

BAY WATCH NEWS



VOLUME 3 NUMBER 1

DECEMBER 2010

Bonita Bay

Board of Directors of Community Association Announced

On a drizzly Thursday morning in November, about 300 residents piled into the Bonita Bay Club for the annual Bonita Bay Community Association Meeting.

ANTICIPATION WAS HIGH because the results of the newly elected Resident Board of Directors were going to be announced. Twelve hopefuls were vying for the five-seat board with three-year terms for the two receiving the greatest number of votes, two-year terms for the two with the next total number of votes and a one-year term for the one with the fifth highest total vote.

After the business section of the meeting, Robin Leete, the General Manager of Community Operations, mentioned the highlights of the last year, including recent awards won by the community. She then introduced the staff that serves our community. She mentioned that over 1.2 million

cars come through our gates every year and gave the dates of the major community social events. The community budget for 2011 is set at \$6,743,858 and the annual assessment for homeowners will be the same as last year.

Carol Markey, chair of the Homeowners Transition Committee, introduced Roger Brunswick who announced the results of the vote.

Elected for three-year terms were: Steve Aronson, Bay Harbor and Larry Russell, Sanctuary.

Elected for two-year terms were: Dave Eckrich, Siena and Jerry Fournier, Creekside.

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BONITA SPRINGS WONDER

By Dick Connelly, Woodlake

WHILE IT'S NOT one of the "Seven Wonders of the World", it's probably one of Bonita Springs "Wonders."

It's the Christmas tree light display by the Flesher family on Bonita Grande Drive in East Bonita Springs. For almost 20 years, the family has taken its 5-acre



ranch and transformed it into a Christmas shrine that features well more than one million lights and an almost endless array of holiday displays and ornaments, including a motorized Christmas sled.

"This year we've added more than 100,000 lights," said Chuck Flesher who has overseen the project, with his wife

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Editors' Notes

WHAT A DIFFERENCE A YEAR MAKES!!

When we looked back on the content of *Bay Watch News* magazine for December 2009, it was filled with doubt and fear. The future of the Bonita Bay Club, the status of our real estate values and the uncertainty of our beloved community were all on the line. As we embark on the third year of publishing *Bay Watch News*, so very much has changed ... both physically and emotionally. The grounds look terrific and spirits are high. Let's keep the ball rolling toward the goal of Bonita Bay being recognized as the premier community in Southwest Florida!

As we move closer to the transition of the Bonita Bay Community Homeowners Association to the residents, we must express our gratitude to the Homeowner's Transition Committee. Thanks to Carol Markey, Roger Brunswick, Rich Dell, Lance Johnson, Ken Mack, Bruce Mohl, Phil Otero and Larry Russell for all their hard work bringing us to this point. Best of luck to the newly elected Board of Directors of the Community Homeowners Association.

Bay Watch News has a few surprises as well – We've "gone global"! ... with the introduction of Steve Roach, a world renowned economist and lecturer, who will be writing feature articles for the magazine. Additionally, Colour U Salon has agreed to do a monthly "Makeover" for a lucky resident of Bonita Bay. And lastly, we have introduced a Jumble on our Puzzle Page.

FYI ... Geoff Mason, Mahogany Ridge, Head of Production for ESPN at last summer's FIFA World Cup soccer in South Africa, winner of 24 Emmys and subject of the March 2009 issue of "Who's Who in Bonita Bay" will be inducted into the Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame on December 14. Congrats to Geoff.

We wish you a Blessed Christmas and Happy Holidays.

Yours,

Don and Valerie Gorman
Editors

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Letters to the Editor

On Bonita Bay Club Renovations and Backwater Jacks

IF THE RECENT renovations and improvements are any indication of what is still to come, we are well on our way to becoming Southwest Florida's premier club community!!!

Marlene and Steve Smith, Estancia

BOTH MY WIFE AND I are very pleased with the Club renovations as it makes the grounds look and feel more inviting and less institutional. If only we would add a hedge between the Club House/Pro Shop and the practice area we would be in heaven. This hedge would involve the eastern boundary of the practice area.

As Marina Members/Boat owners, my wife and I enjoy Backwater quite often before and after our boating/fishing trips. Our guests really enjoy Backwater as it is one of few nice restaurants on the water in our area. We often go to Backwater because of its proximity and quality instead of chasing outside the gates.

Rob and Cathy Boeck, Oakwood

MY WIFE JUNE AND I have been a members of Backwater Jacks since 2000 and were regular weekly patrons until about 2 years ago. That's when we became dissatisfied with the Backwater operation and quit going. We kept our membership active, but quit going there for dinner and cocktails because of the quality. Service was never a problem. We have seen it at its best and worst. There is tremendous potential if they were not so short-term financially focused.

Our suggestions are as follows:

1. Whatever kind of operation they decide on, quality and consistency have to be number 1. They do not have to offer a wide range menu, but whatever is on it has to be exceptional and consistent from week to week, maybe even legendary. People should rave about what they had to eat and drink. We have always paid a premium to be served there, so cost is not an issue as long as it is not totally non-competitive.
2. Backwater should be open to all Bonita Bay residents without a membership fee. We believe they would be amazed at the weekly patronage and new clients they would experience.

3. Backwater should accept credit cards and cash for payment of services as any other establishment does. I know of people that have walked away from Backwater because they would not take cash or a credit card. A terrible policy.

4. Backwater should stay away from the activities like the Seafood Festival unless they can justify they are a profit-making endeavor. These are special events and Backwater should focus on week to week consistency as a priority. Same goes for holidays and other special occasions. Get it right first and then offer the specials. In other words, learn to walk before you run.

5. The last item is the weekly free relish offering. We think this was a great drawing point and was not a high cost item given what people spent in drinks and dinner afterwards. This should be considered for a return. Many local eateries offer this during season and draw a lot of attendance.

Dan Cousineau, Enclave

(President of the Enclave Homeowners Association)

EVENTUALLY IT WILL CLOSE – the sooner the better. It is just taking business away from Bonita Bay Club.

O. Kirrane, Enclave

I WOULD LIKE TO SEE Backwater Jacks restored to its original status, that ALL Bonita Bay Club members should be able to use its facilities with NO membership fees involved.

Secondly, I think that the round fountains as one drives into the club are quite lovely, but the waterfall looks like a grill, totally lacking good taste and an abortion in its design. It makes the worst kind of impression, it's just NOTHING!!!!!! Why so many stone colors?, it looks as though "left over stones" were used up to make something, God knows what!!!!!! Thank you for the chance to comment.

Kitty Stryker, Burning Tree

I BELIEVE that the land, the marina and Backwater Jacks are priceless treasures for our future, and that the Bonita Bay Club should own it. Water access, environmental appreciation with a restaurant on the water, are gifts we should care for and support.

Kathleen Romano, Riverwalk

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Who's Who in Bonita Bay

By *Tommye Fleming, Mahogany Ridge*

Scott Gutterson has an opinion on every subject ... and he's not afraid to express it. Religion. Taxes. Politics. You name it ... he's on it. He juggles every controversial subject tossed at him with deft expertise.



WHEN HERE AT BONITA BAY (Mahogany Ridge), he's a golfer, a barbecuer, a party thrower and party goer. When he isn't at Bonita Bay, he is up north doing what he's been doing for 30 years: being a New York City tax attorney. His 2000 clients come from all walks of life ... from busboys to CEO's. He helps them prepare their taxes. He has a huge

wills, trusts and estate practice. And he's an entrepreneur who invests his own money and raises money from others ... a "Yenta" who makes business marriages.

Scott's office is on Madison Avenue. His hangout is a nearby restaurant called Primola. It was there that he first saw Bernie Madoff. Scott eats dinner at Primola several times a week. So did Bernie and wife Ruth before they became household names. Scott and Bernie didn't know each other; they just saw each other there.

Bernie Madoff abruptly entered Scott's life in December 2008 when news of the Ponzi scheme broke. Scott had clients who were, in his words, "Madoffed." Naturally, they involved their tax attorney in helping them try to get out of the mess Bernie put them in.

The most famous names among Madoff's victims were NOT Scott's clients ... names like Kevin Bacon and Kyra Sedgwick, Sandy Koufax, Fred Wilpon (owner of the NY Mets).

The "Madoffed" segment of Scott's clients were not ordinary; they had enough money to be on the approved list that was allowed to invest with Bernie. Now, they have nothing ... having lost savings, retirement, homes, businesses. He even heard of someone who lost his life -- who had a heart attack when he learned he had been wiped out.

Scott's clients challenged him to find some relief through the tax courts, which proved to be somewhat complicated. The victims made a lot of money on paper, supposedly; and they paid a lot of taxes on earnings which turned out to be a hoax.

How do you treat those earnings that aren't really earnings? Were they interest income? Capital gains? Short or long-term gains? Whatever they were, taxes had been paid on fictitious income. So amended tax returns were first on Scott's agenda.

Was the lost principal a stock loss? If so, the claimant could only deduct capital losses in excess of capital gains -- and only against other income up to \$3,000 a year, with the balance carried forward to next year ... and the next.

If, on the other hand, the clients were victims of a theft, it then might become a casualty loss and itemized deduction, and they would potentially be eligible for a much larger refund. (The IRS has very specific rules for handling losses from Ponzi schemes.)

Scott had a few clients who got back \$600-700,000 in tax refunds, which might have represented just 10% of their net worth, but it's everything they have now.

Others got back nothing. Some had to move in with their children. One husband and wife were survivors of the Holocaust. For a second time in their lives, everything they owned was taken from them. Life just doesn't seem fair.

Some victims put in claims against what little Madoff money has actually been recovered. About 14,030 claims had been reviewed, with 2,280 approved for payment. Less than \$1.5 billion has been recovered ... either from investors who received preferential payouts ahead of Madoff's bankruptcy filing, or from interest and dividends on Madoff's various bank accounts. But now, according to a November report in *The New York Post*, Madoff is telling fellow jailbirds that he secretly funneled \$9 billion in swiped funds to three people before he was nabbed.

"I doubt we will know anything real about Madoff's money until he dies. And maybe not even then," says Scott.

When Scott's work gets him down, and certainly Bernie had that effect, he considers himself very lucky to be able to make his way back to Bonita Bay ... to spend time with his wife Debbie, golfing, beaching and dining. He's lost 50 lbs. this past year, so he has a new obsession: the Fitness Center. He reads a lot ... newspapers, books and magazines. He follows politics closely. He's a fanatic about a lot of subjects. And he's not at all shy about telling you so.

"In today's regulatory environment, it's virtually impossible to violate rules."

— BERNARD MADOFF,
Money Manager, Oct. 20, 2007



Board of Directors of Community Association Announced *continued from cover*

Elected for one-year: Rod McKenzie, Creekside.

In a somewhat bizarre ending to the meeting, no one asked if there were any questions from the floor and people simply got up to leave. In previous years, there have been questions about police presence, Backwater Jacks and other community issues.

Pictured from left to right: L. Russell, D. Eckrich, R. McKenzie, S. Aronson, J. Fournier



“VOTING UNITS” and Their Distributions

At the meeting, the current Board announced that there are 4,719 “voting units” in the Community. This total is based on a combination of: number of current residences, unsold residences, development sites and square footage of some existing buildings – e.g. Bonita Bay Club.

Current Residences:	3,050
Lutgert:	212 – unsold High Rise units
Bonita Bay Club:	38 – given to the Bonita Bay Club Board of Directors based on the square footage formula
Bonita Bay Properties Inc.:	1,419 – based on Marina Club square footage, development sites and a 3X formula
Total:	4,719

Approximately 1,956 ballots were counted (Lutgert did not vote).

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Dentist Chair

By Jim Papandrea, D.D.S., Riviera

“Crowns and Their Materials”

IT WOULD BE VERY COMMON for any of you to go to the dentist on any given day and hear “This filling is broken and since there is no tooth structure left to put another filling in, you will need a crown.” Ugh! Pain and money come to mind.

