

Award - Winning Interior Design Studio

Offering Full-Service Interior Design & Renovations







Located in San Marco Plaza 8205 Nature's Way, Suite 101 Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

941.907.9759 www.DivineInteriorsGroup.com



WARREN GROUP LAKEWOOD RANCH



WHERE FAMILY VALUES BRING YOU HOME

We raised our family here in Lakewood Ranch and have been your local Real Estate experts for over 20 years. In addition to our love for this community, we are:

- Top 1% of agents in Sarasota and Manatee Counties
- Members of Coldwell Banker's Global Luxury Division
- International Diamond Society members
- Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialists

So whether you are listing or buying, we would love the opportunity to prove our commitment to you in your next move.

WHY THE WARREN GROUP?

Julie and Pat are the Best! They are focused and are market experts. They are very "hands-on". Their advice and assistance during listing prep were invaluable. They provided services far beyond what would normally be expected and we could not have gotten through the process without them.

Julie and Pat were kind, reassuring and professional as they guided us through the entire process. We felt that we were never alone and were being treated as if we were family. We can't thank them enough and highly recommend them to anyone wanting to buy or sell a home in Lakewood Ranch.

- Gwen and Jeff V.







Residential Real Estate

Renée Dedio Preininger



Your LWR Home Marketing Specialist

"I am so proud to represent Sarasota Trust Realty Company, a Lakewood Ranch based boutique real estate brokerage firm. Sarasota Trust Realty's culture is centered on superior customer service and professionalism. I pride myself on these core values, as I am personally at your service from our very first conversation, through the close of your transaction and beyond. I dedicate myself to ensuring your buying or selling journey is smooth, skilled, and successful.

I stake my reputation on it every day!"





MLS #A4538254

7217 GREYSTONE STREET | THE COUNTRY CLUB 3,861 sq ft under air, 5,348 total sq ft, 4 bedrooms, 4 full baths, 3 car garage







MLS #A4543488

13215 PALMERS CREEK TERRACE | THE COUNTRY CLUB 4,701 sq ft under air, 6,419 total sq ft, 4 bedrooms, 4 full baths, 3 car garage

\$2,150,000





MLS # A4542922

5821 MULLIGAN WAY | LAKEWOOD NATIONAL 3,025 sq ft under air, 3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths, 3 car garage

\$1,650,000





MLS # A4546620

7209 LISMORE COURT | THE COUNTRY CLUB 1,859 sq ft under air, 2,658 total sq ft, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage

\$839,000





MLS # A4547852

7466 EDENMORE STREET | THE COUNTRY CLUB 2,186 sq ft under air, 2,935 total sq ft, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, 2 car garage



World-Class Dermatology In Your Neighborhood



Emily F. Arsenault, MD, FAAD Founder / Dermatologist / Innovator



Dana Ellis, MD, FAAD Board Certified Dermatologist



Sonya Zarkhin, DO, FAOCD, FAAD

Board Certified Dermatologist



Brian Bishop, MD, MPH, FAAD Fellowship Trained Mohs Surgeon



Jennifer Brammeier, DO, FAAD Fellowship Trained Mohs Surgeon



Ashley Kessler, DO, MS Board Eligible Dermatologist

Arsenault Dermatology is a full-service dermatology center that has served Manatee and Sarasota Counties for nearly 20 years. Founded by Dr. Emily Arsenault, our practice now includes five locations and a dedicated aesthetic clinic, Glow Dermspa. With an unwavering commitment to quality patient care, our dermatologists have been handpicked for their world-class diagnostic skills and dedication to going above and beyond for our patients. Contact us today and you will be in good hands.

- Accepting New Patients
- Dermatology
- Pediatric Dermatology
- Mohs Surgery

<u>Lakewood Ranch - University</u>

8926 77th Terrace East, Suite 101 Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

Bradenton - Downtown

230 Manatee Avenue East Bradenton, FL 34208

East Bradenton - School House Plaza

9652 FL-64 East Bradenton, FL 34212



Book Now 941.907.0222 arsenaultdermatology.com

<u> Lakewood Ranch - State Road 70</u>

5860 Ranch Lake Blvd., Suite 103 Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

West Bradenton - Near Blake Hospital

5807 21st Avenue West Bradenton, FL 34209

Glow Dermspa

9023 Town Center Pkwy Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202



Book a Free Consultation 941.264.1161 glowdermspa.com



DESIGN • LANDSCAPING PALMS • LIGHTING • SOD

LAKEWOOD RANCH
941-445-7013
paradisepalmslwr.com



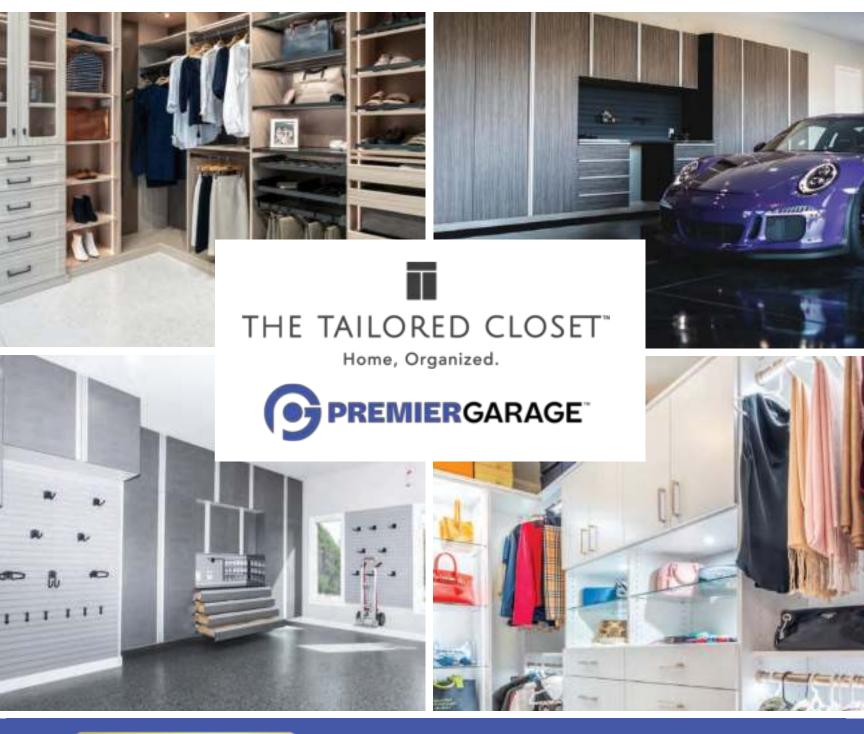






Formerly Tailored Living

SAME GREAT COMPANY BRAND NEW NAME!



\$500 OFF
any order of \$3,995 or more or
\$120 Off any order of \$995 or more
Not valid with any other offer.
Present coupon after estimate is given. HM 1122

Schedule a FREE in-home consultation today to transform your home and garage into the place of your dreams

CALL NOW! 941-328-8989
PremierGarage.com | TailoredCloset.com

Meet Me on Main Street









Find It All in Downtown Lakewood Ranch

Welcome to Main Street at Lakewood Ranch! A picturesque downtown lined with cafes and boutiques, specialty shops, international restaurants, the cinema, and various services and businesses. The open air, pedestrian-friendly environment provides a unique place for strolling and shopping, special events, and concerts and festivals all year long. Come out and experience Main Street today!



LWRMAINSTREET.COM



They love the Lakewood Ranch Lifestyle



from Pamaro

BUY
off the floor at all 3 stores
PICK UP
from our warehouse or...
NEXT DAY DELIVERY







PAMARO SHOP

www.thepamaroshop.com

Pamaro East

5465 University Pkwy University Park, FL 34201 Phone: (941) 359-0025

Pamaro South

4586 S Tamiami Trl Sarasota, FL 34231 Phone: (941) 923-3299

Pamaro North

7782 N Tamiami Trl Sarasota, FL 34243 Phone: (941) 355-5619

* WITH APPROVED CREDIT. PLEASE NOTE SOME ITEMS PICTURED HERE MAY NOT BE AVAILABLE

FIND YOUR happy place









Foodies + Fun-Lovers Rejoice!

As our tenants continue to open their doors, come experience all Waterside Place has to offer. Grab a bite to eat under the stars while enjoying live music and an ice-cold beverage. Break a sweat in a morning workout class before hitting up the Farmers' Market for your favorite goods. Or, simply take a sunny stroll along the water's edge.

COME LET LOOSE WITH US, WE'VE GOT A LOT TO SHOW YOU! 1561 LAKEFRONT DRIVE, LAKEWOOD RANCH, FL 34240



AT LAKEWOOD RANCH

WATERSIDEPLACE.com







Knee or Hip Pain?

