the kitchen and in the corporate meeting place. Each tattoo represents a time period in his life journey, including the traditional, hand-tapped tattoos from Indonesia and Thailand.

Mr. Schaibly is especially proud of two of his broad-stroke accomplishments at First Watch. The first was starting a fresh juice program in 2015. "It sounds silly but that was a true game-changer,"



he said. It led to more changes, particularly the chance to experiment and play with trends and tastes by offering five seasonal menus a year.

Then there is Project Sunrise. In January of 2018, First Watch completely changed how it sourced its coffee by partnering with Mujeres en Café (Women in Coffee) — an organization of female coffee growers in the Huila

department of Colombia. The group's mission is to create sustainable businesses that elevate the lives of their families and improve conditions in their rural communities.

Mr. Schaibly is also awed that he can create a menu where, in 250 or so First Watch restaurants, people are eating his food every single day. "That is super humbling," he said. ■

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ARTS BRIEFS

From page 16

group that has performed several times at the Sarasota Improv Festival.

Back for another season of laughter are returning cast members: Will Luera, Christine Alexander, Jason Cannon, Chris Friday, Joey James, Darryl Knapp, Emily Levin, Denee Lortz, Elise Rodriguez, Anna Weatherwax, Sergei Glushonkov, Mikal Mancini and Jim Prosser.

"Tournament of Fools" plays in FST's Bowne's Lab Theatre on April 13 for one-night-only. "Life's a Beach" runs every Friday from April 19 to June 28, and "FST Comedy Freestyle" runs every Saturday from April 20 to June 29 in FST's Bowne's Lab Theatre.

All performances take place at 7:30 p.m. with doors opening one hour before show time. Full menu and bar are available. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased from the FST Box Office, 1241 North Palm Ave., Sarasota, by calling 941-366-9000 or online at floridastudiotheatre.org.



Silver Foxes present spring show at Venice Theatre's MainStage

Venice Theatre's senior performance troupe, The Silver Foxes, presents its 27th annual spring production March 25-30. Performances are at 7:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday and Thursday and 2 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday. There is no performance on Friday.

This year's show is called "Sounds of the City: A Broadway Melody" and includes songs, dances and comedy from hit musicals such as "Fiddler on the Roof," "My Fair Lady," "Les Miserables" and "South Pacific."

Tickets at \$25 are available online at www.venicestage.com, by phone at 941-488-1115 at the box office, 140 West Tampa Ave., on the island of Venice, from 10 a.m.- 5 p.m., Monday through Friday and one hour before all shows. Subscriptions for 2019-2020 Season are also on sale now.

'The Fourth Industrial Revolution: Technology: What to Expect'

Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Ringling College's next Einstein's Circle, "The Fourth Industrial Revolution: Technology: What to Expect" with Alex Beavers, Ph.D., will take place at 2:30-4 p.m. Wednesday, March 27 in the Social Hall at Temple Beth Shalom, 1050 South Tuttle Ave., Sarasota. Dr. Beavers will discuss how the development of artificial intelligence, augmented reality, and algorithms are rapidly changing the way we act and react to the world around us. Tickets are \$10 for silver members and general admission; \$9 for gold members. Registration is recommended by visiting www.olliatringlingcollege.org or calling 941-309-5111.

Dr. Beavers is a high-technology executive, entrepreneur and author of 26 papers and three books. Included in his history of successful undertakings is leading the commercialization of advanced electronics, automation systems, advanced materials, medical devices, and clean technolo-



BEAVERS

gies for Stanford Research Institute. He holds a B.S., M.S. and a Ph.D. in electrical engineering and an M.B.A. in financial management.

Einstein's forums are moderated by experts on a variety of timely topics and provide an opportunity for participants to engage in a thoughtful exchange of ideas, opinions, and information. "If it's relevant, timely and interesting there's a good chance we'll be talking about it at Einstein's Circle," said Bev Harms, the series coordinator.



National tour of 'Menopause the Musical®' plays Sarasota

GFour Productions, winner of 44 Tony Awards and 54 Drama Desk Awards, is bringing the international hit show "Menopause The Musical®" to the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall in Sarasota for one show only at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 17. Tickets are on sale now and available at the Van Wezel Box Office, 777 North Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, online at www.vanwezel.org or by calling 941-953-3368. Greater discounts for groups of 10 or more are available by calling 941-363-2025.

"Menopause The Musical®" is a groundbreaking celebration of women who are on the brink of, in the middle of, or have survived "The Change." Now celebrating 17 years of female empowerment through hilarious musical comedy, the show has evolved as a "grassroots" movement of women who deal with life adjustments after 40 by embracing each other and the road ahead.