Let’s analyze the real situation.

Since you were a child, this tooth has been filled maybe 3-4 times? It has chipped, cracked and been repaired each time. How can we complain when we can still keep that tooth and chew anything we want?

Yes, crowns are expensive, but so are dentures, partials or implants. A single crown can save money in the long run because it preserves the anatomy of the mouth and even keeps facial muscles from collapsing. Take it out and now there is a space to allow other teeth to move and in time even expose root structure of these other teeth. Many of you already have experienced exposed root structure and that leads to discomfort from hot or cold. Keep in mind that waiting only makes things worse. If a crown is advised and you delay treatment, you risk the loss of more tooth structure and that makes the crown preparation harder and more costly. If you delay enough, then you may lose the tooth because repairing with a crown will no



longer work. So rather than lose the tooth ... do the crown.

The dentist will give you several choices of material. If this is a front tooth and esthetics come into play, then without a doubt you need to choose a crown that is either full porcelain or metal-covered with porcelain. Today’s porcelain crowns look as natural as your own teeth. They are very strong and can last many years. Unfortunately they are the most expensive. It is very important for the dentist to prepare the tooth so that the crown matches other front teeth (in color and shape) and seals the tooth from future decay. This porcelain is baked under high temperature in the lab and has many layers to reach the proper color, strength and shape.

Crowns that can be seen in the smile line all should be porcelain or porcelain/metal, but crowns that cannot be seen or are less expensive can be made of precious or non-precious metals. The best metal to use for posterior crowns is gold. It is not the best esthetically, but because of its properties, it is the closest to enamel in hardness. This allows the gold crown to wear similarly to the other teeth and keeps the bite balanced. There are other metals to choose from and the dentist can present the pros and cons. Most vary by color and hardness and, of course, cost. Trust the dentist to advise you, but make sure you have input and know what you are getting and how it will look.



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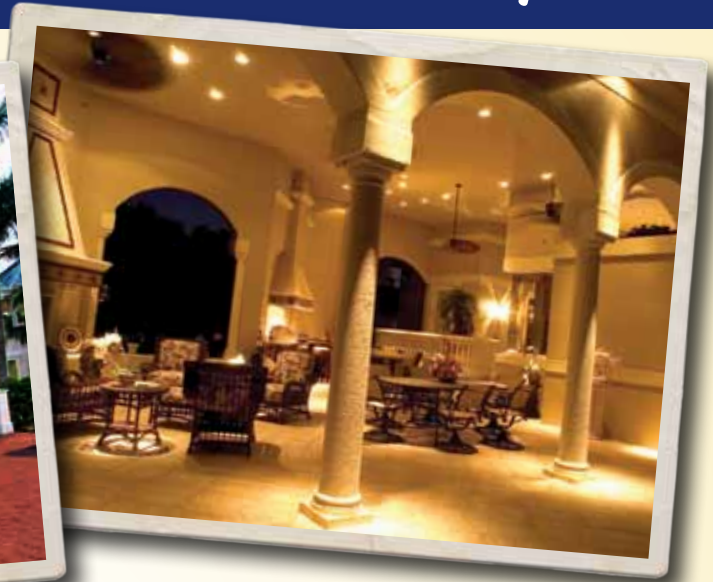
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– **Michael & Lynne, Sanibel - 2008**



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The Lessons of Japan

By Stephen S. Roach

IN THE 1980's, the superiority of the Japanese economic model was taken for granted. At the same time, much of the world predicted the imminent demise of the United States as an economic powerhouse. Time did not treat that vision kindly. Japan succumbed to a series of policy blunders and systemic failures in its markets, companies and politics. And America enjoyed a new prosperity – further cementing its leadership position in the world economy. The declinists had it dead wrong – Japan needed to learn from the United States. Not vice versa.

Now the ghost of another Japan haunts America – suggesting that Japan's failed ascendancy may well be indicative of what lies ahead for a crisis- and recession-battered US economy. Suddenly, the Japanese experience of two lost decades – and counting – seems like all-too apt a vision for the United States.

The arguments are, unfortunately, quite compelling. Like Japan, the United States failed to prevent asset bubbles from infecting the real side of its economy. Actually, America's blunders were far more serious in that regard. Japan's twin bubbles – property and equities – created a capital spending bubble that, in the end, absorbed about 17% of gross domestic product in the late 1980s. By contrast, America's twin bubbles – property and credit – ended up distorting both personal consumption and residential homebuilding activity. At their peaks during the 2005-09 period, these two sectors collectively accounted for fully 78% of US output – nearly five times the share of Japan's bubble-infected capital spending sector.

Bubbles come and go. It is difficult to spot them in advance and to address them once they are identified. Yet that doesn't suggest the authorities should turn the other cheek to such insidious excesses. Curiously, many of the bubble apologists have day jobs as central bankers – the policymakers who could have made a real difference in both Japan and the United States. That's another thing these two great nations have in common – seriously misguided monetary policies that ended up condoning lethal asset and credit bubbles.

Today's debate pertains less to blame and more to solutions. But any such remedy needs to be grounded in reality – namely, the distinct possibility that there aren't any quick fixes that would prevent a multi-decade Japanese-like scenario from playing out in the United States. Like Japan, the United States needs to repair not just the damage that was done during the crisis and the Great Recession but also needs to unwind the excesses that were needlessly perpetuated in the years leading up to the carnage.

The policy debate can only move forward once this denial is cracked. Make-work public spending projects or tax cuts

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Bonita Springs Wonder *continued from cover*

Margaret, since members of his family began the display in the mid 1980's. They started the project "as a tribute to my sister, who died young, and other family members who have passed away and we look forward to doing it every year."

The display includes their home, a barn, a small building they call "the Church," where you can have your photo taken with Santa a week before Christmas and lit walkways throughout



the property. They also offer a horse ride with "Skippy." Parking is available for a few hundred cars plus there is handicap parking.

This season, the light switch goes on December 3rd and will be on all December, Sundays through Thursdays from 6 to 9 pm and Fridays and Saturdays from 6 to 10 pm.

Flesher says it attracts well more than 100,000 visitors each year. People have come from throughout Florida and as far away as Germany, Italy and Canada. Sometimes the line of cars waiting to drive by stretches west on Bonita Beach Road a quarter mile to I-75.

But it's not cheap for the Fleshers. The electricity bill for December will probably exceed \$1,500. It's paid for by donations visitors make. There is no charge to walk through the displays but there is a Donation Box and people have been generous over the years. Any profit they make at the end of the year, Flesher says, is donated to a local charity.



"We've been stringing the lights now since early October," he said. "The goal is a million and a half lights and we'll be ready by December." He's helped by a daughter, Roxanne Slasor, and two grandsons, Mark and Steven.

But all the visitors are not wide-eyed children. One year, a limousine pulled up as the lights were being turned off. A lady with but a few days to live wanted to see the lights one more time. The Fleshers turned the lights back on and the limo driver picked up the women from the back seat of the car and held her while she took a final look.

So this year, don't miss Bonita Springs "Christmas Wonder." The ranch is located at 27865 Bonita Grande Road just off Bonita Beach Road east of I-75. Get there before the lights go out but be prepared to wait.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Hanukah Begins

December 2, 2010 - Happy Hanukah

Bonita Bay Christmas Tree Lighting

December 3, 2010 - 5:15 PM to 6:15 PM - Sales Center Parking Lot.

Speakers Assembly of Southwest Florida

December 3, 2010 - 11 AM with networking, followed by the presentation, lunch and Q&A.

Ric Deslauriers, FBI, Economic Espionage
Hyatt Regency Coconut Point. For more information, please call (239) 948-7909 or visit www.speakersassembly.com.

Deck the Walls

December 6, 2010 - 9 AM to 6 PM - 26820 Old 41 Road, Bonita Springs

Art Show to benefit the Literacy Council - see page 28 for more information.

AMI Kids Big Cypress Golf Scramble

December 11, 2010 - 9 AM shotgun start - Bonita Bay Sabal Golf Course

Proceeds help AMI redirect, counsel and educate at-risk youth in South Florida. \$10,000 hole-in-one prize plus other golf vacation prizes. Entry fee is \$150 per player, including cart fee and lunch. Non-players are invited to sponsor a hole for the same amount. Sign-up information is available from Bonita Bay members Charlie Vogt (405-2279) or Jay Johnston (992-1241).

Christmas

December 25, 2010 - Merry Christmas

New Year's Day

January 1, 2011 - Happy New Year

The Bonita Historical Society Public Speakers Series

Thursday, January 6, 2011 - 7:00 PM - Community Hall on Old 41 (across the street from Riverside Park and the band shell)

Marjory Stoneman Douglas, the Mother of the Everglades, portrayed by Janina Birtolo.

Hearts of Hope Gala

February 12, 2011 - Bonita Bay Club

Cocktail Party with Food Stations - 5:30 to 7:30 PM - \$150 per person
Cocktail Party, Food Stations and Served Dinner - 5:30 to 11 PM - \$350 per person

15th Annual SUSAN G. KOMEN Fundraiser

Monday, March 21 - Bridge, Mah Jongg and Luncheon

Contact: Bridge - Gayle Oleff - 495-1334
Mah Jongg - Bobbie Skelton 221-8703

Tuesday, March 22 - Golf Tournament

Contact: Pat Joyce - 498-1595 or
Pauline Roberts - 949-2816

Wednesday, March 23 - Home Tour

Contact: Linda Ramsey - 947-9762

Friday, March 25 - Fitness Walk

Contact: Pat Carey - 948-9881 or
JoAnn DeFrain - 405-8371



Burton P. Golumbic, DDS

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Following a distinguished 27-year career in private practice in the Empire State Building, interspersed with lecturing and teaching at Columbia University, Dr. Golumbic, together with his wife Lizzie, also in the dental field for more than 20 years, are enjoying their dental practice in beautiful Bonita Springs, Florida.

A native of Erie, PA, Dr. Golumbic graduated with honors from Penn State University and Temple University Dental School.

Dr. Golumbic enjoys all aspects of general dentistry. His areas of expertise are crowns, bridges, implant restoration and aesthetic bonding. Dr. Golumbic has incorporated the most advanced technology, including laser therapy, and computer digital X-rays which reduce exposure to radiation by over 90 percent.



The practice is run as a partnership. Together Dr. and Mrs. Golumbic (Lizzie) take the time needed to get to know their patients. They listen to their patients' concerns. Their caring approach, together with their years of experience and good clinical judgements set them apart in their field.

Burt and Lizzie have met so many lovely residents of Bonita Bay. It is so wonderful to have many of them as "our dental family of patients."

Burton P. Golumbic, DDS

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What's Happening in Real Estate?

While many of you were away this summer, a lot was happening at Bonita Bay. Selling and closing a bunch of real estate was not part of the activity, however. The real estate market in zip code 34134 was as slow as it has been in a decade.

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PERSONALLY, WE THINK people have been waiting to get past the mid-term elections. Uncertainty tends to freeze up a market of any kind. We also think a meaningful extension of the "Bush tax cuts" would help. Should this occur, we may see a significant pick-up in real estate transaction volume in Bonita Bay.

There is a pent-up demand of buyers hanging around but they have been very cautious to take the plunge. We hope and bet this will change soon. Not only has transaction volume dropped over the past year, but selling prices have as well. We observe that prices are down anywhere from 10% to 20% from one year ago. Bearing in mind the uncertainty in Bonita Bay due to the club problems over the last year, this comes as no surprise.

The marina and community association discussions continue on and thankfully the negative Bonita Bay Club issues are behind us now. We hear 95% positive remarks about both the club and the community. Everyone seems impressed with the work of the club's board and new management. We cannot imagine ever belonging to a developer-owned club again. What a difference! Having never belonged to a non-member owned golf and country club before Bonita Bay, we have no intention of making that mistake twice. Member-owned is the way to go!