The Orthopaedic Spine and Joint Center at Lakewood Ranch Medical Center can help you return to an active lifestyle. Our program brings together experienced surgeons, skilled orthopedic nurses and specialty-trained physical and occupational therapists to help deliver an exceptional patient experience.

Lakewood Ranch Medical Center has earned The Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval® for both Hip Replacement and Knee Replacement Core Certification.

The goal is to get you back to feeling like yourself again and enjoying life to the fullest.





8330 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

Physicians are on the medical staff of Lakewood Ranch Medical Center, but, with limited exceptions, are independent practitioners who are not employees or agents of Lakewood Ranch Medical Center. The hospital shall not be liable for actions or treatments provided by physicians. For language assistance, disability accommodations and the nondiscrimination notice, please visit our website. $22698460.914347\ 10/22$

Call our free physician referral line at 800-454-8215 or visit doctors.lakewoodranchmedicalcenter.com









LET'S DO WELL TOGETHER



and obstetrical care to routine gynecological care and surgical interventions, using laparoscopic and da Vinci robotic surgical technology, our compassionate and dedicated physicians and nurse practitioner are here to help you feel your best.

The Lakewood Ranch Medical Group OB/GYN clinic team delivers babies at Lakewood Ranch Medical Center.
The hospital received Newsweek's Best Maternity
Hospitals 2022 award.



To schedule your appointment, call **941-348-1144**. Book online at **lakewoodranchmedicalgroup.com/appt**



6310 Health Park Way, Suite 200 Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

CONTENTS | WINTER 2022







FEATURES

HELLO BELLO There's a serious drive behind everyone's favorite clown.

SAFE SPACE Animals of all kinds take refuge in this Myakka City sanctuary.

SEASON'S GREETINGS The cultural calendar is packed with offerings you won't want to miss.



CREEKWOOD CROSSING I-75 & S.R. 70 BRADENTON, FL Mon-Sat: 9:30am - 5:30pm | Sundays in December only: 11:00am - 4:00pm 941-751-6600 BARTLETTJEWELERS.COM







97

DEPARTMENTS

22 FROM THE EDITOR

29 BUZZ

A locals-first market blossoms on Main Street, the Lakewood Ranch Community Fund hires its first director and a new app connects Ranchers to their favorite sports and each other.

46 CLASS ACT

For her first published book of comics, Lily Wjtkowski found the perfect muse — her pet rat.

50 CHARITY SNAPSHOT

When it comes to engaging kids in education, this nonprofit believes learning is anything but boring.

54 CALENDAR

The holidays are here, along with an assortment of traditions and events to help celebrate.

60 STYLE

Need some ideas of what to give this season? Check out these suggestions.

97 HAVEN

This Lake Club home sparkles with Italian influence — including a show-stopping ceiling mural inspired by Da Vinci.

108 BACK AT THE RANCH

Don't let the stress of the holidays get you down. Follow these pro tips to keep your jolly.

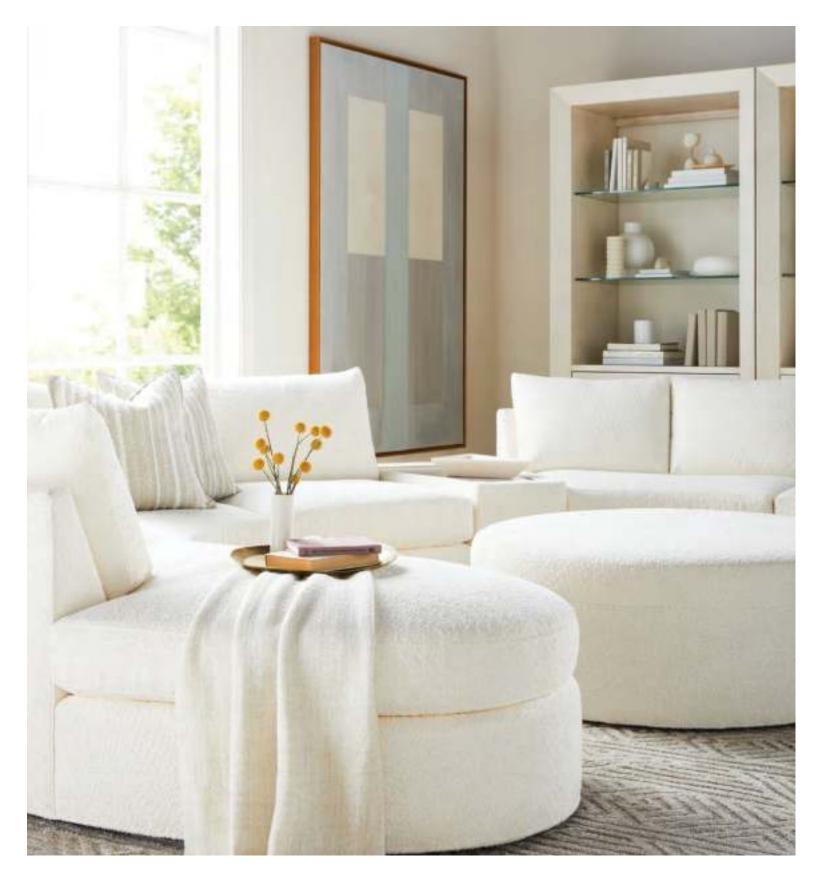
112 TABLE TALK

Nancy Krohngold dishes out the secret behind her mouth-watering barbecue.

118 RANCH SCENE

Community snapshots from recent events.

122 PARTING GLANCE





WHERE BEAUTIFUL HOMES BEGIN

Award-Winning Interior Design
Fine Rug Galleries, Custom Window Treatments

Fort Myers | Naples | Sarasota | Sanibel | NorrisFurniture.com





LAKEWOOD RANCH AREA'S COMMUNITY, NATURE, STYLE

President and Publisher — Emily Walsh

EDITORIAL

Executive Editor and COO — Kat Hughes

Managing Editor — Su Byron

Design — Nicole Thompson

Editor At Large — Lisa Barnott

Contributors

Spencer Fordin, Kelly Fores, Mark Gordon, Nancy Guth, Jess Holt, Heidi Kurpiela, Robert Plunket, Lori Sax, Eric Snider, and Abby Weingarten

ADVERTISING

Director of Advertising — Jill Raleigh
Associate Publisher — Lori Ruth
Advertising Managers —
Kathleen O'Hara and Penny Nowicki

Advertising Executives — Richeal Bair, Beth Jacobson, Jennifer Kane, Honesty Mantkowski, Toni Perren, Laura Ritter, Lyndsey Walsh and Brenda White

CREATIVE SERVICES

Director of Creative Services — Caleb Stanton **Creative Services Administrator** — Marjorie Holloway

Graphic Designers — Louise Martin, Taylor Poe, Shawna Polana and Luis Trujillo

CONTACT LWR LIFE

To submit story ideas or calendar listings, contact Kat Hughes at KHughes@YourObserver.com. For advertising inquiries, call 941-366-3468.

LWR Life is a quarterly publication of the Observer Media Group published in February, May, August and November in partnership with Schroeder-Manatee Ranch.

Free Financing • 100% Top Grain Leather • We Ship Anywhere

5251 S. Tamiami Tr. • Sarasota

(1.5 Miles South of Bee Ridge Rd.)

941-993-1057 • Mon.-Fri. 10-7 • Sat. 10-6 • Sun. 12-5





5831 Bee Ridge Road Suite 300 • Sarasota, Fl 34233 941.378.5100 • sforzodillingham.com



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Clowning around is hard work



Heidi Kurpiela

Bello Nock has been working years to perfect his act — and make it look effortless.

he joy of watching a truly talented performer is they make what they do — usually something incredibly hard — look incredibly easy. Whether it's an orchestra violinist blazing through a concerto or a ballerina gracefully landing from a jump en pointe, true prosmake it look effortless.

In the case of Bello Nock, if you replace the musician or dancer with a daredevil circus clown who can hike up a 45-foot tall

pole that sways one minute and race through a circular cage that's spinning through the air the next, I'd argue he's more one part skilled artist and one part elite athlete.

And this circus treasure is right in our backyard, with his "Funny Farm" home and training complex just a short jaunt from Lakewood Ranch.

If you haven't seen him perform, you will find yourself laughing at his silent

gags and showmanship one minute while feeling your heart skip a beat as he completes daring balancing and acrobatic acts the next. He's definitely "got talent," just like the show he has been on in America and Britain is called.

But what you may miss behind the 6-inch high hair and goofy antics is this is a man who is serious about what he does and has worked his entire life to explore and perfect his act. Like all artists or athletes, he has spent years training and learning and even inventing things to be more exciting and entertaining.

And that takes hard work. Lots of it.

Now that he has reached the pinnacle of clowndom (is that a thing?), he's working on a new endeavor: Helping the next generation learn and perfect their acts.

And as a protégé and employee told contributor Heidi Kurpiela in our feature on Page 66: It was not easy.