Set in a department store, four women meet while shopping for a black lace bra at a lingerie sale. After noticing unmistakable similarities among one another, the cast jokes about their woeful hot flashes, mood swings, wrinkles, weight gain and much more. These women form a sisterhood and unique bond with the entire audience as they rejoice in celebrating that menopause is no longer "The Silent Passage."

Inspired by a hot flash and a bottle of wine, the play is a celebration of women who find themselves at any stage of "The Change." The laughter-filled 90-minute production gets audience members out of their seats and singing along to parodies from classic pop songs of the '60s, '70s and '80s.

Pre-show dining is available at Mattison's Bayside is in the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall and can be reserved at VanWezel.org or through the Box Office.

Venice Chorale's season finale

The Venice Chorale will perform Johannes Brahms' "Eins Deutsches Requiem" ("A German Requiem") with orchestra at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, April 16, under the direction of Peter A. Madpak, at the Venice Performing Arts Center. The chorale welcomes soloists Johanna Fincher, soprano and Peter Sims, baritone.

Unlike most requiems, which offer prayers for the dead using Latin text from the traditional mass of the Roman Catholic Church, Brahms' "German Requiem" is focused on offering comfort to the living and uses a combination of text from the Old and New Testaments and Biblical Apocrypha from Luther's translation of the Bible.

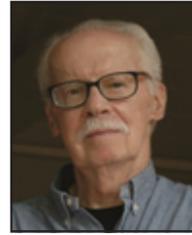
His remark that "As far as the text is concerned, I will confess that I would very gladly omit the German, and simply put of Humankind," suggests that he wished to offer this solace to all listeners, regardless of their own religious beliefs or

backgrounds. The chorale's season finale also features pieces sung by The Venice Chorale Youth Chorus and The Venice Chorale Apprentice Chorus.

Tickets are \$20-\$25 and \$5 for students. To purchase, visit www.thevenicechorale.org or call the VPAC Box Office, 1 Indian Ave building 5, Venice at 941-218-3779, Monday -Friday, 10am -2pm.

Hermitage Artist Retreat presents author Michael Mewshaw

The Hermitage Artist Retreat presents a reading with author Michael Mewshaw, who will present excerpts from his new memoir, "The Lost Prince: A Search for Pat Conroy," an intimate memoir of his friendship with the author of such classics as "The Prince of Tides" and "The Great Santini."



MEWSHAW

This free event is at 4 p.m. Tuesday, April 9, in the Palm House at the Hermitage Artist Retreat in Englewood. Reservations for this free program are required and can be requested at www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org. For more information about the Hermitage, visit www.HermitageArtistRetreat.org.

Pat Conroy was America's poet laureate of family dysfunction. A larger-than-life character, he's remembered for his energy, his exuberance, and his self-lacerating humor.

Mr. Mewshaw's "The Lost Prince" is an intimate memoir of his long friendship with Mr. Conroy. Shortly before his 49th birthday, Mr. Conroy telephoned Mr. Mewshaw to ask a terrible favor. With great reluctance, Mr. Mewshaw did as he was asked — and never saw Pat Conroy again. Although they never managed to reconcile their differences completely, Mr. Conroy later urged Mr. Mewshaw to write about "me and you and what happened . . . I know it would cause much pain to both of us, but here is what that story has that none of your others have." "The Lost Prince" is Mewshaw's fulfillment of a promise.

Michael Mewshaw's five-decade career includes award-winning fiction, nonfiction, literary criticism and investigative journalism. He is the author of the nonfiction works, "Sympathy for the Devil: Four Decades of Friendship with Gore Vidal" and "Between Terror and Tourism: An Overland Trip Across North Africa," the novel, "Year of the Gun" and the memoir, "Do I Owe You Something? A Memoir of the Literary Life."

He has published in The New York Times, The Washington Post, the Los Angeles Times and numerous international outlets. He spends much of his time in Key West.

Attendees are invited to stay and enjoy the beach afterward. The Hermitage Artist Retreat Palm House is at 6630 Manasota Key Road, Englewood.

'The Risen Christ' cantata at Englewood United Methodist

An Easter cantata concludes the 11th annual Englewood United Methodist Church Music Ministry 2018-2019 Concert Series at 9:15 and 11 a.m. Sunday, March 31, in the Sanctuary at 700 E. Dearborn St., Englewood.