In closing, we expect real estate buyers will soon respond in a positive manner to all the good things going on around Bonita Bay. As we stated last spring and continue to believe, "THE BEST IS YET TO COME AT BONITA BAY".

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City Views

By John D. Spear, P.A., City Council Member

Although several months have passed since my last *Bay Watch News* article, there is some “breaking news” regarding the City.

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS, the City Council passed its millage annual budget with a unanimous vote and virtually no public input. The millage remains the same as 2009-2010, and coupled with additional property assessment reduction of 10-25% from the prior year, non-homestead property owners received a 10-25% reduction in City property taxes, while only long-time homesteaders saw an up to 3% increase in City property taxes as a result of the “recapture” provisions of the Save our Homes constitutional amendment.

A significant but under-reported item of good news from this summer was that Lee County announced in August that its 6-laning of Bonita Beach Road from Imperial/Livingston to Old 41, which was initially scheduled to begin in 2008 but had been moved back to 2013, would commence construction in early 2011. 50% of the funds came from Lee County, and 50% from the City. The City “found” the rest of its 50% over the summer by re-allocating some other designated funds, and Lee County responded to the City by “finding” its 50% as well. It is hoped that the depressed construction industry will provide some very low construction prices and allow the savings to expedite other transportation projects within the City.

Already underway is the retrofitting of the I-75/Bonita Beach Road interchange, which is being funded (except for \$300,000.00 of City funds) by the infamous \$10 million earmark for the Coconut Road Interchange. The Bonita Springs Chamber of Commerce, County Commissioner Ray Judah, and the Estero Council of Community

continued on page 29

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BICYCLE RIDE ACROSS AMERICA

By Lee Chouinard, Hamptons

ON APRIL 24 four members of the Bonita Bay Bicycle Club -- Dave Cramton, Lee Chouinard, Keith Hynes and Gaby Engelhardt -- dipped our tires in the Atlantic Ocean in St Augustine, FL after completing a 32-day bicycle ride across America. We had dipped our rear tires in the Pacific Ocean in San Diego, CA on March 24 and departed on our trip with great anticipation of the adventure ahead. We would not be disappointed. Over the next month we rode a total of 2,884 miles (an average of 90 miles/day) and climbed a total of 138,312 feet (the equivalent of riding up Mt Everest from sea level once/week) at an average speed of over 16 MPH.

I was the only member of the group who had ever done a bicycle ride of more than two days before -- I had ridden from Florida to Maine in 1999, the year I retired and moved here. Ever since that ride, this one had been on my bucket list. I tried twice before to motivate club members to join me but was unsuccessful. This time I proposed staying in motels instead of camping at night and successfully enlisted three partners for the ride.

We took turns driving a support vehicle with clothing, bike supplies, food, water, and picnic gear so each rider only

rode 75% of the distance each day. It was the “luck of the draw” as to who got to ride the toughest climbs and roughest roads each day. The typical day started with a hearty breakfast between 7 and 8 AM, departure within a half hour, a break for a picnic lunch between 12 and 1 PM and arrival at our motel between 2 and 4 PM. That was followed immediately by 1 or 2 cold beers and snacks and then, at about 6 PM, a cocktail hour with wine and cheese. Dinner followed at a local restaurant, not usually of the quality we are accustomed to in Bonita Bay. Our goal was to consume about 4,000 – 5,000 calories/day and we worked hard at it! In between there was planning for the next day’s ride; arranging accommodations for the next night; doing the daily blog; programming “George” (our bike-sized Garmin GPS) for the next day; doing laundry; doing bike repairs; etc. Overall, the days were full and there was not a lot of “down time”. We slept well!

There are dozens of stories to tell -- here are a few snippets!

While dipping our tires in the Pacific, we lost one pair of sunglasses and got our shoes, socks and bikes drenched by a rogue wave.



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Within the first 10 miles, we had two flat tires (we would have 17 during the trip), one cut tire which needed to be replaced (we would have to replace six more during the trip), and one broken toe clip strap (we found a replacement at a bicycle parts dealer a couple miles off the route). An auspicious start!

We were incredibly fortunate with the weather. There were earthquakes, dust storms, tornadoes, floods and downpours happening all around us, but we rode across the country under a patch of blue sky, experiencing only one morning of light misty rain. The downside was that we had headwinds for almost the entire ride, but that was a trade-off we all happily accepted in exchange for the excellent weather.

The desert cacti were in bloom, the fields in Texas were swimming in bluebonnets and Indian paint brush flowers, and the Deep South was awash in azaleas. The scenery was spectacular!

We went over our highest pass in New Mexico, Emory Pass at 8228 feet. There was snow on the ground; it was probably in the 40's, and there was a gusty wind blowing. It is the only picture we have where we all looked miserable.

In Hillsboro, NM, there were no restaurants so the motel owner cooked dinner for the four of us plus two other bikers who were doing the same route East to West.

We spent Easter Sunday in Van Horn, TX and had to settle for Subways for our Easter dinner and M&M's for dessert.



David Cramton, Lee Chouinard, Keith Hynes, Gaby Engelhardt

The Traditional Front Tire Dip In The Atlantic Ocean At The End Of The Ride

Outside Fort Davis, TX, we were pulled over (with siren) by the local sheriff for riding in the road instead of on the shoulder. The roads in Texas were bad, but the shoulders

continued on page 29

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Bridge Lesson

By Pat Harrington

When Shortness Counts

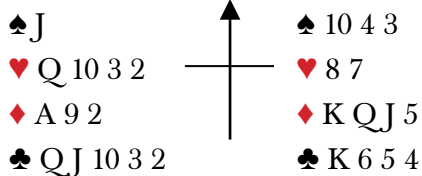
SOME BRIDGE BOOKS advocate counting short suits when you open the bidding; some suggest not counting for distribution at all until you find a fit; and some advocate counting length (the method used in many of the best modern books and the one I advocate). An argument against counting short-suit distribution immediately is that you don't usually know what final contract will be reached. Short suits are of no help in notrump contracts and are valuable only when you find a fit in a suit. Even then, the location of the short suit can be important. On this hand, North's singleton club is the secret to reaching and making a game.

Dlr: South ♠ 9 7 5 2

Vul: N-S ♥ K 9 5 4

♦ 10 8 6 3

♣ 7



♠ A K Q 8 6

♥ A J 6

♦ 7 4

♣ A 9 8

How do you value North's hand after South opens 1♠? If North counts only 3 HCP and no distribution, he will not have the 6 points suggested for a response and N-S are likely to end up playing in 1♠.

However, if North realizes how valuable a short suit in dummy can be, North can find enough strength to raise to 2♠. *With a good fit for partner's major, the dummy can add shortness points as follows: doubleton = 1; singleton = 3; and a void = 5.* North's singleton club adds 3 points to those 3 HCP for a total of 6 points, giving North just enough to bid. *The best thing a weak responder can do is raise opener's major when he has a fit.* North's 2♠ bid describes a minimum 6-10 point hand and is a far better response than 1NT, which describes the same strength, but denies a spade fit. South has a 19-point maximum opener (counting 1 length point in spades). A

maximum opener insists on game as long as responder can scrape up at least one bid. If South rebids only 3♣, North will pass even with 7 points and the pair will not reach game when they have 26 points. It turns out that N-S are in game with only 25 points here, but *it's okay to get to game when you know you have at least 25 points and could have more.*

West leads the ♣Q, top of touching high cards. North's singleton provided enough strength to bid. Does it also help N-S make their game?

Declarer should count losers in a suit contract. Using only dummy's high cards for help, South's losers are 1 heart, 2 diamonds and 2 clubs. To make 4♠, two losers must be eliminated. North's singleton club provides the solution – trump both of South's small clubs to make 4♠. Unfortunately, some declarers will forget to count losers and plan their play. Declarers who draw all 3 missing trumps immediately will leave only one spade in dummy and be able to trump only one club, leaving them to rely on the losing heart finesse. They will go down in 4♠. *When trumping losers is part of your plan, you sometimes have to delay drawing all the trumps.*

Count the number of spade tricks N-S is able to win on this deal: Declarer wins the ♣A and trumps a club. Suppose South comes back to his hand with the ♠A to trump another club. At this point, South still has all 5 of his long spades and has used 2 of North's spades for trumping to total 7 spade tricks. Not bad with a 5-card suit! We give so much credit to short suits in the dummy because trumping in dummy extends the trump suit and provides *extra* trump tricks. We call those shortness points *dummy points*. Next time we'll see why a short suit in declarer's hand might not be as valuable.

You'll find deals similar to this deal in Pat's award winning CDs, Introduction to Bridge Play & Learn With Pat Harrington Part 1 and 2, available from <http://www.greatgameproducts.com/> or purchase at the Bonita Bridge Club. See the Harringtons' current teaching schedule at www.bonitabridge.com and don't forget to tell your friends who want to learn bridge about Pat's Beginning Bridge course, which starts with a free lesson on January 12.



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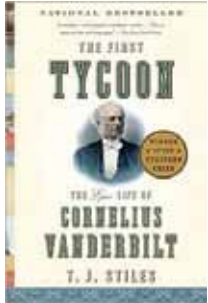
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ON THE BOOKSHELF

The First Tycoon: The Epic Life of Cornelius Vanderbilt by T. J. Stiles

Norm Roberts, Creekside



STILES HAS WRITTEN A REMARKABLY DETAILED account of the rise of “Commodore” Vanderbilt from humble origins on Staten Island to being generally regarded as the “Railroad King” and the richest man in America at the time of his death in 1877.

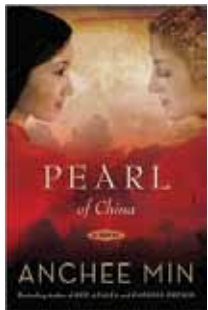
Vanderbilt first made his mark as an aggressive steamboat captain operating in and around the New York area. He designed his own ships, which were often faster and more technically advanced than competitors’. He thrived despite intense rivalries with competitors, which often involved ruinous fare wars. He pioneered a route via Nicaragua, in competition with the Panama route, to service the “gold rush” traffic to California. Eventually he came to dominate travel across the Atlantic.

As railroads developed, he became involved in, and gradually gained control of, traffic to and from New York City - the largest city and busiest port. Vanderbilt was a masterful strategist, while also ensuring that his businesses were efficient, and operated with sound finances.

This is also the story of America’s geographic expansion, of the move from agrarian to a more industrial economy and the necessary development of corporations.

Pearl of China by Anchee Min

Elaine Brotman, Horizons



ANCHEE MIN’S *Pearl of China* is a novel about the life of Pearl S. Buck viewed through the eyes of her closest childhood friend Willow Yee. Willow was the only child of a destitute family living in the rural Chinese village of Chin-kiang, and Pearl Sydenstricker was the elder daughter of American missionaries who came there to establish a church. Their friendship remains strong through many years of tumultuous political and cultural upheavals in the last years of the 19th century and into the 20th.

Pearl S. Buck spent the first 40 years of her life in China. She became the novelist who gave us real insight into the lives of Chinese peasants, winning the Pulitzer Prize in 1932 and the Nobel Prize for literature in 1938. Everyone remembers reading *The Good Earth* in high school. Recently, there has been a resurgence of interest in her books. *The Good Earth* was selected by Oprah Book Club and is now a bargain book at Amazon.

Pearl of China is only 278 pages long and spans 90 years of Chinese history. The first part of the book offers detailed insights into the relationship between Willow and Pearl, but then it speeds up and shifts to be more about Willow’s life under Mao with Pearl’s life at this time as an afterthought. I suppose there is only so much you can say in 278 pages, but these 278 pages are well worth reading since they give you a wide perspective of Chinese life in understated, simple prose.