It was a bit more Karate Kid and Mr. Miyagi than clown camp, with poles to

be painted, car tires to be changed and laundry to be washed.

What looks easy often has thousands of hours of work behind it at a high level. These days, when it feels like we're constantly being asked to accept more shortcuts and lower standards, it's nice to know that nothing can be compromised when you're doing a bit pretending to talk on a cell phone 45 feet in the air

Which is why, despite being a clown, Nock takes what he does — but never himself — seriously.

So whether he's performing locally at Circus Sarasota or undertaking a death-defying act elsewhere on TV, don't miss the opportunity to see him perform. You'll forget all about how much work it is. And that's just what Bello Nock wants.

Kat Hughes Executive Editor



2 GREAT FAMILY OWNED AND OPERATED RESTAURANTS!











Fresh · Local · Social

Waterfront Dining **NOW OPEN IN CASEY KEY!**





Featuring: **Happy Hour Drinks Delicious** Small **Plates**

482 Blackburn Point Rd. • 941-770-3337 • DEEPLAGOON.COM



COMPASS

#1

BROKERAGE IN THE U.S.

AS OF 2021, CLOSED SALES VOLUME. SOURCE: REALTRENDS 3/16/22

"We believe no barrier should stand between where you are and where you belong. With deep neighborhood knowledge and strong community ties, along with using the Compass proprietary technology we help you make a decision that's guided by efficiency, precision, and the utmost care. Everyone is looking for their place in the world. It's our mission to help you find yours."



Pam Charron and Rich Polese
 Polese Charron Group

Real Estate News: Announcing... CHARRON





POLESE CHARRON GROUP



COMPASS is pleased to announce top producing REALTORS® Rich Polese and Pam Charron have combined forces to create a powerhouse team, the Polese Charron Group. With over half a billion dollars in combined closed sales, this dynamic duo will continue to serve Lakewood Ranch, Sarasota, Longboat Key and surrounding communities with unmatched skill and diligence.

Leveraging COMPASS' advanced technology and exceptional collaboration with a national network of agents, the Polese Charron Group is here to assure each Seller and Buyer they represent will be served with white-alove service and each transaction completed with seamless precision. Contact Rich or Pam today and experience real estate...beyond the ordinary.

TRUSTED ADVICE | PROVEN RESULTS

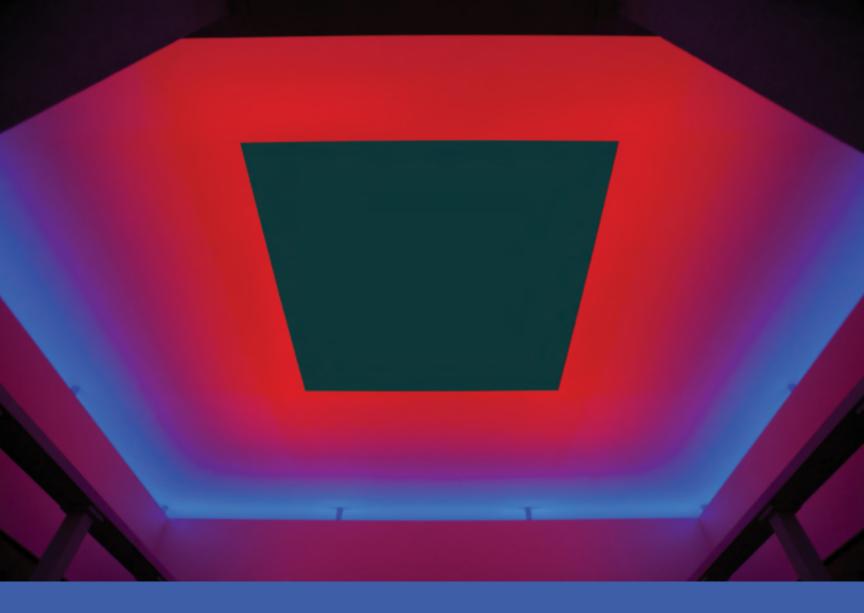
COMPASS



RICH POLESE 941,413,3110 Rich@FLHomes.com

PAM CHARRON 941.413.1404 Pam.Charron@Compass.com





A DECADE OF COLLECTING

Expanding the Collections of The Ringling

THROUGH JAN 22



ringling.org



INFORMATION + TICKETS









A Decade of Collecting is made possible through the generous contributions by our donors of art and financial support to expand and enhance our collection. Additional support was provided by the Gulf Coast Community Foundation, Sarasota Magazine, Gulf Coast Community Foundation Endowment at The Ringling, and The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art Foundation.

Paid for in part by Sarasota County Tourist Development Tax revenues.

Sponsored in part by the State of Florida, Department of State, Division of Arts and Culture, the Florida Council on Arts and Culture, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Photo by Giovanni Lunardi.





Style and service for every budget.



HunterDouglas 🛟

NORMAN'

CLUTRON



\$500 OFF Any window treatment

order of \$3995 or more or \$120 off any window treatment order of \$995 or more.

not be combined with any other offer. Offer good at time of initial estimate only HM. Each franchise individually Showroom at UTC Square: Home Depot Shopping Ctr, 5405 University Pkwy Open Mon - Fri 9-5 • Sat 10-3 | Family Owned & Operated Since 1994

FREE In-Home Consultation

941-342-0900

Now Serving VENICE • NORTHPORT • PT. CHARLOTTE

Window Treatments • Shutters • Custom Draperies • Bedspreads • Smart Motorized Shades • Blinds

"The Manatee Chamber is essential for my local business."



Jonathan Marsh Home Helpers Home Care of Bradenton

The Manatee Chamber of Commerce is essential for my local business. They always take the time to help me, connect me to resources, and support my team. It's obvious that they care and want small businesses to succeed. I would highly recommend Chamber membership for any organization in our region.



LAKEWOOD RANCH
4215 Concept Court | Lakewood Ranch



BRADENTON
222 10th Street West | Bradenton

JOIN NOW

to harness the power of a network of 2,000+ Chamber member businesses to:

Make Connections

Grow Your Business

Have a Voice

Gain Visibility

Make a Difference in Our Community

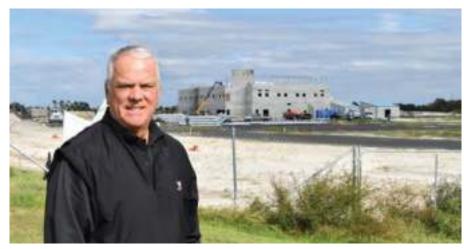
ManateeChamber.com 941-748-3411

Strengthening Local Businesses and Our Community for More Than 130 Years

390714-1



FOR STARTERS



an Swaby

Don Janezic is president of the Manatee Library Foundation, which gave \$200,000 toward the Lakewood Ranch Library's collections.

BY LWR LIFE STAFF

Although the new La Library isn't slated to

Although the new Lakewood Ranch Library isn't slated to open until fall 2023, its friends are already working to avoid what would be a sad sight for a beautiful new space: empty shelves.

The library, which is under construction on Rangeland Parkway, is estimated to have space for 48,000 books when it opens. A year ago, county staff estimated it would take about \$990,000 to fill the new library's shelves. The county

has allotted \$580,000, leaving a gap in funding — and possibly empty space.

The Manatee Library Foundation has granted \$200,000 to help close this gap, and the Friends of the Lakewood Ranch Library has launched a "Fill the Shelves" campaign to raise the remaining \$210,000 needed by April.

Schroeder-Manatee Ranch and the Lakewood Ranch Community Fund have each pledged \$10,000 toward the effort. Interested in helping? Visit FriendsOfLakewoodRanchLibrary.org.

MOVIN' ON UP

We know that words like "infrastructure" and "capital improvement plan" are sure to make your eyes glaze over faster than you can say "bond offering."

But yes, when Manatee County decided to borrow \$232 million in bonds this fall, it did so with one goal in mind: To get stuff built faster. Yay!

In addition to a list of road improvements that are more exciting for some than others (including the intersection at Players Drive and Lorraine Road, the Lena Road extension and the 44th Avenue East extension), the sexiest list of projects affecting the East County area revolves around Premier Park, which the county is building out.

Because of that borrowing, resi-

dents can expect construction on Premier Park's soccer multipurpose building to be completed in December 2023, and work on the stadium parking and locker rooms has begun and is expected to be completed in February.



As for Premier's new 10-lane lap pool, it is planned to begin in May and completed a year later.

We can't wait.

PUPS ON PLANES

When Hurricane Ian hit at the end of September, it brought with it an unexpected burden: Animals needing rescue and care.

With local shelters filling up after the storm, animal-loving groups including the Humane Society of Lakewood Ranch and Manatee County Animal Welfare partnered with Wings of Rescue to give 27 dogs a plane ride to other states with capacity for them. "Post Ian we saw a huge increase in the amount of lost and stray pets coming into the shelter," said Hans Wohlgefahrt with the county's Animal Services Outreach. In a week, that added up to more than 100 animals.