"The Risen Christ" cantata will serve as the worship services. A free nursery is provided for ages 3 and under, and children's ministry programs are available.

More than 70 voices in the EUMC Sanctuary Choir will be accompanied by orchestra with organ and video enhancements. Scriptural narration by John, Peter, Jesus, and Mary portrayals will also help celebrate and tell the story of Jesus' resurrection.

For more information, see www.Englewoodumc.net or call 474-5588 weekdays.

Artist Series Concerts to hold fund-raising gala

Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota's annual fundraiser gala, "With Eyes to the Future," is at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 11, at Michael's On East Ballroom, 1212 South East Ave., Sarasota. The event features live music by the Bill Buchman Trio plus center-stage performances by Suncoast Music Scholarship winners Katherine Herbert and Luca Stine. The evening also includes cocktails, dinner, a live auction, drawings and other activities. Proceeds from the gala will benefit Artist Series Concerts' music scholarship awards, educational outreach programs and performance opportunities for promising young musicians. Tickets are \$175 and invitations can be requested by calling 941-306-1202, between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday-Friday. Reservations deadline is April 4. For more information about Artist Series Concerts of Sarasota and its 2018-2019 season, visit www.ArtistSeriesConcerts.org.



HERBERT

"It's been an exciting and momentous season for us," says David Chivas, president of Artist Series Concerts FRIENDS. "There's so much to celebrate this year, including more of our trademark performances by a variety of world-class artists, the career and extensive contributions of our managing director John Fischer, who is retiring after 17 years, and a renewed mission designed to move the organization forward with an even further emphasis on supporting outstanding young musicians. It's going to be a festive occasion, with all eyes towards a bright future!"

Two highlights of the evening will be the performances by soprano Katherine



COURTESY PHOTO

Luca Stine

"KC" Herbert and trumpeter Luca Stine, area students who were both winners at last April's Suncoast Music Scholarships, an annual collaborative competition funded by Artist Series Concerts and the Sarasota Music Club. Since then, Mr. Herbert was accepted into and now studies at the Juilliard School in New York City and Mr. Stine's summer included a stint at the renowned Lincoln Center Summer Jazz Academy and a performance at the Newport Jazz Festival. He's currently finishing high school while also attending classes at State College of Florida and in January he won the jazz trumpet category at the statewide Winter Music Symposium of the Florida College System Activities Association, beating out top music students from 18 Florida colleges.

"Katherine and Luca are the embodiment of our new mission to further support and present the stars of tomorrow," said Mr. Chivas. "We're thrilled to have them back with us as part of our annual evening of celebration and fundraising and we look forward to presenting them and other accomplished young artists like them for years to come."

Over the past decade, Artist Series Concerts has awarded more than \$300,000 to more than 80 gifted young musicians via its scholarship awards programs. Past winners have gone on to study at leading music conservatories and pursued successful music careers.

"Our eyes are on the future," said Mr. Chivas. "And this gala is a large part of what makes that future possible." ■



Top: Donna the Buffalo. The band's fans are referred to as the "Herd." Right: JJ Grey & Mofro headlines the Peace River Revival.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Donna the Buffalo

Group joins headliner JJ Grey & Mofro at Peace River Revival

BY LIZ RUSSELL
Florida Weekly Correspondent

Tara Nevins was on the Cross Island Parkway riding shotgun and dishing directions. The co-founder of Donna the Buffalo was on her way to a gig that night in Bay Shore, New York.

There was no rush, no panic, no, "Oh, God, I have to deal with New York traffic." Ms. Nevins is a road warrior, a well-traveled musician whose life is on the road when it's not on a stage.

She and Jeb Puryear started Donna the Buffalo about 30 years ago in Trumansburg, New York. Since then, they've cut records, played venues big and small and built a self-organized following so loyal, it has a name: the Herd.

Which, of course, is derivative of the band's catchy, cross-species name. The story — and it has been told many times — goes that the band was going to be called Dawn of the Buffalo. The suggestion was misheard as Donna the Buffalo.

And here they are — Ms. Nevins on lead vocals, acoustic guitar, fiddle, accordion, washboard, occasional backup vocals and tambourine; Mr. Puryear on electric guitar, occasional pedal steel, lead vocals and some rare backup vocals; Mark Raudabaugh on



Keller Williams

drums; David McCracken on electric keyboard and organ; and Kyle Spark on electric bass and backing vocals.

"We've kind of come up through the ranks," Ms. Nevins said before calling out an exit.