Still Alice by Lisa Genova

Shirley Gorman, Oakwood



ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE is the sixth largest killer of adults. More and more people at a younger age are being diagnosed with Alzheimer’s. That is why *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova is a very interesting, informative and relatively easy read. Ms. Genova has a PhD in neuroscience from Harvard University. She is also an online columnist for the National Alzheimer’s Association. *Still Alice* is her first novel.

When Alice first begins telling her story, she is 50 and a well-known and respected psychology professor at Harvard University. She begins forgetting things and at times is confused. She begins to worry. The more she thinks about it, she rationalizes that they are caused by the natural aging process, stress and the lack of sleep. But eventually she sees a neurologist. The diagnosis: early-onset Alzheimer’s.

The novel follows Alice’s journey as the disease progresses. By telling the story from Alice’s perspective, the reader sees Alzheimer’s from the beginning and how it develops. The reader also is shown how Alice’s family, friends and fellow professionals learn to cope with a loved one and colleague who is a victim of this killer disease.

Still Alice is informative without being too technical. If you are interested in learning about Alzheimer’s or have a friend or family member who has been diagnosed with the disease, *Still Alice* may be a good read.



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Bonita Bay resident Roberta Greenland (Horizons) agreed to be this month's model. Roberta is shown sporting four different wigs. Changing hair "colour" and style with a wig may be the answer for you as well!!

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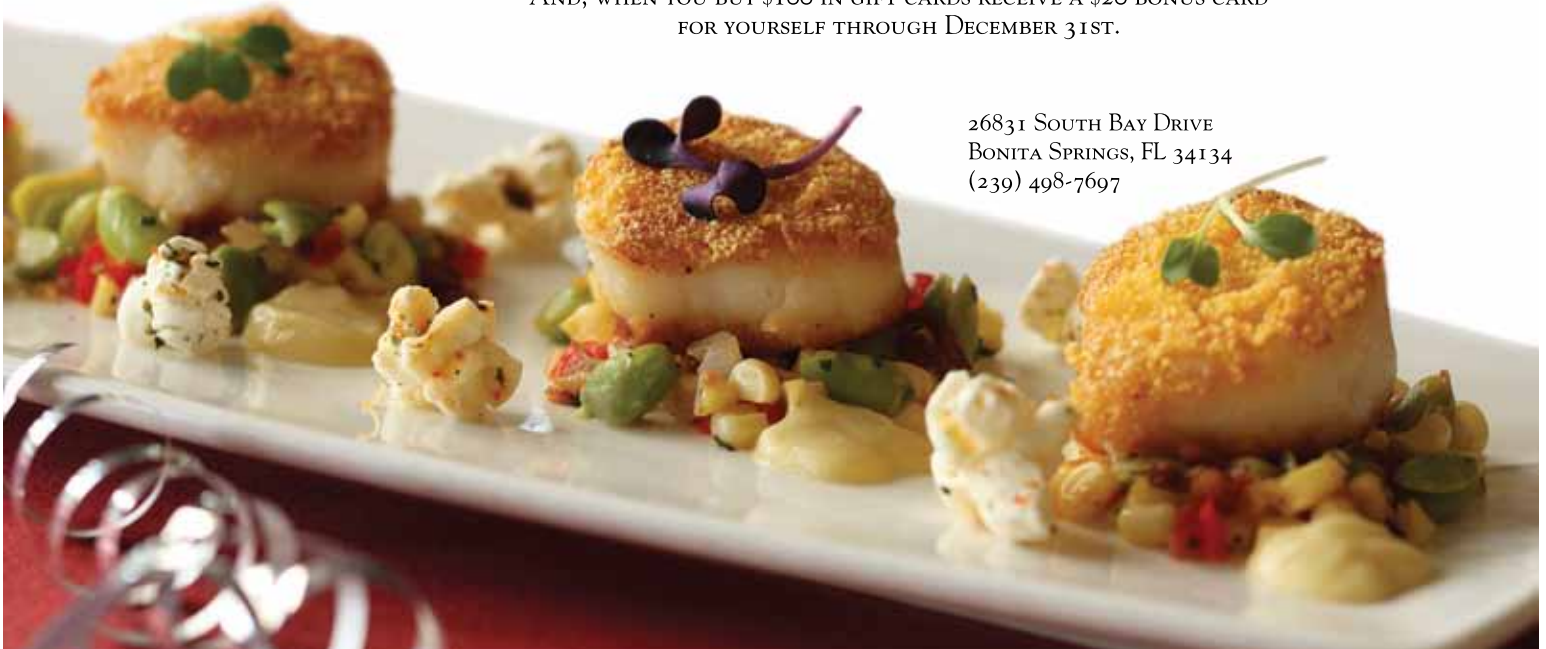
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Living on the Course

by Jack Sullivan, Riviera

The Lounge Chair



THE NURSE SAYS, "Pick a lounge chair." So Charley does. He goes into the treatment room where there are 12 rows of leather Lazy Boy chairs and picks one out by the glass wall that overlooks the fountain. Charley has been here an hour. Had blood drawn from the port that's implanted on the left side of his chest. and had two vials of blood rushed to the lab. The doctor reads the results before he calls Charley into his office. He reads that the white blood cells have not been lowered by the chemotherapy, then he runs a brief physical on Charley. He's satisfied; he tells him he's fit for another treatment. Pick a lounge chair.

Charley's allowed one visitor to keep him company in the treatment room and there's a straight-backed chair next to each Lazy Boy. He picks out a Lazy Boy and his wife takes the chair next to it and opens her *Good Housekeeping* magazine. She also is the keeper of a little canvas cooler that, if they have a late appointment, contains their lunch. They're all set for the chemo.

A nurse comes sporting a flaming, multicolored blouse. Liza's a big woman. She's very fat. Smiling like she going to announce that they just won the lottery, "Hi, Mr. McBride, how you feeling today?" Before he answers, she tells him that today is a two-drug day, which, unfortunately, he already knows. She wheels her cart up to the left side of his chair. She hooks up two plastic bags to the aluminum stand and injects a vial of Carboplatin into one and Fluorouracil into the other. They both kill cancer cells. They also kill fast growing cells, which causes



havoc with the gut. You need those babies. The drugs are very effective, but come with side effects that seem to have the goal of killing the patient: diarrhea, constipation, nausea, vomiting, mouth sores, poor appetite, dry eyes, watery eyes, low blood counts, depression and fatigue. Charley has had them all except mouth sores. Fatigue he's had, big time fatigue. He's so tired most of the time that it's a bitch for him to simply get off his butt to walk across the room to pee. The treatment makes him feel like he's been in the ring, without gloves, with Mike Tyson at his badass meanest. Hopefully the tumor feels worse.

Because of all the possible side effects, Charley is supposed to drink lots of liquids, water and fruit juices mainly. During their first session, the oncologist asked if Charley drank alcohol. "Yes," he said.

"How much do you drink?"

"About four ounces per day."

"How long have you been drinking that amount?"

Charley did a little arithmetic in his head and said, "About 60 years."

The doctor looked up from his writing pad, shook his head a wee bit and asked, "What do you drink? Scotch? Vodka?"

"Usually Scotch."

"What do you drink at your main meal?"

"Wine or beer."

He looked up again from his writing and said, "Mr. McBride, you realize wine and beer are also alcoholic drinks."

"Yeah, I know that," Charley said, "but I don't count them."

The doctor went back to his writing and mumbled, "Patient is an Irishman, does not count wine or beer as alcohol."

Charley vows he'll just enjoy being on the green side of the grass, looking down at the divots instead of up at them.

continued on page 34

Travel Insurance - Who needs it!

by Pat Hazen, CTC

IMAGINE EATING a wonderfully exotic creation while visiting in rural China. Suddenly you are having a gastric attack. There is no hospital in this little village, but there is a veterinarian. You have to be airlifted to a hospital in Shanghai, then transported to the U.S. Thankfully.

Imagine a late afternoon storm cancels your flight out of Ft. Myers. You are unable to make the connections for your long-awaited safari in Africa. Your tour departs on schedule. After hours of trying to change flights, you discover there is no possible "catch-up" point for this tour. Your northern family enjoys the safari without you, sadly.

Imagine you purchased very expensive center court seats for the finals at the Australian Open Tennis Championship in January, which just happens to be on the day your cruise will be in port! A storm forces the ship to change its itinerary and it will not be able to stop in Melbourne. You miss your only chance to see Nadal in person.

Imagine you are zipping along the Amalfi

coast in the convertible sports car you rented. You return from a late lunch to discover the rental car has been "keyed", resulting in extensive paint damage.

Imagine you traveled for almost 24 hours and you reached your destination on time. Your luggage went the opposite direction though, and will not catch up to you for 48 hours. You won't look very smart at the Captain's dinner wearing your travel jeans and zip-up jacket.

Medical evacuation for illness, weather delays, lost luggage and baggage delays, itinerary changes, car rental collision damages ... these are all conditions that can be covered with the proper travel insurance.

We are asked frequently if travel insurance is worth it. Only you can decide, but you should know about the coverages available so you don't make the wrong decision. There are many types of travel insurance and most cover cancellation and medical. The cancellation coverage applies to you or a family member whose illness forces you to cancel. Medical covers you while you

are away. It's a great combination.

If you think you don't need cancellation insurance, remember this: cancellation insurance is not for you. We know YOU aren't planning to cancel. (Why would you reserve and pay for something if you are planning to cancel?) Insurance is for the unforeseen event that happens to your children or grandchildren right before you are scheduled to travel.

Consider this: Everyone has a number in their mind. This is what you need to ask yourself: How much can you comfortably walk away from if it is an emergency? You should also consider the peace of mind in having medical insurance for traveling out of the country. Most insurance companies do not cover you outside of the US.

Who needs it! We all do!

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Restaurant Talk from Phyllis

By Phyllis Liebman, Woodlake



WHO DOESN'T REMEMBER the restaurant “with an orange roof”? You could always rely upon what you were going to get. Such consistency still can be found in many chain restaurants, but not in too many local ones. Like them or not, **Mel's Diner** in Bonita and **Nino's Thick & Thin** in Estero/ Ft. Myers have proven to be just that. The cooks at each of these family-type establishments have been there “forever”. We DO like them and have remained true to them, as they have to us, each for more than ten years.

MEL'S DINER: 28601 Trails Edge Boulevard, Bonita Springs, FL 34134 - 239- 949-3080.

We have fond memories of “grandpa”, the inspiration behind this Bonita restaurant. There he was, a man in his 90's, being lovingly captured by his grandchildren and great-grandchildren as he sat in a booth having his dinner. Romey, his son in his mid-forties, adopted from Albania as a child, is an owner. Either he or his sweet and charming wife, Adriana, are often at the restaurant to greet you and can easily be recognized. They are each swarthy-skinned, slender, with pleasant gentle faces that ALWAYS bear a smile that seems to come from within. David, the manager since Mel's opened 11 years ago, is another pleasant, good-looking “greeter”.

Recommendations:

Baby Back Ribs ... A full rack of fall-off-the bone, mild-flavored pork. Served with potato (Fries unless otherwise requested) and coleslaw ... \$11.99.

Boneless Pork Chops ... Two boneless grilled chops with choice of potato or vegetable of the day. (To maintain the meat's juiciness, ordered “pink”) ... \$10.99.

Fish Fry ... All you can eat of Mel's “catch”. Served with Fries and coleslaw... \$9.99.

Each of the above dishes is served with your choice of soup or house salad (iceberg lettuce wedge with bacon, tomato and cuke).

Baby Beef Liver ... Lightly dusted, pan-fried, and topped with grilled onion ... (I prefer served “pink”) ... \$9.99.

Roasted Turkey ... Made on premise, and served with apple-cranberry stuffing, homemade gravy and cranberry sauce ... \$10.99.

The above include soup and salad and choice of potato or rice and vegetable of the day.