Dogs were transported to Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport, where they were flown to shelters in New York, Vermont and Maryland to free up space here.

No word on whether they were offered any in-flight snacks, though.















YOUR PERSONAL FRIEND IN JEWELRY | DESIGNING THE BEST, REPAIRING THE REST

Custom Designs | Exceptional Selection | Jewelry Repair

Proudly Serving Manatee and Sarasota for 22 Years | Lakewood Main Street | 941.373.6311 | Vanessafinejewelry.com



Photo by Nancy Guth

Niki Dalsing and Lindsay Wood founded Main Street Market to give Ranchers a safe shopping alternative — and to give small businesses a viable venue.

Makers Market

Niki Dalsing and Lindsay Wood, the founders of Main Street Market. launched these boutique-style shopping experiences in 2020 with 24 vendors. The vendor list has now grown to more than 75.

BY ABBY WEINGARTEN | CONTRIBUTOR

or nearly two years — during a pandemic that threatened the longevity of small businesses everywhere — local business owners were given a prime venue to showcase and sell their wares at the Main Street Market in downtown Lakewood Ranch. And, during a time when shopping indoors was risky for many, Lakewood Ranch residents enjoyed an open-air shopping experience that gave them access to artisan-made goods and the opportunity to meet and chat with neighbors.

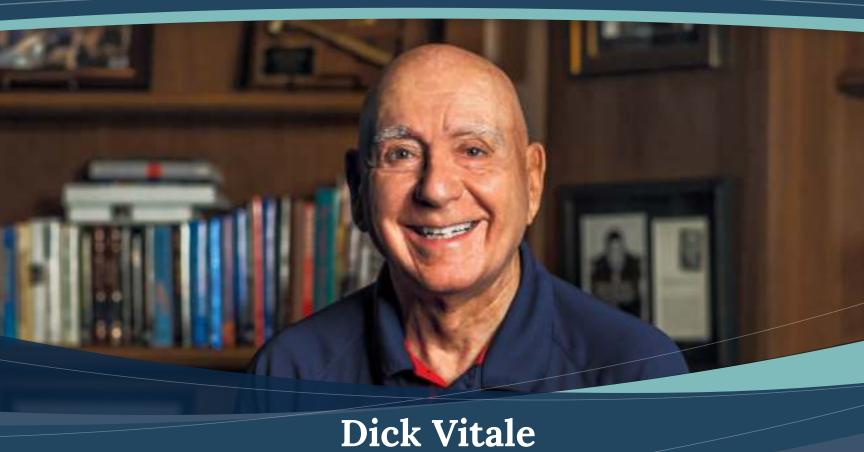
The winning team behind this winning effort?

Niki Dalsing and Lindsay Wood, the founders of Main Street Market.

"During the pandemic, many people were only shopping online or getting their food and essentials delivered because they didn't feel safe shopping indoors," says Wood. "We realized this was the ideal opportunity to give Ranchers a safe shopping alternative - and to give small businesses a vi-

Continued on Page 34

Center For Sight is "Awesome, Baby!"



Award-winning ESPN College Basketball Broadcaster, Patient of Dr. Soscia

In the game of life, focus on what really matters.

It's no surprise that cataract surgery with Dr. Soscia was well organized, painless and precise. Everything went according to plan and my recovery was incredibly quick. When I talk about great players, I call them "3-S Men" – super – scintillating – sensational – and I'd utilize that description for Dr. Soscia without hesitation.



William L. Soscia, M.D.
LASIK, Laser Cataract &
Lens Replacement Surgeon
Medical Director
Named "Top Doctor" by
Castle Connolly

CENTER FOR SIGHT



able venue." Wood emphasizes that this is not a farmers market. "This is a boutique-style experience that offers unique and one-of-a-kind items created or sourced by local makers, artisans and small business owners." She adds that she and Dalsing started coordinating markets in November 2020 "with a vision to bring our community together after a very challenging time."

Dalsing and Wood have since coordinated eight Saturday markets at Lakewood Ranch Main Street, and seven night markets during Ranch Nite Wednesdays at Waterside Place.

The first market showcased 24 vendors and has grown to more than 75. Wood explains that the market brings together independent artists and makers who specialize in home decor, fashion, art, gifts, food and even items for pets. (As the owner of Blossom & Burn Co., a soy wax candle company, Wood is herself a vendor at the market.) Most of the vendors come from the local region — with a few from the Tampa Bay area, and additional vendors are encouraged to apply for spaces.

"We're looking for locally owned businesses that either handcraft or locally source the goods they sell," says Dalsing. "It is a major plus if the goods are also ethically sourced."

The ability to create community and coordinate events is nothing new for Dalsing and Wood. They were both making an impact on their respective communities — in and out of Florida — long before they launched Main Street Market.

Dalsing first moved with her husband and daughter to Lakewood Ranch from the Chicago suburbs in 2014. She previously worked for Feld Entertainment as an event coordinator, and has since applied her experience to the operation, organization and planning of Main Street Market. Dalsing is also the lead instructor at barre3, a fitness studio on Lakewood Main Street, and a part-time employee for Influence, a retail boutique also on Main Street.

Wood and her husband moved from Los Angeles to Lakewood Ranch in 2019 to be closer to family. Wood's degree in psychology helps her better understand the needs of consumers



The Main Street Market founders are looking for locally owned businesses that either handcraft or locally source the goods they sell.

and vendors.

Both Wood and Dalsing say they're thrilled with how fast the market has grown.

"This season we're adding live music and youth dance performances during the markets," says Wood, adding that marketgoers should expect to see handcrafted jewelry, baked goods, plants, original artwork, home decor, and clothing and accessories for adults and children.

"It's such a win-win," says Dalsing. "Area residents get to support local businesses, find inspired gifts for the holidays, listen to live music and meet their neighbors in a beautiful, open-air ambiance. What could be better?"

IF YOU GO

During the 2022-2023 season, Main Street Market will be open 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 26, Dec. 17, Jan. 28, and March 4. Visit MainStreetMarketLWR.com.



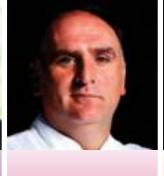
Residents get to support local businesses, find inspired gifts for the holidays and meet their neighbors in a beautiful, open-air ambiance. What could be better?"

NIKI DALSING

RINGLING COLLEGE LIBRARY ASSOC

Bringing influencers from the world stage to our stage in Sarasota













MARIA RESS/ January 17, 202

2021 Nobel Peace Prize Winner

ADM. JAMES S February 27,

Mental Health Advocate and Former Olympi

Chef and Founder of World Central Kitch JOSÉ ANDRÉ March 13, 2023

For subscription information visit RCLAssociation.org /town-hall-tickets/

To learn more about the Series and Speakers visit us 941-309-5100 RCLAssociation.org

Nowhere to Go But Up

Adrienne Bookhamer, the Lakewood Ranch Community Fund's first executive director, is excited about shining a light on the dozens of organizations helping regional residents.

BY MARK GORDON | CONTRIBUTOR

drienne Bookhamer had no experience in family welfare when she took a position overseeing adoptions in Jefferson County, Colorado, outside Denver, in 1997.

She would go on to spend 25 years connecting babies, kids and teenagers with families, first in a county government role and later with nonprofits. When she moved to Florida at the onset of the pandemic, settling in Lakewood Ranch, she commuted to Tampa for two years, running a nonprofit adoption services organization there.

Bookhamer, named executive director of the Lakewood Ranch Community Fund in May, has now been out of the adoption services field for six months. But, for this forward-thinking, caring executive, the intrinsic value of adoptions will always have a place in her heart. Of the hundreds of families she's worked with, she recalls one, more than 15 years ago in Colorado, when her organization found a family for a 17-year-old.

"Everyone had given up on him," Bookhamer says, "and we found a family that wanted him. He had always wanted a family but thought he was going to have to emancipate from foster care. They took him in. And he never thought it was possible." Bookhamer

 $Continued\ on\ Page\ 38$



Photos by Lori Sa

The Lakewood Ranch Community Fund's mission, under Adrienne Bookhamer, remains the same: to support the 100-plus nonprofits that improve the lives of Lakewood Ranch residents.



remains in touch with the young man, now in his 30s.

That's the kind of passion Bookhamer seeks to bring to the fund, a role that's ushering in some other big changes at the organization. For starters, Bookhamer is the fund's first salaried employee. Another big one: In early 2021, the fund received its own 501(c)(3) exemption, after spending its first 20 years under the Manatee Community Foundation's umbrella.