Once Donna the Buffalo finishes up north, the gang will be headed to Punta Gorda to play the second Peace River Revival on Saturday, March 30, in Punta Gorda's Lashley Park. Two tiers of VIP tickets are already sold out.

They are on a bill headlined by JJ Grey & Mofro, and will be joined by Keller Williams' Petty Grass featuring The Hillbenders, Cat Ridgeway & the Tourists, Whey Jennings, RJ Howson and Still Friends, a local band. Mr. Jennings is the grandson of country music great Waylon Jennings.

Donna the Buffalo plays original music written by Ms. Nevins or Mr. Puryear, along with covers. Last year at the rain-aborted Peace River Revival, the band brought the house down playing on the secondary "fan" stage.

"What they brought on that particular day was they were on a stage that was ground level and right in the crowd," said promoter Matt Nemecek of Edgewater Events. "It's almost like you're playing eye-to-eye with someone. You're not 10 feet higher



COURTESY PHOTOS

Cat Ridgeway & the Tourists.

than the audience is. That connection was fantastic."

Donna the Buffalo has a new record out, "Dance in the Street," and band members have nothing against studio work. But that connection Mr. Nemecek recalled from Peace River 2018 was no accident. There's something about music festivals that brings out the best in the group musically.

Donna the Buffalo is one of the founding and host bands of the annual Finger Lakes GrassRoots Festival of Music and Dance, along with the Shakori Hills Grassroots Festival. It also headlines at the Great Blue Heron Music Festival in Sherman, New York.

"Well," Ms. Nevins began ticking off why the chemistry works so well at festivals, "you have the Herd. Donna the Buffalo is more like a way of life than a band. We play gigs, but festivals are about relating to other people. There just seems

to be a vibe about it, a sense of community. People of all different types come together and find a common groove."

Ah, yes, the Herd. It started with two fans meeting at the soundboard and deciding they'd meet again at the next concert. It has grown from there. And while the Herd is not the Deadheads revisited — Ms. Nevins doesn't want any such comparisons — the Herd is loyal, present and part of the show.

"One of the reasons we brought them back was because we were able to see the Herd in action last year," Mr. Nemecek said. "It was electrifying."

"We're fortunate," Ms. Nevins said. "Most bands don't have that self-named, self-organized following. I think there's something very approachable about our music, our vibe."

"We're like the girl next door. People can relate to us." ■

MONEY & INVESTING

BB&T, SunTrust lesson: Avoid investing in mid-size banks

ericBRETAN

estaterick@gmail.com



A couple of weeks ago my ex-employer, SunTrust bank, was purchased by slightly larger BB&T bank to form the sixth largest bank in the country. And unless you happen to be a current employee of either bank, you probably missed this news. Even shareholders of the two companies may have overlooked this merger given the two companies' stock prices barely moved following the announcement. But this deal speaks to the quickly changing banking sector and points to the future of this critical industry.

Both BB&T and SunTrust are Southeastern-based banks with roughly \$200 billion in assets each. SunTrust's lineage dates to the 1890s when the Trust Company of Georgia was formed. In 1985, it merged with Sun Bank to form SunTrust and continued to acquire smaller banks throughout the Southeast. BB&T started in 1872 as the Branch and Hadley merchant bank in North Carolina. It, too, grew through acquisitions along with organic growth to become one of the leading banks in the country.

The merger is important for a few reasons. First, it highlights the importance of technology in this age-old industry. One of the reasons the SunTrust management team gave for the merger was the high cost of technology to remain competitive and that it was difficult for a mid-size bank to bear this cost on its own. Today's banking consumer wants to spend less time waiting for a teller in a branch and instead prefers to bank via computer or smartphone. The expense to create and protect such a platform is enormous and gives a clear competitive advantage to larger banks that can afford to spend money on these types of solutions.

The merger also demonstrates how the competitive landscape is changing for banks. Historically, these two banks would be arch-enemies, battling for clients in overlapping footprints. The fact that these companies are now merging reveals that there is now a bigger threat on the horizon for banks. Financial technology companies like Paypal, Square, Stripe, Robinhood and Kabbage all are looking to disrupt and revolutionize the traditional banking sector.



Finally, this transaction illustrates the pressure that banks are under to cut costs. With so many banks and financial firms blanketing the U.S., revenue growth is hard to come by as most firms offer similar products and services to their peers. So, in order to grow earnings, banks must focus on cutting expenses. The combined BB&T/SunTrust bank expects to save \$1.6 billion in expenses annually by cutting branches, laying off duplicate staff and consolidating operations. This is an instantaneous method to boost earnings of firms that struggle to grow sales.