Desserts: Something new! Funnel Fun Fries ... \$1.99. Tasty, despite the fact that imitation vanilla is used. Served with confectioner's sugar and caramel sauce unless ordered otherwise, which we did.

Rice pudding ... \$2.59. More pudding than rice ... served in a parfait glass and topped with whipped cream and cinnamon.

Mel's, as of a few weeks ago, now has a full-liquor license

NINO'S THICK & THIN: 18911 So. Tamiami Trail, Unit 6 - Fort Myers, FL 33912 - 239.267.6800 (same mall as Beall's Outlet and Ace Hardware.)

Interesting, but I don't think that anyone would refer to the crusts of

their pizzas, as the name implies, as either thick OR thin! And we never requested other than what is served. Or maybe the name is in reference to the wait staff (all of the gentler sex), whose length of service can usually be determined by their girth. They were, with the exception of one, all especially thin.

Almost guaranteed that there will be no smiling face to greet you **here!** Only once or twice in all of the 12 years that we have been going there has the baseball-capped “older” man, Joe, who seats you, even had a twinkle in his eye. (Smiley, as we refer to him privately, is the father of the owner/cook). I guess that Joe hasn't caused the business to suffer. In fact, the restaurant is expanding to include the adjoining space, thus about doubling its size, within the next couple of months. I must admit, that while we are thrilled for them, we will miss the existing old-time, small Italian restaurant.

Recommendations: (Don't eat too many of the warm, garlic rolls!)

While the menu is extensive, we're hooked on the following:

Chicken Florentine...A large portion of lightly battered, boneless chicken breast, topped with spinach and mozzarella cheese surrounded by a very flavorful, yet light, tomato-based sauce ... \$15.99.

Chicken Marsala ... Larry and a buddy of his have been searching, for years, for the **best-tasting** rendition of this dish. They claim that Nino's wins hands down. (They do request that the sauce, loaded with fresh mushrooms, be thickened just a little more) ... \$15.99. Veal Marsala is also available.

Both meals include a cup of soup or salad, and pasta. The salad with dressing (served on the side in a small, plastic container) is “uninspired”. I like the pasta fagirole, even though it usually is salty.



ESTATE TAX COMPROMISE **At The O.K. Corral**

THE ELECTION BATTLE is now over and the shift of balance of power is heading towards the Republicans. There have been discussions underway in both parties about potential federal estate tax compromises which may turn into a proverbial gunfight. By the time this article goes to press, Congress will have reconvened with the immediate focus on taxes.

The Democratic posse recognizes that if there is no action on the estate tax, the exemption reverts to \$1 million on January 1, 2011. At that time, the maximum estate tax rate would also increase to pre-2001 levels of 55%.

In order to pass new legislation on the estate tax, the Senate normally requires 60 votes. If the new legislation is opposed and vetoed by Sheriff Obama, then 67 votes would be necessary to override the veto. As a result, a compromise solution that can be supported by 60 or even 67 senators will be needed.

Some Republican gunslingers, trying to raise campaign funds for their war chest, have proposed a complete estate tax repeal. However, after extensive horse wrangling, Sen. Jon Kyl (R-AZ) and Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) have developed a reasonable compromise. Under their plan, the exemption would be \$5 million, and the estate tax rate would be reduced from the 2009 level of 45% to 35%. Blanche Lincoln is one of the 20-plus conservative blue dog Democrats who was a casualty in this election.

During the summer months, Sen. Kyl and the Senate Finance Chair Max Baucus (D-MT) were close to a different compromise, where the estate exemption would start at \$3.5 million and increase to \$5 million over 10 years. The estate tax rate would initially be 45% and then be reduced 1% each year, leveling off at 35%.

Another potential compromise is an extension of the current top income and capital gains tax rates together with a compromise on the estate tax. Republican gunslingers may accept a one or two-year extension of the top 35% income tax rate and the top 15% capital gains tax rate, if combined with a compromise on estate taxes.

In 2009, 99.4% of all decedents' estates were not subject to the federal estate tax. The number of federal taxable estates for the past four years are as follows:

Year	# of Estates	% of All Estates
2006	22,800	0.9%
2007	17,400	0.7%
2008	17,200	0.7%
2009	14,700	0.6%

continued on page 43

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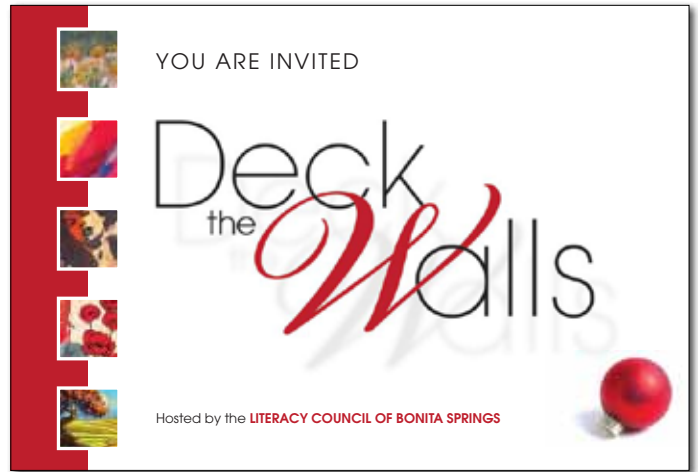
Art Show

THE LITERACY COUNCIL'S new Headquarters Building, which the group moved into in November of 2009, did more than satisfy much of the space needs of its 2,000 students. It also ignited the creative juices of its Board and Staff, which saw opportunities to expand its program of outreach to the community.

“Deck the Walls”, a unique fund-raising event, is the first example in an ambitious new lineup designed to introduce the Council to a broader base, utilizing what advantages the new facility offers. “We took a look at all of the empty wall space in the new building and decided that an art show that adorned the walls would be a great win-win for the Council and artists in the community,” said Susan Acuna, Executive Director of the organization.

The event will be open to the public, free of charge, on Monday, December 6, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Literacy Council is located 26820 Old 41 Road, Bonita Springs, FL 34135.

The new era of maximizing the value of the Council’s new facility continues in 2011 with the launching of what will be an ongoing program entitled “Distinguished Speakers



Series.” The initial presentation will take place on Thursday, January 27, 2011 at 6 p.m. in the Community Room of the Council Headquarters.

For more information, contact the Literacy Council at (239) 676-5202.



AN INTERVIEW WITH **REBEKAH BERNARD, M.D.**

DR Q&A

Q: *Is it true that you come from a medical family?*

DR. BERNARD: Both of my parents were nurses. I got into family medicine because it has such broad training, including pediatrics. I like that variety as well as the focus on preventive care and health maintenance. A family physician can treat about 95 percent of all medical issues.

Q: *How do you get your patients to follow “doctor’s orders”?*

DR. BERNARD: People make reasonable choices and decisions if you give them the right tools. I use a different approach every time – sometimes encouragement, sometimes a little nagging, but I’m firm about the consequences of their behaviors.

Q: *What brings you to this part of the state?*

DR. BERNARD: I’m a Florida girl. I grew up in rural Clewiston. I’ve had roots in this area since 2002 – living here while working in Immokalee. I’m glad to be working closer to home, and my husband just started a personal chef business, so we’re here to stay.

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Bicycle Ride Across America *continued from page 17*

were almost not rideable (very rough, filled with debris and often narrow) and there were virtually no cars on the road. He told us he knew all that but he could still put us in jail for riding on the road – he was not the friendly sort. We mostly stayed in the shoulder after that at great pain to our bikes and bodies.

In Wimberley, TX, we were unable to get a motel room and instead rented a log cabin for the night. Although we were concerned (before we arrived) about the sleeping arrangements and the amenities, it turned out to be our most luxurious accommodation of the trip.

In Ville Platte, LA, we needed to do laundry but there were no guest laundry facilities in the motel. The night desk clerk offered to do our laundry for us in the hotel laundry facilities for \$2.50/load. This was typical of the many nice and helpful people we met along the way.

In St. Francisville, LA, the only apparent route to our hotel was over a dangerous and busy road under construction. A local sheriff’s deputy provided us an escort to the motel via a back route – another nice and helpful person.

We met probably 50 – 75 people who were also doing this route going either East or West. Many were carrying all their gear with them and generally taking 60 – 90 days to finish the ride. Many were as old or older than us. One was doing it with only one leg (not even an artificial one) – his stump was strapped to the bike. Some were doing it alone, some as couples, some with commercial organizations and some were self organized groups of strangers who found each other on the internet. We came away with great admiration for all of these adventurous people.



The four of us were well matched in temperament, in riding ability and in our enjoyment of food and drink. We did this trip the Bonita Bay way, enjoying many comforts along the route, but we regretted none of them. We started as casual friends and finished with a close bond among us. We had a wonderful time and are already talking about the “next trip”.

To learn more about this trip and see more pictures, check out our daily blog at www.daveonatrek.blogspot.com.

City Views *continued from page 15*

Leaders resolved the Coconut Road Interchange fight in 2007, and with the cooperation of the City, Collier County, and the state DOT, enough of the Coconut Road Interchange funds were available to retro-fit the Bonita Beach Road interchange and to complete work on the Immokolee Road interchange as well.

The important point is that both the City and County are looking for and finding very significant construction cost savings by identifying reserves and out-year budget allocation to fund these current road projects.

Finally, the City of Bonita Springs, the Bonita Springs Fire District, Bonita Springs Utilities and the Bonita Springs Chamber of Commerce have had preliminary discussions regarding a multi-year economic development effort for the City of Bonita Springs. The goal is to diversify the local economy to include less seasonal and higher-wage jobs to add to the more seasonal and lower-wage tourism and development jobs that have historically been the back-bone of our local economy. The difficult political (and personality) questions of who pays how much and who controls the effort remain obstacles to implementing what I believe to be an important initiative for our community.

I continue to encourage the residents and property owners in Bonita Bay and the rest of “inland” Bonita Springs to remain vigilant for continued efforts of a few Bonita Beach property owners to persuade the City to shut down the Bonita Bay Beach Park and other similar facilities located on Bonita Beach. I expect to be meeting when they are ready with your Community Association’s new resident leadership and share with them my concerns and suggestions regarding this issue.

As always, I am honored to service District 4 and look forward to hearing from anyone who has an issue or concern regarding the City. I am gratified after 2½ years in office that I can brag to my fellow Council Members that your compliments and “thank yous” far exceed your criticisms; please let me know if there are issues that need my attention or if I have made decisions with which you might disagree.

Have a blessed Holiday Season and a great New Year.

John D. Spear, P.A.
City Council Member
Board Certified Real Estate Attorney
9420 Bonita Beach Rd. Ste 100
Bonita Springs, FL 34135
239-947-1102 office



Golf Instruction By Jeff Heilman



How Do I Know I Am Playing The Golf Ball Best Suited For Me?

WHEN JACK NICKLAUS and Arnold Palmer were asked, "What is the biggest change in the game of golf?" both answered, "Without a doubt, the ball". There have been dramatic changes in other areas of golf equipment, so underneath the white paint of the golf ball, something must really be different!

In the 1970s there were two popular golf balls: The Titleist, with its soft balata cover and wound rubber-band core, and the Spalding Top-Flite, with its synthetic cover and a hard rubber core. If you played at that time, you remember the Titleist's cover would cut from any topped golf shot. The Top-Flite couldn't be cut with an ax.

As far as playing characteristics, they represented two opposite poles in the range of golf balls. The soft Titleist would stay in contact with the clubface longer at impact, thus producing more spin and a softer feel. The Top-Flite, often called "top rock", spent less time in contact with the clubface, thus spinning less and feeling hard as a rock.

To an individual golfer, one of the aforementioned qualities can be beneficial. The low handicapper who relies on his short game to save a lot of pars is attracted to the soft ball. A woman with a slow swing speed gets more distance with a soft ball because she compresses the ball better at contact. The golfer who slices, however, does better with the hard ball. The harder ball spends less time on the clubface; therefore a misdirected shot has less affect. There are trade-offs. The hard ball is more difficult to control around the greens.