The fund's mission, on its own and under Bookhamer, remains the same: to support the 100-plus nonprofits that improve the lives of Lakewood Ranch residents. The fund has granted some \$1.4 million to those organizations since its inception. "It's super exciting," Bookhamer says. "We have the potential to be a huge resource in this community. We have nowhere to go but up."

In a recent interview with *LWR Life*, Bookhamer talked about her career, her focus and challenges. The following are edited excerpts:

Why did you seek out this position?

I love nonprofit work. I've always been on the other end, figuring out how to get money into organizations, whether it's fundraising, donor cultivation, or asking for grants. Now I'm on the other side where I can really see a difference. I can say, "Hey look, you guys are doing a great job and we can support you." It feels good to give money away, instead of always having to beg for it.

What is the fund's elevator pitch?

The Lakewood Ranch Community Fund is an organization that enhances the quality of life in and around Lakewood Ranch by granting funds that support nonprofits making an impact within Lakewood Ranch. We are big on saying, look around, Lakewood Ranch seems well-to-do, and it is. There are a lot of people around here doing really well. But there's an undercurrent of families here not doing so well. There are the working families that help make this place what it is. And there are organizations out here trying to help these families. We're granting funds to help these organizations.

What is the No. 1 challenge you face?
The biggest struggle is awareness.
To show people that, yes, there's a



Adrienne Bookhamer has dedicated her life to working with nonprofits.

lot of wealth here, but there are also families struggling to make ends meet. Affordable housing, being able to put groceries on the table. Being able to get your kids educated, daycare.

There's a lot of stuff going on in the community and Lakewood Ranch just continues to grow. And, as it grows, those issues are going to be present and probably magnify. Everybody should be able to thrive here, and all families should be able to live here.

In your career you've mostly worked in or in charge of teams. What's it like being the sole person now with a publicfacing, multimillion-dollar granting organization?

Well, there's a lot to do, but it makes you prioritize what is really important for us right now, and that's making sure people know who we are so people can feel comfortable and trust us, so when they give to us, they know we're doing what we're supposed to be doing with the money and are being good shepherds with the philanthropy.

FIRST GOAL? INCREASE EXPOSURE.

Expect to see a lot more of the Lakewood Ranch Community Fund in 2023. The group hosted a wine and giving event in late October, and plans are in the works for a walk/run event in Waterside Place in February. The fund's executive director, Adrienne Bookhamer, says the goal is to raise money to support the foundation's internal infrastructures (new donor software, databases, etc.) and increase its visibility in Lakewood Ranch. Bookhamer has also been meeting with community leaders and hopes to work with homebuilders and homeowners' associations soon to generate more exposure.



Everybody
should be
able to thrive
here, and
all families
should be
able to
live here."

ADRIENNE BOOKHAMER



Wild Blue at Waterside in Lakewood Ranch by Stock Development is a natural choice for those who appreciate luxury living, a connected and relaxed coastal vibe and an array of social & active lifestyle amenities. Here, a verdant waterfront setting, along with quality design and construction, blend seamlessly to create a naturally beautiful community. Featuring a collection of single-family homes by some of the region's most acclaimed builders.

Sales Center Now Open:

8307 Lake Club Blvd., Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202 | 941.313.3852

Join our VIP Priority list at WildBluelwr.com

Coming early 2023





ORAL REPRESENTATIONS CANNOT BE RELIED UPON AS CORRECTLY STATING THE REPRESENTATIONS OF THE DEVELOPER. FOR CORRECT REPRESENTATIONS REFERENCE SHOULD BE MADE TO THE DOCUMENTS REQUIRED BY SECTION 718.503, FLORIDA STATUTES, TO BE FURNISHED BY A DEVELOPER TO A BUYER OR LESSEE. ALL RENDERINGS AND PLANS ARE PROPOSED CONCEPTS SHOWN ONLY FOR MARKETING PURPOSES AND ARE BASED ON THE DEVELOPER'S CURRENT PRELIMINARY DEVELOPMENT PLAN. DEVELOPER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO MODIFY, REVISE OR WITHDRAW THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT PLAN IN DEVELOPER'S SOLE DISCRETION WITHOUT NOTICE. NOTHING HEREIN OR IN ANY OTHER COMMUNICATION SHALL BE DEEMED TO OBLIGATE THE DEVELOPER, OR ANY AFFILIATE OF DEVELOPER, TO CONSTRUCT THE PROJECT OR OFFER ANY OF THE PROJECT FOR SALE, AND NOTHING HEREIN SHALL BE DEEMED A GUARANTY OF ANY KIND. THIS IS NOT AN OFFER TO SALE OR SOLICITATION OF OFFERS TO BUY.

Proudly presented by





Photo by Lori Sax

Chris McComas created MVP Sports and Social — a collaborative group that invites Ranchers to participate in nine sports, including pickleball, cornhole, disc golf, mini golf, golf, softball, kickball, beach volleyball and bowling.

There's an App for That

Chris and Jessi McComas of MVP Sports and Social are launching a new app connecting Lakewood Ranchers to all things sports and social.

BY ABBY WEINGARTEN | CONTRIBUTOR

hen Chris and Jessi Mc-Comas first moved to Lakewood Ranch in 2015, the husband-and-wife couple craved more opportunities for sports-centric socializing.

Instead of waiting for the niche to be filled, they created MVP Sports and Social that same year — a collaborative group that now invites Ranchers, 18 and older, to participate in nine sports, including pickleball, cornhole,

disc golf, mini golf, golf, softball, kick-ball, sand volleyball and bowling.

"Our goal is to bring people together in a fun, laidback atmosphere where they can make new memories and get some exercise," says Chris, who is also parks director for Lakewood Ranch Community Activities. "Lakewood Ranch has been an incredibly accommodating community for us."

Continued on Page 42



AWARD WINNING SPA, SALON & MED SPAS

BOTOX, FILLERS, MEDSPA TREATMENTS, FACIALS, EXPERT MASSAGE THERAPY, LASH EXTENSIONS, **FULL SERVICE HAIR & NAIL SALON**

Featuring State of the Art Technology MORPHEUS8 RF Microneedling Body Contouring, LUMECCA IPL & DIOLAZEXL Laser Hair Removal













HOLIDAY PACKAGES & GIFT CARD SPECIALS AVAILABLE THROUGH 12/31

2 SERVICES FOR

ANY SINGLE SERVICE

941.357.4611 Sirius Day Spas.com

LAKEWOOD RANCH 11585 E STATE RD 70 LAKEWOOD RANCH, FL

8512 COOPER CREEK BLVD. UNIVERSITY PARK, FL



Alison Chafin, APRN-C | Dr. Janet Blanchard | Physician Assistant, Mia

Continued from Page 40

MVP currently organizes 12 leagues throughout the year, with more than 1,400 participating players. The sports are played at locations throughout Lakewood Ranch, including sand volleyball and cornhole at Waterside Park, golf at Legacy Park and disc golf at Bob Gardner Park.

To expand the ever-growing reach of MVP, the couple has just launched their own app, as well as a corresponding social committee, for creating cross-league social events. They collaborated with RD Media, a Lakewood Ranch-based app and website developer, to design the platform, which should be available in Apple and Android app stores by December.

"The app will be open to anyone in MVP. We want people to be able to sign up for a league in under 10 seconds," Chris says. "But the big picture is that we want to inspire Lakewood Ranch newcomers to join a league and meet with their future teammates."

He explains that the app will give people an opportunity to break the ice digitally with potential teammates by sparking a casual chat and making quick connections. "The entire idea behind this app is to create social opportunities. We've built in a social calendar that's not geared toward sports only; it's a way to meet other people through various social activities. We also started a social committee that will be organizing these events."

Chris and Jessi are also applying to get their cornhole league (part of which takes place during Ranch Nite Wednesdays at Waterside Place) verified by the "Guinness Book of World Records" as the largest of its kind in the world, with 352 league participants. (For the record, MVP's Monday night golf league is the largest in the state of Florida, with 124 participants.)

"It's amazing how much these leagues have grown, and how much MVP has grown as a whole," says Chris. "I feel like MVP brings out the happiness and joy in our community. I think, inherently, everybody just likes to see other people happy, and that's what happens here."

This was true even during the height of the pandemic. While the community was navigating the lockdown and social distancing restrictions, the MVP team created something called The



Chris McComas, Cecilia Torres and Kelly Harmon have fun with cornhole.

Quarantine Cup. A host of social activities was coordinated via Zoom — from "Name That Tune" and "Family Feud" games to trivia nights, happy hours and Cinco de Mayo parties. There were more than 300 participants every night and, even though contact sports were off the table during that period, Ranchers were able to remain connected.

"That's what MVP is about — connecting people. You get to meet a lot of new people and we design everything around social activities, so we encourage you to leave your competitive juices at home," says Chris. "We tell everyone, 'Just bring your smile and a happy attitude."