For bank investors, analyzing this merger and the reasons behind it point to a winning investing strategy in this sector. Investors should buy banking

stocks using the "barbell" approach. Very large banks and very small banks will be successful in the near future and mid-size banks (the bar in the barbell) should be avoided. Large banks like BofA, JPM and Wells Fargo have the resources to compete in this new technology driven banking landscape while cutting costs to drive earnings. Very small banks also will have a profitable niche serving small businesses and small retail customers that are more relationship driven. Mid-size banks will be hard-pressed to compete and grow against these forces. They will either be forced to merge with one another like SunTrust and BB&T, or will continually face earnings pressure going forward.

In addition to the "barbell" strategy, I

also would recommend buying a number of the new fin-tech companies like Paypal and Square. Although a number of these companies are trading at multi-year high stock prices, I believe that these companies will continue to grow and steal market share from traditional banks. These companies can offer businesses and consumers better products than traditional banks and with better margins because they have much leaner cost structures. ■

— Eric Bretan, the co-owner of Rick's Estate & Jewelry Buyers in Punta Gorda, was a senior derivatives marketer and investment banker for more than 15 years at several global banks.

State revenue estimate tweaked as budget work nears

NEWS SERVICE OF FLORIDA

As Florida lawmakers get ready to hammer out a new state budget, they received a final forecast March 14 of how much general revenue will be available to pay for programs such as schools, health care and prisons.

Bottom line, not much changed.

Economists scoured data and estimated that lawmakers will have about \$7.4 million less in general revenue than forecast in December. But that is just a fraction of the \$33.5 billion in general revenue that the state is projected to bring in during the 2019-2020 fiscal year, which starts July 1.

The economists huddle periodically throughout the year to update estimates of general revenue, which plays a crucial role in the budget. Senate President Bill

Galvano, R-Bradenton, said he anticipated the estimate "may come down a little bit."

"That's what we're hearing, which makes it a little more difficult going forward," Sen. Galvano said. "But once we get those (numbers), we'll be able to give what we call rolling allocations to the (chairs of appropriations subcommittees). ... They're going to be putting their budgets together early next week, so they're going to have to have their allocations by the beginning of the week."

Gov. Ron DeSantis has released a \$91.3 billion budget proposal, which includes general revenue and numerous other sources of money, including federal funds.

House Speaker Jose Oliva, however, has signaled that he wants a smaller

budget than the one Gov. DeSantis proposed. Ultimately, House and Senate leaders will have to negotiate a spending plan before the scheduled May 3 end of the legislative session.

"I think that (Oliva's view on the budget) is consistent with the way the speaker has approached the budget process," Sen. Galvano said. "As long as I've known him, he is a fiscal conservative and that's important. We have to be fiscally responsible, but at the same time we're looking at all the factors, including what unanticipated needs we have to address. For example, in this budget period we have to address the aftermath of Hurricane Michael. I understand where he's coming from. I recognize why he wants to go there. But we also have to make sure we're covering impacts from unexpected areas."

The \$33.5 billion in general revenue that the state is projected to bring in next year is a \$600 million increase from the current year, according to the revised estimates. But that represents a slowdown in the growth of general revenue, which is derived from such things as sales taxes. The current year's budget is projected to include \$1.7 billion more in general revenue than during the prior year.

The forecast showed the state is now expected to bring in \$201.3 million more than had been projected during the current fiscal year. But the forecast also reduced an estimate of revenue for the 2019-2020 fiscal year by \$208.7 million.

Combining the \$201.3 million increase this year with the \$208.7 million reduction for next year leads to the overall \$7.4 million drop in projected revenues. ■

REAL ESTATE



Gran Paradiso home boasts private bass-stocked pond

13420 Campanile Court, Venice

There's no need to wait on new construction when you can move right in to this Sam Rodgers custom-built home at Gran Paradiso. The property has a fully stocked pond of bass, backing up to a preserve. This four-bedroom, three-bath, split floor plan home has a gourmet kitchen with stainless steel appliances, granite counter tops, with room for a kitchen table. A large master bedroom with an extended sitting area, offers walk-in closet, large ensuite bathroom with a Jacuzzi tub, separate walk-in shower and dual sinks. Access off the master is to the screened lanai with a heated saltwater

pool. The main living space is central and open to the entire house, with sliding glass doors leading out to the lanai. The home has a three-car garage. This gated community comes with amenities, including pool, tennis and pickle ball courts, fitness center and more. It is located within minutes of the new Atlanta Braves spring training facility. ■

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