The goal that ball manufacturers have been in pursuit of since the 1970's is to create a ball that encompasses both the qualities of the soft ball with the durability of the hard ball. The engineers, in a very competitive market, have blended different materials, constructed multi-layers, experimented with different dimples and size; and along the way, HAVE vastly improved the golf balls available. They have still not produced the "silver bullet" for all golfers as evidenced by the fact that each manufacturer still offers 3 to 6 lines of golf balls to golfers of differing abilities.

Golfers need to assess the qualities they are missing in their game and read the package. The packages that golf balls come in provide clear charts as to the benefits of the ball and its trade-offs. My advice is to trust your feel. If one ball feels better to you, then play that ball. In my experience, being able to control chips and putts is ultimately more beneficial than an 8-yard

improvement in distance on a tee shot. Your belief in which ball is the best for you is more important than you might think. Most of us can remember which ball we played in our career low round or a memorable tournament win. That confidence is important.

Jeff Heilman is a PGA member and has been a golf instructor at Bonita Bay Club for 23 years. He began teaching in 1972. During this time, he has given more than 50,000 lessons, helping players representing a wide range of abilities, from PGA Tour players to beginners.

Charlie stands on the first tee of his home course with his usual Saturday foursome and announces that he has the perfect golf ball. He continues by explaining that he has played 10 rounds with it and it is still as white as the first round. During the 10 rounds he has averaged 3 strokes lower than his handicap and most importantly, he cannot lose it! "I've hit it into a lake several times, but every time I have been able to retrieve it." In awe, one of Charlie's playing companions asks, "Where can I buy one of those golf balls?" Charlie answers, "I don't know, I found it!"

REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

CLOSED DATE	SELLING PRICE	SUBCONDO NAME	FULL ADDRESS	AREA	BEDS	BATHS
10/8/10	\$1,900,000	Rookery Lake	26371 Rookery Lake Dr	5254	3+Den	3.5
10/14/10	\$120,000	Wild Pines	3661 Wild Pines Dr, #303	1268	2 Bed	2
10/20/10	\$600,000	Vistas	4751 Bonita Bay Blvd, #1002	2519	3 Bed	3
10/22/10	\$640,000	Esperia South	4951 Bonita Bay Blvd, #2003	2210	3 Bed	3
11/4/10	\$125,000	Wild Pines	3651 Wild Pines Dr, #202	906	2 Bed	2
11/4/10	\$1,870,000	Spring Ridge	26072 Fawnwood Ct	4605	4+Den	5
11/4/10	\$1,200,000	Mira Lago	26150 Mira Way	3261	3 Bed	3
11/12/10	\$687,000	Esperia South	4951 Bonita Bay Blvd, #2005	2200	3 Bed	3



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Curious Photographer *“Have you ever seen the “Green Flash””**

*A “Green Flash” is an optical phenomenon that occurs shortly after sunset, when a green spot is visible, usually for no more than a second or two, above the sun. Source: Wikipedia.com



Tim Blanchet SANCTUARY

Barb and I saw the Green Flash at sunset in Cabo San Lucas where it is a frequent occurrence due to the clean water and lack of humidity. Just as the sun completely disappeared into the ocean, we saw a brilliant Green Flash on the horizon in the water where the sun had just been. It was as if a flash bulb had gone off under the water on the horizon. We had only had **one** Margarita. Before that, I thought the Green Flash was a cocktail myth.



Gayle Oleff WATERFORD

I am not sure if I believe in the Green Flash. There was a time we were at the beach and the people we were with saw it. I looked and looked, took off my sun glasses and looked again, but somehow I just didn't see it. We were there another time and the same thing happened. Maybe some people can see it more readily. There are so many that have seen it or thought they have seen it, that there must be something to it. I will certainly keep trying.



Carol Fullerton ARBOR STRAND

I personally have never seen a Green Flash. In fact, I really did not believe its reality until a good friend indicated that she and others recently saw it with perfectly clear sky conditions. In this case, “Seeing is believing.”



Forrest Frank SANCTUARY

I've never seen the Green Flash.. I think you can only see it if you believe - sort of like the Tooth Fairy.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

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Superior Interiors

By Judy Underwood, Allied ASID

Dressing Your Windows



DRESSING THE windows in your home simply means providing some form of window treatment to your living spaces. Although that sounds simple enough, determining the best design options for each of your windows is a bit more complicated, and depends widely upon what you want the treatments to accomplish.

Privacy, light control and beauty are the three major functions of window treatments. In addition, what you put on your windows may or may not provide thermal protection from heat. As you approach the issue of window treatments in

your home, there are several key questions to ask yourself in order to decide on your best option.

First, consider the degree of privacy needed at each window or door with glass. Bedrooms and bathrooms are the most obvious rooms where privacy is required. Most homeowners want the availability of a privacy treatment in the more public areas of their homes as well, especially during nighttime hours.

Even those who live in secluded areas, where the issue of other people looking in is negligible, need to consider whether they want privacy treatments to block the 'black hole syndrome' that occurs from looking outward to dark nothingness at night.

Secondly, think about your light control needs. Most of us love lots of natural light in our homes, as reflected in the huge beautiful windows of today's architecture. However, over time, the sun causes fading of furniture, wood floors and floor coverings, and can dramatically increase cooling bills in summer. It also interferes with computer work and television viewing by creating eye-straining glare on the screen. And, as great as sunrises and sunsets are to watch, we don't want them shining directly into our eyes when we eat breakfast or watch the evening news.

Thirdly, ask yourself what aesthetic role you need for your window treatments to play in each room, as they are an

important element in providing a balance of color, pattern and texture to your overall decorating scheme. They can also serve to create optical illusions of your windows appearing larger, your ceilings being higher, or your room being more proportionally pleasing than it actually is.

Clients sometimes tell me that they are reluctant to put anything on their windows, thinking that 'window treatment' means heavy draperies or yards and yards of fussy stuff at their windows. Although we can still do those things where it's appropriate, today's window treatment styles offer much more variety and excitement than in generations past. Visit our website to enjoy some of our interesting makeovers that may help you see your windows in a whole new light.

Judy Underwood & partner Cliff Welles, ASID, own Decorating Den Interiors design studios in Bonita Springs and Sanibel Island, where they were recently voted Best Home Interiors for the 4th consecutive year. Portfolio at www.LeeCo.DecoratingDen.com. Call 239.948.9779 for complimentary in-home consultations.



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Letters to the Editor *continued from page 5*

BACKWATER JACKS should remain a great restaurant with daily fresh fish and fresh vegetables.

June and Tom Kennedy, Mahogany Ridge

I FEEL WE SHOULD boycott Backwater Jacks. Lucas doesn't seem to understand how much he hurt his reputation. They don't deserve our respect or support.

I for one want Lucas and BBG completely out of my life. I don't want them to keep their "hooks" in Bonita Bay in any way.

George Schmidle, Hamptons

A Debt of Gratitude

EACH OF US owes a great debt of gratitude to Jerry Evans. His commitment of time and expense to obtain a judgment on his BBC Note was a tremendous help to the TOC in the months of difficult negotiations with BBG. Dave Barry and I and our outside lawyers spent countless hours researching and discussing the enforceability of Jerry's Note. As we all remember, there were many different views and a great deal of controversy both within and without the TOC.

Judge Winesett has ruled that Jerry's Note is enforceable in accordance with its terms and the reasoning is exactly what Dave and I and our outside lawyers said it should be.

Jerry, however, had to stand alone in the face of a lot of undeserved criticism. I for one applaud him for his standing up and steadfastly pursuing his convictions. We could have made a better deal with more time but the legal system works much more slowly than business. However, Jerry has shown that it does still work!

I should also report that Key Bank has been completely paid off by BBG.

My thanks to Jerry Evans,

*Lance Johnson, Woodlake
(former TOC Member)*

Submissions to the Bay Watch News should be in writing, typed and emailed, if possible, or mailed to the address below. All material must be clearly identified with a contact person and phone number for verification or elaboration. Phone numbers will not be published. All submissions are subject to editing.

Please email BayWatchLetters@aol.com or mail to Bay Watch News, P. O. Box 1604, Bonita Springs, FL 34133

Living on the Course *continued from page 23*

That was when Charley was first diagnosed as having a tumor that had to be treated with drugs. When the chemotherapy started, he stopped drinking and hasn't had a good drink in seven months. He lost twenty pounds and people say he looks great. Charley thinks they've got to be kidding.

The guy across the aisle from him is eating a sandwich. It's big enough for four people and a hungry dog. His wife sits in the guest chair holding a cup of coffee in one hand and a *People* magazine in the other. She's absorbed in whatever she's reading and holds the guy's coffee at the ready. He reaches over without looking and takes the coffee, slurps a sip, and puts it back in her immovable hand. He's about 60. They've been together since they were pups. Now they fight the battle of their lives without giving it much thought.

Charley's a golfer. He likes to think of himself as one, even though he may not play much golf in the future. The last round he played was a reciprocal at Mediterra in May. He shot in the mid-90's and bitched to his partners about how poorly he played. Now he says he's learned a lesson. He calls it his lounge chair lesson. It teaches him that if God gives him the gift of good health, and the ability to tee it up again, he'll never complain about his score. Charley vows he'll just enjoy being on the green side of the grass, looking down at the divots instead of up at them.

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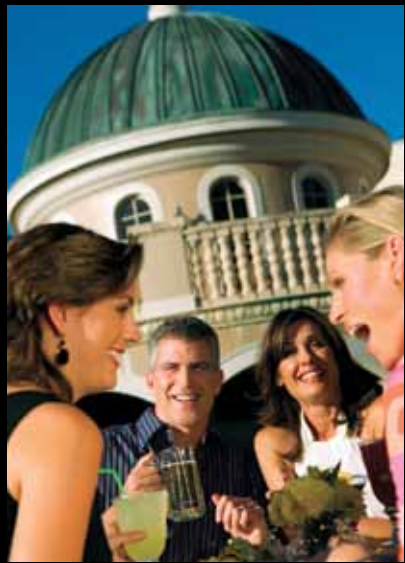
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Mark Nadler, Jan. 19-20
Human Nature, Jan. 23
Jodie DeSalvo, Jan. 24
Steve Forbes, Jan. 24
Miami City Ballet, Jan 25-26
Kenny Loggins, Jan. 29
The Ten Tenors, Jan. 30
Neville Bros./Dr. John, Jan. 31
Howard Shelley, Feb. 2-5
Albert Paley, Feb. 8
Shirley MacLaine, Feb. 9
Jerry Lee Lewis, Feb. 10
Lord of the Dance, Feb. 11-13
Jane Goodall, Feb. 14

Moscow Festival Ballet, Feb. 20
Tiempo Libre, March 4-5
Frank Sinatra Jr., March 4
The Irish Tenors, March 5
Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, March 6
President Bill Clinton, March 8
Sir James Galway, March 21
Mamma Mia!, March 29-April 3
The Golden Boys, April 10
Yanni, April 19
SPAMALOT, April 22-23

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Movie Talk



Recent Theatrical Releases

☆☆☆☆ **The Social Network**

Fictionalized story about the Harvard geniuses who started Facebook (see "Computer Tips" page 44 for related story). Movie is wrapped around two lawsuits that involve the founder Mark Zuckerberg. Excellent movie destined to receive at least five Academy Award Nominations. Should be enjoyed by both those who like working with computers and by those overwhelmed by them.

☆☆☆☆ 1/2 **Hereafter**

Clint Eastwood-directed movie starring Matt Damon who has a special connection to the afterlife. The opening scene of a tsunami is worth the price of admission. No matter what your belief is about life after death, this movie will stimulate a discussion.