For more information on MVP Sports and Social, visit MvpSportsAndSocial.com.



Ifeel MVP brings out the happiness and joy in our community. I think, inherently, everybody just likes to see other people happy, and that's what happens here."

CHRIS MCCOMAS

because we CARE about you.

We believe your doctor should get to know you personally, have the flexibility to see you at any time, and commit to delivering benefit-oriented care and advice tailored to your unique needs.

Discover how Lerner Cohen puts the $\mbox{\bf CARE}$ in Healthcare.

Schedule a meet and greet to see if concierge care

is right for you.



The Doctor Is In. Always.™

941.953.9080 • LernerCohen.com 1921 Waldemere Street, Suite 814 Sarasota, FL 34239

Dr. Brad S. Lerner | Dr. Louis M. Cohen Dr. James R. Cocco | Dr. Amy M. Roth







HAPPHES YOU HAPPHES YOU



LESS THAN 30 MINUTES FROM LAKEWOOD RANCH

1611 CORTEZ ROAD W. BRADENTON, FL 34207 941-755-1571 | NISSANOFBRADENTON.COM



class act

Comic Inspiration

Twelve-year-old Lily Wojtkowski's whimsical book, 'Pretzel Rat,' was inspired by her pet rat, Pretzel.

BY SPENCER FORDIN | CONTRIBUTOR

he sweet spot in Lily Wojtkowski's burgeoning creative life came on her 11th birthday, when she received two pets who would become her chief inspiration. Wojtkowski, a fifth-grader at the time, had already been drawing comics for about four years. But her pets, at that point, were more an impediment than an inspiration.

You see, Wojtkowski loved her hermit crab, but she wasn't quite sure how to illustrate it.

"I wasn't very good at drawing crabs," she says. "But rats are a different story."

Wojtkowski means that literally and figuratively, as she's demonstrated to the world. The 12-year-old self-published her first book of comics, "Pretzel Rat," at the end of 2021, and now she's working on a sequel to the book that she hopes will be published in the new year.

That new offering, "Pretzel Rat: A New Era," continues where the first book left off in chronicling the adventures of her pet rat Pretzel. And now she has two new rats, Biscuit and Baxter, who will also be characters that Pretzel interacts with on the printed page.

Conintued on Page 48



Photos by Lori Sax

Lily's mother, Kate, has assisted her in the self-publishing process.





Conintued from Page 46

Wojtkowski says she was inspired by the artist Bill Watterson, who drew "Calvin and Hobbes," but she cautions that her creations aren't exactly humorous. The Pretzel Rat books center more on fantasy adventure than comedy, but they're always grounded in reality.

After all, says Wojtkowski, the adventures are invented but the actual rats exist in real life. And before they came into her life, she says, she never could have imagined writing about them.

"I wasn't exactly scared of rats. But I had never met a rat in real life, so I wasn't sure what to expect," says Wojtkowski, a student at Manatee School of the Arts. "My mother suggested doing research on rats. So, I did a lot of research and I learned about rats. And then I was really excited to get rats because it's like, 'Oh, they're actually like dogs just really tiny."

The rats live in a big cage in her room, says Wojtkowski, but they're frequently allowed to roam inside a room while under supervision. One time, she says, she forgot to put them back in their cage, and when she came back to her room, they had eaten her blinds.

Do the rats know their own names? Wojtkowski says she's not sure exactly how intelligent they are, but she describes interacting with them just like you might your pet bird or cat.

"Rats are very friendly," she says. "They won't bite you. They might nibble on your nails or groom your fingers. But mostly rats will show affection; they're very social. They're also very hyper and want to run all the time. I actually started out with two rats. Unfortunately, one passed away, so we got two more rats. Now we have three."

Wojtkowski hopes to attend Ringling College of Art and Design, and she expects that cartooning will be at least a part-time job when she gets older. Her mom, Kate, has assisted her in the self-publishing process, and Lily says that she mostly enjoys the work of creating the comics.

It can be laborious; one storyboard can take a week to develop, and one page can take her as much as three hours once she's decided how it should be drawn and colored. Her first book was 24 pages, and that meant that it took her a long time to draw it out in her mind.



Lily Woitkowski's pet rats inspire her art.

"Sometimes the words come before the drawings, and then I'm like, OK, that works," she says. "And then sometimes I make a drawing and it's too blank. Wait, what should I write here? So, then I'll think about, what if he says this? I'll write that down. And if I like it, I'll be like, 'Yeah,' and if I don't, I'll erase it and restart until I find something that suits Pretzel."

Wojtkowski says that many of the students in her school have their own creative outlets, but she's not aware of any classmates who have self-published their own comic book or graphic novel.

Her book, which sells online at Amazon, has traveled all over the world; Wojtkowski sent some copies of "Pretzel Rat" to family in South Africa, and one web visitor asked for a special delivery all the way to Australia.

Locally, the "Pretzel Rat" books are available for purchase at Suitcase Sweets in Lakewood Ranch. Wojtkowski, who also makes gifs, animations and art dolls, says there may be another Pretzel Rat book in her after "New Era," but she may also pursue different creative projects.

When does she do most of her work? "It depends on the day," she says. "If I have a lot of classwork, then probably no doodles that day. If I don't have that much, then I'll probably doodle a lot. Then I'll come home and I might color it. Some days, I will draw a lot at school but won't draw at home because I'm tired."

One thing's for sure. Wojtkowski's fans eagerly await the next adventure that Biscuit and Baxter and Pretzel find themselves in. I wasn't
very good
at drawing
crabs. But
rats are a
different
story."

LILY WOJTKOWSKI

schemmel soda group



LUXURY REAL ESTATE DEFINED

NO. 1 TEAM

in Sarasota and Manatee Counties | Premier Sotheby's International Realty

OVER \$172 MILLION SOLD AND PENDING IN 2022 OVER \$216 IN CLOSED SALES IN 2021 Joel Schemmel, J.D., REALTOR® 941.587.4894

Donna Soda, REALTOR® 941.961.5857

SCHEMMELSODAGROUP.COM





charity snapshot

Putting the Fun in Education

Neirda Thompson-Pemberton started FUNducation to make S.T.E.A.M. learning more accessible to school-age children.

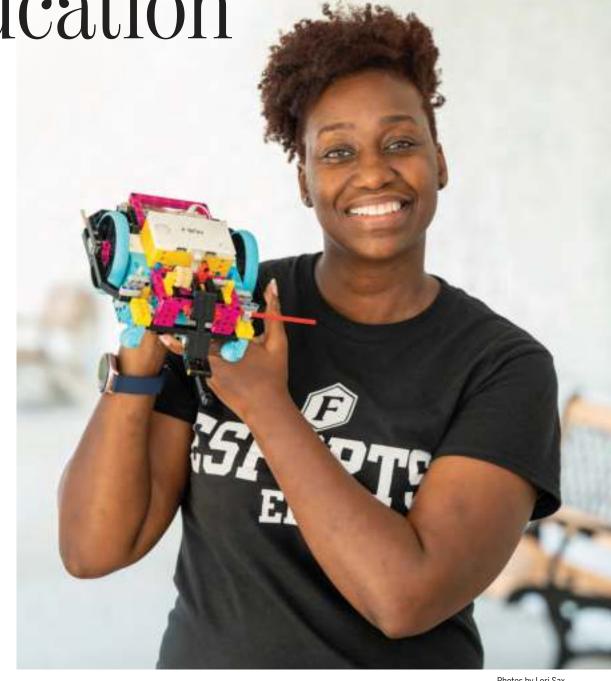
BY ERIC SNIDER | CONTRIBUTOR

eirda Thompson-Pemberton practices what she calls "educational espionage." Her secret weapon? Fun. It's so fundamental to her mission that she named her nonprofit FUNducation, which engages school-age kids in science, technology, engineering, arts and math — most commonly known as STEAM.

"A lot of kids — I'd say most kids are intimidated by math and science," she says. "They just think they can't do it. I try to set it up where they're having so much fun - and we slip some learning in there. 'Oh, you came to play, huh? Well, we just taught you something!' It's the ultimate gotcha."

Thompson-Pemberton, 43, says this with such gusto, such glee, that you can easily see a group of young ones in an after-school session being stealthily educated by such an effervescent personality. She describes herself as a "Black, female, Haitian-American civil engineer — something you don't run into all the time."

Conintued on Page 52



Neirda Thompson-Pemberton describes herself as a "Black, female, Haitian-American civil engineer — something you don't run into all the time."



RELEASE THE BEAST.

Elevate your golf car to legendary status with the Trojan® GC2 48-Volt Lithium-Ion Golf Battery. With Trojan Lithium-Ion, you get:



FARTHER RANGE. 45-60 miles per charge with a three-battery setup, up to 15% farther than other brands.*



UNMATCHED DURABILITY. Meets SAE automotive off-road durability standards.