☆☆☆☆ **Secretariat**

Feel good movie that is more about the woman – Penny Tweedy Chenery – owner of the great racehorse than the horse itself. It depicts how she triumphed in the male-dominated horse racing business. Excellent performance by John Malkovich as Lucien Laurin – the trainer. Not a great movie (Seabiscuit was much better) but interesting and enjoyable.

☆☆☆☆ 1/2 **Morning Glory**

Can a perky, optimistic, energetic morning show producer (Rachel McAdams) tame a hard-boiled, grumpy news veteran (Harrison Ford) and turn him into a "Matt Lauer" type? What do you think? Of course – a light piece of fluff.

☆☆☆☆ 1/2 **Convicted**

Based on a true story, Hilary Swank as a struggling housewife who dedicates her life trying to reverse her brother's murder conviction. She gets a law degree and enlists the aid of Barry Scheck (O.J. Simpson's defense team member). Movie is entertaining but marred by the fact that her brother is a trashy low-life, not a sympathetic character.

☆☆ 1/2 **Red**

A movie with Helen Mirren, Morgan Freeman, Bruce Willis, John Malkovich can't miss. Oh, yes it can!

Ratings are based on a five ☆ basis.

Other Notable 2010 Releases

The Secret in Their Eyes - This Argentinean movie won the 2009 Academy Award for Best Foreign Movie – Terrific – rent the DVD.

Mao's Last Dancer - If you like ballet, you should enjoy this true story about a Chinese defector who creates an international incident. Movie is short on details of his personal life.

Inception - Those who understood it, loved it. – I didn't get it.

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Pickleball

The Hottest New Sport in Bonita Bay



Left to right: Dave Zaun, Cathy McElhaney

IN 1965, near Seattle, Joel Pritchard, a Washington State Congressman, and two friends – Bill Bell and Barney Mc Callum - had nothing to do one day. Pritchard’s property had an old badminton court and the three of them improvised a game with a plastic ball and wooden rackets. Pritchard’s dog, named Pickles, would frequently grab the ball and run away with it – hence the name – Pickleball.

A Pickleball court is the same size as a conventional badminton doubles court (20 ft x 44 ft) with a net that is 34-36” high. The ball is a plastic perforated ball (like a waffle ball with smaller holes) and the paddles are wood or composite.



Left to right: Jack Panozzo, Dave Bowers, Dian Hornick, Dan Camacho

It is one of the fastest growing sports – particularly among seniors. A website has been launched by the Bonita Bay Pickleball Club at www.bbpickleballclub.com which shows their 70-player membership roster.



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Pickleball open play at Riverwalk Park:

- Sunday @ 9:00 AM
- Wednesday @ 8:30 AM
- Saturday @ 8:30 AM.
- Women’s open play is Friday @ 9:00 AM.

Come out and enjoy the fun. For additional information on membership, play and events, contact: Dave Zaun at Djzaun@aol.com - 812-229-8124 or Pete Stiles at petestiles@comcast.net - 312-560-1200.



The Lessons of Japan *continued from page 11*

aren't going to change the situation that American families now face - and with good reason. Paying down debt and rebuilding saving are at the top of the agenda for aging and over-extended US consumers. Without balance sheet and income statement repair, self-sustaining recovery and an attendant decline in unemployment will remain fleeting. Just like Japan.

When times are tough, acceptance is never easy. But the US policy debate needs to be framed in the context of a much more realistic baseline - namely, a Japanese-like stagnation scenario. Only by owning up to the growing likelihood of such a possibility can Washington be honest in assessing policy options.

For starters, such a baseline poses a serious challenge to those arguing for another temporary fiscal stimulus. It is not just because policy traction is elusive for post-bubble economies. It's also that stagnating economies do not induce revenue windfalls, which automatically reduce deficits over time. Instead, each successive stimulus gets locked in to an increasingly onerous public sector debt trajectory. Such tactics should be used only to contain the downside of another crisis rather than to jump-start a deleveraging economy mired in a liquidity trap.

A Japanese-like baseline also spells an easy monetary policy in perpetuity. For a saving short United States with a massive current account deficit, that, in turn, implies the growing

likelihood of a dollar collapse scenario at some point in the not-so-distant future as the world's creditor nations seek refuge elsewhere.

Only by owning up to such a dire baseline can we hope to avoid it. Historically, America's greatest strengths lie in facing tough challenges head-on - drawing on ingenuity, creativity, a flexible and multi-cultural workforce, superb universities, and core values steeped in research, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit. Today's economists and policy wonks speak to little or none of these options. As a card-carrying economist, it pains me to say it: Don't listen to them.

This is not about Keynes or even Adam Smith. It is about realism, vision, and leadership - and the willingness and courage to accept short-term sacrifices for long-term gains. Significantly, it is also about facing up to the corrosive and myopic ineptitude of an increasingly dysfunctional political system. The era of American exceptionalism is over. We must finally learn the lessons of Japan.

Mr. Roach is on the faculty at Yale University and is Non-Executive Chairman of Morgan Stanley Asia. He is the author of *The Next Asia* (Wiley 2009).

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Sudoku Puzzle

Edited by Will Shortz

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

			4	2				
2								
		7		8	6	2		
3		8						4
		9		7		5		
			3					1
		4	5					3
	8			6	1	7		
6								

Answers can be found at www.BayWatchNews.com.
Click on "Puzzles".

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Mike Argirion and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these six Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form six ordinary words.

LANSID

INBOUN

LEEXAH

CAFFEE

YOBLUD

NARFIA



HOW HE DROVE WITH HIS MOTHER-IN-LAW IN THE BACK SEAT.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW

THE " "

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Decision of the Editor is final.*



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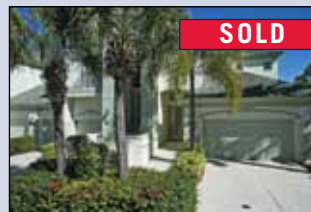
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* **Waterfront:** Harpswell, Maine: lovely cottage style home. Open concept, exposed beams, vaulted ceilings, rumford fireplace, finished daylight basement, office, large lot & deck. Two br, two ba, 180 feet of deepwater frontage. Photos available at: <http://www.mainere.com/-280.aspx>. Call 239.498.2116

Houses for Sale

* **Montara:** Villa, 2 BR, 2 1/2 BA, study, living room/dining room, kitchen/granite counter tops, laundry room, 2 car garage, ceramic and hardwood floors, beautiful new deck overlooking lake and second hole on Marsh course. Remodeled and updated in the past several years. New air conditioner installed in 2009 - well maintained and in excellent condition. 314.591.0064 for more information.

Houses for Rent

* **Montara:** seasonal rental - 90 day minimum. No pets or smoking. Pictures available. Approx 3000 sq ft. 3BR/3BA plus den (4th br). 2 Story. Large light, open, airy great room. 2BR and bath up with large loft area. Screened lanai. Community pool. Call to visit. 239.947.7804 or 847.432.3913

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Sandpiper: 3br/2ba 2nd fl, faces west overlooking a large lake, new heat/ac, new water heater, and new carpeting 2008, freshly painted, new roof. Community heated pool and tennis courts. Turn key. \$275,000. Call 239.948.1135

Wild Pines: 2br/2b, 2nd fl, with large living room, dining area, kitchen, lanai overlooking lake; 1,000 sq.ft. Motivated seller - offers considered. Call: 239.313.8728

Bay View II unit 1004. Beautiful Gulf & Bay Views. Newly updated. 3br, 3ba. Private enclosed garage. \$775,000 will finance. Land 239.992.8441, cell 239.273.1227

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* **Sandpiper** condo for rent for the months of Jan and April. Great interior and a wonderful view. Please call 239.948.1135

Estancia: Beautiful views, 2 br + family room with sleeper sofa, 3 ba, living, dining, breakfast and laundry rooms; gourmet kitchen, designer decorated. 2700+ sq. ft. Available now through Jan. 31, and March 15 and beyond. Call 616.403.4711.

Wild Pines Condo: Lake view 2br, 2ba quiet and clean 1200 sq ft end unit is available on a weekly, monthly, or seasonal basis. Pictures available at www.vrbo.com/139135. Please contact Dave or Carolyn at 239.949.0949 or 703.785.3605

Wild Pines: 2br/2b, 2nd fl, with large living room, dining area, kitchen, lanai overlooking lake; 1,000 sq.ft. Call: 239.313.8728

Bay Pointe: 2nd floor overlooking preserve. For rent seasonally or monthly. 3br/2b. Call: John 847.274.3883

Greenbriar III: Beautifully furnished 2 br plus den, 2 ba. Golf course view, elevator and indoor parking. Please call 239.390.2049

Bay Pointe: 1st Floor overlooking preserve. For rent seasonally or monthly. 3br/2b. Call: Patti 847.207.3765

Wedgewood: 2 br/2ba + den across from Wedgewood community pool. Large lanai overlooking the 18th hole of Bay Course. Two tennis courts. Elevator. Approx. 2000 sq ft. For rent seasonally or monthly. 312.914.4111

Bay View II unit 1004 rent Seasonal or Annual. Beautiful View of Gulf & Bay. Newly updated. Will furnish for seasonal. 3 br, 3 ba. Private enclosed garage. 3 mo. minimum. 239.992.8441 or 239.273.1227.

Furniture for Sale

* **Furnishings and accessories:** Bonita Bay home has sold. Contact 239.947.9942

* **Several Items?** 2 adult bicycles, 1 teen bike, 40" round card table & 4 chairs, 48" round table top, Singer sewing machine, Theodore Haviland dinner service for 8 plus serving pieces, Ice bucket, 2 wine coolers, Val St. Lambert 12" crystal vase. Italian, Portugese & Spanish ceramics/dishes, European antique cupboard, beige 84" chenille sofa, 4 mirrors, 3 book cases, computer desk, 2-drawer filing cabinet, 42" round glass topped patio table. 239.948.3573

* **Glass top** beveled edge dining room table on cherry wood base. 52x90. \$500. 239.495.6469

House full of beautiful furniture in Spring Ridge home. All purchased new recently. 239.947.4983

Sofa: Soft aqua, 3 cushion (89" long x 39" x 35" high) excellent condition, changed color scheme and can no longer use aqua. \$200.00, Please call Carolyn - 239.949.0949

Oriental Rug and Furniture: Perfect condition - almost never used. Lexington Tommy Bahama Entertainment Unit. Karastan 8'x10' Samovar Collection Oriental Rug. Ethan Allen Black Wrought Iron Daybed with Trundle and custom bedding. Call 239.949.1174

King Size Quilt and 3 Shams: Liz Claiborne - cream with soft greens and rose/pinks. King complementary green bed skirt. All excellent condition. \$100. 239.992.8125

Cars for Sale

* **1999 Gray Mercedes SUV ML350.** One owner 41,000 miles perfect condition \$8,500.00. 239.495.3176

* **1998 Mercedes E300TD.** Smoke silver /tan interior, excellent condition well maintained in and out. Low mileage. Xenon headlights. Sun roof. Original owner. Great miles per gallon. Must see call 239.496.1606.

* **1998 BMW Convertible.** Single owner. Manual shift. Great condition. 71,000 miles \$6,700. Call 947.2748 9-5. Owner Eshrat Demougout

2000 Mercedes Benz SL500. Excellent condition, very low mileage. Both soft and hard tops. Stand and cover for hardtop. Color Desert Sand with dark brown cloth top. Original owner. Never missed a service. Call 239.495.1606

Wanted

* **3-wheel Adult Tricycle / Dishwasher** in stainless or black. Please call 239.431.5138

Baby Grand Player Piano. Please call 239.495.6892

Miscellaneous

* **Electric Bicycle 1996 EV Warrior:** Original Cost: \$1,100. Sale Price: \$200. Needs new tires and batteries. Includes battery recharger. 239.949.1701

Children's Floor Mats: Interlocking cushioned floor mats, 24 inches square 3/4 inch thick, waterproof, easy to clean. Have quantity of 18 which will cover 72 square feet. Will sell total lot or individual mats. \$2.50/each 239.498.6121 or 703.768.8677

Stone Water Fountain: Water flows out of a brass faucet into a stone basin. About 2 ft. high. Originally: \$382. Will sell for: \$140 239.498.6121 or 703.768.8677

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Estate Tax Compromise At The O.K. Corral

continued from page 27

Although the Democratic posse will ultimately have the silver bullet of Sheriff Obama's veto gun, I would rather not watch the shoot-out at The O.K. Corral between the Democrats and Republicans, with the newly minted Tea Party pushing for ideological purity.

By the time this article goes to press, Sheriff Obama will have brought the senior members of Congress to his White House Ranch with the hope of defusing the proverbial gunfight on taxes. Recent statements from Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) that his top priority over the next two years is to have a new sheriff in town do not bode well to reduce legislative gridlock.

The usually polarized Congress needs to act now to extend the estate tax permanently with a reasonable exemption and tax rate before one's "Tombstone" receives only a \$1 million exemption, with the balance subject to a maximum 55% tax rate.

David P. Browne, P.A.

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Computer Tips

The Social Network of Facebook

SOCIAL NETWORKING is becoming very popular with the success of Facebook. The recently released movie called "The Social Network" has been a great success as well. Websites like www.myspace.com and www.facebook.com are a great way to communicate with people you choose to add as friends.

The idea of Facebook started in 2003 at Harvard University with students being able to communicate and share class notes. In 2004, Facebook became incorporated and after many legal hurdles has grown to over 500 million users. The company makes money from online advertising (as well as being paid by gaming applications for the use of their platform AND on the sale of logoed merchandise). It had an estimated \$800 million in revenue last year, with over 1 billion expected this year. Some very large companies like Microsoft own a share of this private company which is valued at around \$11.5 billion. You can watch the popular movie in theaters and see the turbulent details on how Facebook evolved.

I do have a Facebook page and it makes it very easy to stay in contact with friends and family. Simply go to the Facebook website and create a free account. Privacy and security is something Facebook is constantly working on and you can customize the viewable information about yourself. You can do searches for people and pages related to things that interest you. My most fascinating finds are school friends from years ago. You are not obligated to interact, but sharing pictures, videos and thoughts is relatively easy. Once again you choose to accept who your friends are so you are not bombarded with junk on your Home page. There are many popular games and entertainment applications to keep you interested as well.

Some of the concerns I have are that some applications require a lot of clicking and questions I don't care for so I simply ignore them. Make sure you know the people you accept as friends because once on your friends list, they can message you and this is one way people can hack your account. Like most websites, Facebook collects data but they are very concerned about your privacy and security so I do feel safe using the website. I do suggest you avoid making personal contact information viewable by anyone. You can send private messages to anyone on your list so those details do not need to be displayed for everyone.

It is fairly easy to change the privacy settings in Facebook so that only friends can see information in your profile.

After you login, click on:

1. Account in the upper right hand corner.
2. Then click on Privacy Settings then select Friends Only on the left. You can see there are many options on this page to modify settings and even block users if you want.
3. After you have made changes, click on Apply These Settings. You can now feel more secure and avoid having people you do not know getting information they don't need to know.

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Crossword Puzzle

By Andrea Carla Michaels and Miles Callum
Edited by Will Shortz

ACROSS

- 1 Like a human flock
- 5 Outlined
- 11 Praise-penning poets
- 17 Role for Ingrid
- 18 Pension recipient
- 20 Trust
- 21 Store that carries foreign-made caskets?
- 23 By the deadline
- 24 Hebrew seconds
- 25 Letters about a landing
- 27 Lackey
- 28 Municipal chief
- 29 Gets measured for a casket?
- 34 Syllables after "peek"
- 35 Source of teen embarrassment, often
- 36 Final outcome
- 37 Start some ending words?
- 40 Ugly remark
- 44 Hawaii County seat
- 45 Bus. phone parts
- 47 It's west of Gt. Br.
- 48 Kind of registry
- 52 Where "That's all, Folks!" folks are interred?
- 56 Let accumulate
- 57 Film critic with the column "On the Town"
- 59 Morocco's capital
- 60 Theme from "The Departed"?
- 62 Dumbbells
- 63 It's quite a stretch
- 64 Digital displays: Abbr.
- 65 Drought ender
- 67 Scrooge's nephew
- 69 Gravedigger's association?
- 77 Avis pair
- 79 Online brokerage
- 80 ___ about (roughly)
- 81 Requirement for Paul Bunyan's last ride?
- 85 Banderillero targets
- 86 Kind of holiday
- 87 Hurdle for salmon
- 88 N.B.A. Hall-of-Famer George
- 89 101-digit number
- 91 Prequel to "Six Feet Under"?
- 97 Garden-variety stars?
- 98 Ms. Magazine founder
- 99 "Thunderation!"
- 100 Requisite
- 101 Three-volley salutes, say
- 102 "Curious George" authors H.A. and Margaret

- 4 Chas Addams piece
- 5 Speaker on the diamond
- 6 Band with the quadruple-platinum album "Out of Time"
- 7 Muscle contraction chem.
- 8 Half of a newsmaking 1955 merger
- 9 Mess up
- 10 Big manufacturer of scales
- 11 "The Mikado" costume part
- 12 "I hammered this here thumb!"
- 13 Chants
- 14 Small boat
- 15 Pesci's "My Cousin Vinny" co-star
- 16 "Hagar the Horrible" pooch
- 19 "___ perpetua" (Idaho's motto)
- 22 60-min., as photo-lab service
- 26 Attached
- 28 Start to practice?
- 29 Come (from)
- 30 Florence flooder
- 31 Harden
- 32 "Wheel of Fortune" buy
- 33 Like some acids
- 35 TV's Donahue
- 38 Room in many a mortuary
- 39 Part of N.B.
- 41 State of oblivion
- 42 Name of eight popes
- 43 Some are eternal
- 46 Like some wills
- 48 Lawyer's filing
- 49 Grist for a certain mill
- 50 Cuckoo
- 51 Make a knight
- 52 Pensioner's age, in old Rome?
- 53 Miner matter ...
- 54 ... and its homophonic contraction ...
- 55 ... and another homophone
- 57 Pippi Longstocking, for one
- 58 Cushiness
- 61 Give a new label
- 62 Two-year-old's assertion
- 65 Hand-knotted rugs
- 66 Classroom worker

- 68 Hurt
- 70 Insect whose larvae feed on honeycombs
- 71 Hagen of "Reversal of Fortune"
- 72 Grade-school basics, initially
- 73 More eccentric
- 74 Close enough to shoot
- 75 When the sun is highest
- 76 Med. examiners, e.g.
- 78 "Doubly dead" Poe title girl
- 81 Generous donation
- 82 The rope of one's end?
- 83 Gush
- 84 Gushers
- 85 "Corpse Bride" director Burton
- 88 Popular candy in a bag
- 90 Dropped drug
- 92 Acronymic car of old
- 93 Card game cry
- 94 Card game cry
- 95 Puppet's backside?
- 96 N.F.L. units

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30 MINUTES / 116 WORDS

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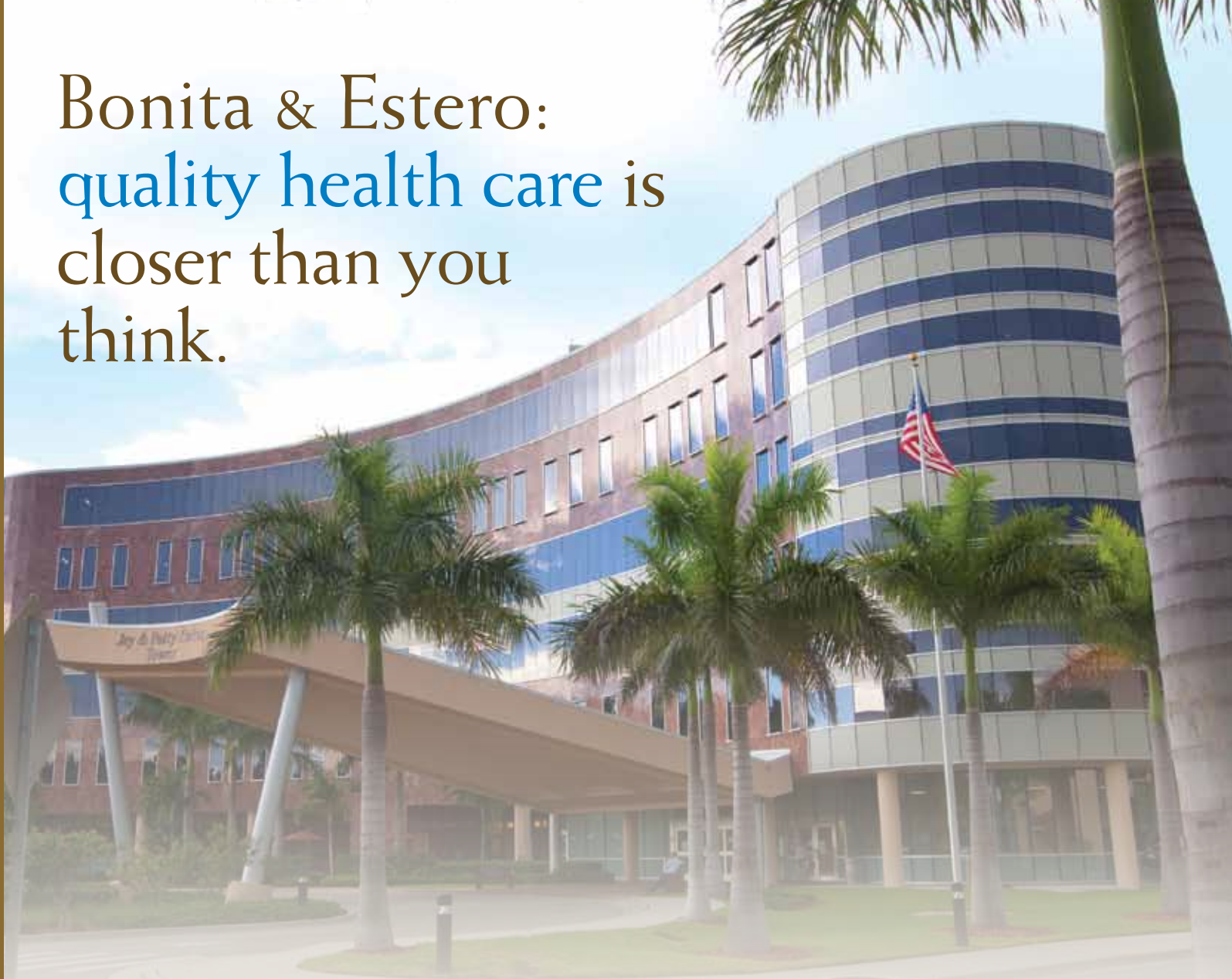
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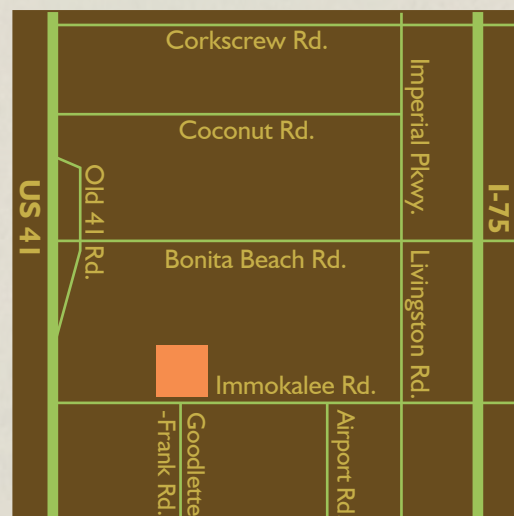
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