FAST CHARGING. Up to 80% in an hour, a full charge in four.



NO MAINTENANCE. No watering, corrosion, acid or fumes.



ADVANCED SAFETY. Stable lithium formula (LFP) and a BMS with redundant safety features.



Visit **TrojanBattery.info/11016** to learn more or find a local dealer.

*Based on published range of competing GC2 lithium-ion batteries. Actual driving range will vary depending on factors including, but not limited to, load, terrain, temperature, and equipment.

Trojan offers a complete range of golf batteries and accessories including:









AGM



Upgrade your golf car with

TECHNOLÖGY

GEL

Conintued from Page 50

That unique combination helps her relate to a wide range of children.

"I initially targeted middle-schoolers," Thompson-Pemberton says. "But even in middle school I found it could be too late. I'm after the elementary school kids, especially girls and minorities. One day I'm going to start right in the womb. I'm waiting for science to get me there."

She's FUNducation's founder, organizer and boots-on-the-ground instructor. The nonprofit has no brick-and-mortar location — "yet," Thompson-Pemberton adds — so she takes her programs on the road to places like Braden River Library, the North Sarasota Library, the Palmetto Youth Center and even people's homes. Further, she uses her skills in educational espionage to recruit specialists in various fields to show up and share their expertise.

A major part of FUNducation's programming involves putting teams into First Tech Challenge, a regional robotics competition. One such team, which includes members from Lakewood Ranch, Booker and Pine View high schools, has been afforded a special opportunity. Thompson-Pemberton arranged a partnership with Lakewood Ranch-based RND Automation, whose specialties include robotics.

"They have a mechanical engineering specialist who will work with the team to show these kids what it looks like to do robotics in a real-world setting," Thompson-Pemberton says. "And they're giving us access to the machine shop and the printers."

Jared Duckworth, 15, is on one of the Tech Challenge teams. He's been involved in FUNducation for five years, says his mother, Jenny Duckworth. As a fifth-grader, Jared was interested in joining a team competing in the First Lego League, a precursor to the First Tech Challenge. Soon they ran headlong into Thompson-Pemberton, and, like so many kids, Jared was pulled into her force field.

"He was nonsocial, shy, didn't have a lot of friends or interests other than the usual boy stuff," Jenny says of her son. "He bonded with Neirda. To say that she has a passion for what she does is an understatement. FUNducation has really helped him blossom."

Jared, a sophomore at Manatee School of the Arts, now has a career



Neirda Thompson-Pemberton wants to make education fun.

focus: robotics engineering.

Thompson-Pemberton, who has lived in Lakewood Ranch since 2011, grew up Neirda Lafontant, the middle child in a Haitian family that lived in a rough section of Brooklyn, N.Y. Her no-nonsense mother, Marie Toussaint, was "very passionate about our doing something — doctor, lawyer, engineer, what have you," her daughter says. "My godfather was an engineer. I had uncles who were engineers."

When a piece of furniture needed assembling, Thompson-Pemberton jumped at the opportunity. When something in the home broke, she fixed it. "After senior year, I had already decided I was going to be an engineer," she says. That's when her father decided to relocate the family to Port Charlotte. Overnight, the bustle of Brooklyn turned into the quiet of a town populated largely by seniors. Neirda experienced some "culture shock," but used the calm surroundings to focus on her studies.

She first matriculated at Edison Community College (now Florida Southwestern State College), moved on to Florida Institute of Technology, where she earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering, and then notched an MBA from Webster University. Thompson-Pemberton worked as a civil engineer on projects in various Florida cities.

In 2019, she transitioned into education, joining a team that piloted the STEAM-focused Woz ED program

started by Apple cofounder Steve Wozniak. Thompson-Pemberton worked at Palm View K-8 School in Palmetto, where she taught middle-schoolers. She founded FUNducation in 2019 and "still managed to find a guy and get married," she says. Neirda took Courtney Patrick Thompson-Pemberton's hyphenated name.

Thanks to a \$120,000 grant from the Charles & Margery Barancik Foundation in February, Thompson-Pemberton was able to turn FUNducation into her full-time job. She's the nonprofit's only paid employee. Thompson-Pemberton credits her five-member board for fundraising efforts that allow the FUNducation to operate on a budget of "\$150,000 to \$200,000 a year."

The organization's catchy name did not come easily. "It took forever to come up with something," Thompson-Pemberton says with a chuckle. "I was always saying, 'we put the fun in education,' 'we just want to make education fun.' One day it dawned on me. I'd been saying it the whole time. Let's call it FUNducation."

Find out more about FUNducation at Funducation. org. The Louis & Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust will match any contribution up to \$500. Visit FlanzerTrust.org.

I initially targeted middle-schoolers. But even in middle school I found it could be too late. I'm after the elementary school kids, especially girls and minorities."

NEIRDA THOMPSON-PEMBERTON



Trust your eyecare to our board certified physicians

Murray Friedberg, M.D.
Robert Edelman, M.D.
Scott Silverman, M.D.
Robert Sambursky, M.D.
Pooja Khator, M.D.
Allison Menezes, M.D.
Jeffrey Davis, M.D.
Jody Abrams, M.D.
Paul Brannan, M.D.
Selina Lin, M.D.
Philip Ames, M.D.
Neal Kansara, M.D.

We are following CDC guidelines for your safety. Call us today to schedule your appointment!

Comprehensive Eye Exams
Cataract Surgery
Advanced Lens Implants
Glaucoma Care
Macular Degeneration
Pediatric Eye Care
Neuro-Ophthalmology
Dry Eye Treatment
Diabetic Eye Care
Oculoplastic Surgery

6310 Health Pkwy., Ste. 340 • Lakewood Ranch 217 Manatee Ave. E. • Bradenton 1427 S. Tamiami Trail • Sarasota

calendar winter 2022

DECEMBER

DEC. 1

NEWCOMERS MEETUP

Begins at 10 a.m. at Summerfield Community Park Pavilion, 6402 Lakewood Ranch Blvd., Lakewood Ranch. The Community Activities team leads the event for new residents to learn about the community, parks and events. Continues Dec. 15 at Country Club/Edgewater Park Pavilion, 8256 Legacy Blvd., Lakewood Ranch.

Visit LakewoodRanch.com.

SANTA AT MAIN STREET

From 6:30-8:30 p.m. come to Lakewood Ranch Main Street to enjoy festive lighting displays and get in the holiday spirit. Santa himself will be there, taking photos at the Christmas tree and spreading Christmas cheer. Continues Dec. 7 and 15.

■ Visit LakewoodRanch.com.

DEC. 2

MUSIC ON MAIN

This monthly event returns on Lakewood Ranch's Main Street from 6-9 p.m. and a Main Street Christmas lighting at 5:30 p.m. Enjoy a free concert by K-Luv and Juicy Purple, food vendors, beer trucks and kids activities. Proceeds will benefit Southeastern Guide Dogs.

■ Visit LakewoodRanch.com.

DEC. 3

JINGLE AND JOG 5K AND 1-MILE RUN/WALK

Participants have the option of a 5K or 1-mile run/walk to benefit The Haven, which supports adults and children with disabilities. The run starts at 8 a.m. at The Haven, 4405 DeSoto Road, Sarasota. Cost is \$35 for adults. All registrants will receive a T-shirt, a runner's bag and refreshments.

■ Visit TheHavenSRQ.org.

HOLIDAY TOY RUN CAR SHOW Lakewood Ranch Main Street will be closed down for the day, serving as the finishing point for a 115-mile charity road rally beginning at Suncoast Porsche. Take in all the cars from



File photos

Greenbrook's Erin Viaud is all smiles when visiting Santa for the first time at Lakewood Ranch's holiday event on Main Street.

noon to 3 p.m. The drivers and their navigators will be dropping off toys for Toys for Tots.

■ Visit LakewoodRanch.com

UTC HOLIDAY MARKET

Shop local for your friends and family this holiday season. More than 140 local businesses will be open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the parking lot at The Mall at University Town Center, 140 University Town Center, Sarasota. Enjoy live performances from local dance studios, and food trucks will be on-site. Event continues Dec. 4.

■ Visit MallAtUTC.com.

SHOEBOX RECEPTION

Drop in from 4-6 p.m. to donate money or decorated shoeboxes filled with items for needy seniors supported by Meals on Wheels Plus of Manatee. Collections will be taken at the Lakewood Ranch-Sarasota Elks Lodge, 4602 Lena Road, Bradenton.

Visit MealsOnWheelsPlus.org.

PICTURES WITH SANTA

Don't miss the opportunity to take a photo with Santa at Waterside Place, from 6-9 p.m. Continues Dec. 7, 10, 14 and 17.

■ Visit LakewoodRanch.com.

DEC. 4

YOGA IN THE PARK

Begins at 9 a.m. at Waterside Place, 7301 Island Cove Terrace, Sarasota. The public is invited to participate in a free yoga workout with a lake view. All ages and levels are welcome. Continues every Sunday.

■ Visit LakewoodRanch.com.

THE MARKET AT LAKEWOOD RANCH

The Market at Lakewood Ranch, featuring fresh vegetables, produce, baked goods, honey, guacamole, pastas and more from more than 90 local vendors. Hours are 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot of Waterside Place, 1561 Lakefront Drive, Sarasota.

Continued on Page 56

STAY TUNED FOR HOLIDAY EVENTS

Christmas on Main:

Games, rides and attractions for the family followed by a candlelight service on Lakewood Main Street.

Holiday Movies Under the Stars:

Free movies shown in an open-air theater at The Mall at UTC.

Breakfast with Santa:

Santa will be stopping for breakfast at Remy's on Main Dec. 3, Grove Dec. 10-11 and Forked Dec. 17. Visit MyLWR.com

When the world is changing, we can help you stay focused on your goals

Our customized, comprehensive advice and guidance can help you stay on track. Call us to talk it through.



Adamchak, Striplin & Lavezzoli
Merrill Lynch Wealth Management
6311 Atrium Drive
Suite 100B
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202
941.413.4510
fa.ml.com/abwm



Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated (also referred to as "MLPF&S" or "Merrill") makes available certain investment products sponsored, managed, distributed or provided by companies that are affiliates of Bank of America Corporation ("BofA Corp."). MLPF&S is a registered broker-dealer, registered investment adviser, Member SIPC and a wholly owned subsidiary of BofA Corp.

May Lose Value

© 2022 Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved.

Continued from Page 54

Santa will be strolling the market from 10 a.m. to noon until Christmas. The market continues every Sunday. ■ Visit TheMarketI WR.com.

DEC. 7

CLASSIC CAR SHOW

Celebrate classic cars in this show the first Wednesday of each month, from 5-8 p.m. at Lakewood Ranch Main Street. Bring your car, truck or anything on wheels. Cost is \$10 to enter a vehicle but attending as a spectator is free. ■ Visit CollectorCarsTV.com.

RANCH NITE WEDNESDAYS

This midweek community event features food trucks, cornhole, live music and cocktails from a vintage mobile bar hosted by Cornerstone and Co. Ranch Nite continues every Wednesday through May from 6-9 p.m. at Waterside Place, 1561 Lakefront Drive, Sarasota.

■ Visit MyLWR.com.

SUNSET YOGA ON THE GREEN

Enjoy a free yoga session on The Green in the West District at UTC beginning at 5:30 p.m. Bring a yoga mat, water and a towel. Continues every Wednesday. ■ Visit UTCSarasota.com.

DEC.8

LWR 101: RESIDENT ORIENTATION

This event introduces you to Lakewood Ranch's history, clubs, governance and other features of the community. It will be held virtually on the Lakewood Ranch Community Activities Facebook page from 6-6:30 p.m. Also takes place Jan. 12 and Feb. 9.

■ Visit MyLWR.com.

DEC. 9

HOLIDAY MOVIE IN THE PARK

Come to Waterside Park for a free, outdoor family-friendly holiday movie, "Dr. Seuss's How the Grinch Stole Christmas" from 6-9 p.m. Seating is available on a first-come, first-served basis. Bring a blanket or lawn chairs. ■ Visit MyLWR.com.

DEC. 9-11

HUNSADER FARMS COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

The annual Christmas festival will be held over two weekends at Hunsader Farms, 5500 County Road 675, Bra-



Claudia. Irmarie and Frank Casine load up some of the donated shoeboxes at the Community Holiday Shoebox Drive at the Lakewood Ranch Elks Lodge.

Jared Autrie of Lakewood

Ranch gets ready to run the

2021 Jingle 5K in his Santa

pants.

suit - with shorts instead of

denton. Enjoy holiday music, campfires, train rides, snow tubing and more. Admission is \$12 cash; children 5 and under are free. Country Christmas is open from 6-10 p.m. each day. Continues Dec. 16-18.

■ Visit HunsaderFarms.com.

DEC. 10

COMMUNITY NATURE WALK

Join Lakewood Ranch Ambassador Greg Spring for a 2-mile, one-hour nature walk on some of the trails in Lakewood Ranch. The walks start at 8 a.m. at Greenbrook Adventure Park at the pavilion, 13010 Adventure Place. Lakewood Ranch. Continues Jan. 14 and Feb. 12.

Visit LakewoodRanch.com.

DEC. 16

JINGLE 5K

Move your feet to the jingling beat for this festive jingle bell run. The 11th annual race begins at 7 p.m. at Lakewood Ranch Main Street. The children's Santa dashes begin at 6, and the walk begins at 7:10. All runners receive jingle bells and laces before the race and afterward a medal. Festive music will be played throughout the course. The run/walk costs \$40 or \$45 starting Dec. 5; the kids race costs \$15 or \$20 starting Dec. 5; the virtual 5K option costs \$40. The race benefits Lakewood Ranch Medical Center Foundation and Health Careers' Scholarship Program.

■ Visit The Jingle 5K.org.

DEC. 12

MAIN STREET MARKET

From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Lakewood Ranch Main Street, more than 30 vendors will be out with food, beverages, retail and more at the boutique market, hosted by Main Street Market LWR. ■ Visit MainStreetMarketLWR.com.

ORNAMENT MAKING FOR KIDS

Bring your little ones to Bob Gardner Community Park, 2710 White Eagle Blvd., Lakewood Ranch, at 10 a.m. for a craft hour creating a keepsake ornament. Supplies and directions will be provided.

■ Visit LakewoodRanch.com.

DEC. 17

COMMUNITY BIKE RIDE

Lakewood Ranch Ambassador Greg Spring will lead a 10-mile, one-hour casual bike ride through Lakewood Ranch. Participants will meet at the fountain at 8 a.m. at Lakewood Ranch Main Street. Continues Jan. 21 and Feb. 18.

■ Visit LakewoodRanch.com.

DEC. 18

WEST COAST HALF-MARATHON AND 5K

Nathan Benderson Park hosts the ninth stop on the South Florida Half Marathon Tour, Participants receive a tank or tech tee and a finish medal with entry. Both races begin at 7 a.m. at Nathan Benderson Park, 5851

Continued on Page 58







OVER 60 YEARS!

We carry a wide variety of High-End & Mid-Range Kitchen, Laundry & Outdoor Appliances with the latest technology & hottest designs.

FINANCING OPTIONS AVAILABLE

Major Appliance Centers
Visit Jessups Appliances.com

Mon-Fri 9-6 | Sat 9-5 | Sun 11-4 3756 Bee Ridge Rd. | Sarasota **941.927.4900** Continued from Page 56

Nathan Benderson Circle, Sarasota. Entry to the half-marathon costs \$119; entry to the 5K costs \$45. Parking costs \$5.

■ Visit WestCoastHalf.com.

DEC. 19

CHANUKAH ON MAIN STREET

Chabad of Bradenton and Lakewood Ranch will celebrate Chanukah starting at 6 p.m. at Main Street at Lakewood Ranch, 8100 Lakewood Main St., Lakewood Ranch. A menorah will be lit, and guests can enjoy kosher barbecue, falafel, latkes, face painting, donut decorating, live music and more. Admission is free.

■ Visit ChabadOfBradenton.com.

DEC. 21

PARADE OF LIGHT

Spread the light of Chanukah and overflowing Jewish pride through Lakewood Ranch with the Parade of Light, starting at 6 p.m. at the Chabad of Bradenton and Lakewood Ranch, 5712 Lorraine Road, Bradenton. There will be community menorah lighting stops, Chanukah swag, a fire juggler and more. Car menorahs will be available in limited supply.

■ Visit ChabadOfBradenton.com.

DEC. 22

HANDS ON HANUKKAH

Join Temple Sinai at the Plaza at Waterside Place between 4-6 p.m. for a family-friendly event that will feature arts and crafts, food and photos, live music and ends with lighting the menorah.

■ Visit MyLWR.com.

JANUARY

JAN. 1

SARASOTA POLO

The Sarasota Polo Club kicks off its season with an afternoon of tailgating and polo. Gates open at 10 a.m., and matches start at 1 p.m. at the Sarasota Polo Club, 8201 Polo Club Lane. General admission is \$12 for adults; children 12 and under are free. Polo matches will be held every Sunday through April 30.

■ Visit SarasotaPolo.com.

JAN. 12

MEGA CHALLAH BAKE

Chabad of Bradenton and Lakewood Ranch hosts its annual challah-making event for ages 9 and up at 7 p.m. at The Grove, 10670 Boardwalk Loop Lane, Lakewood Ranch. The event is \$36 per person, and reservations are required.

Visit ChabadOfBradenton.com/MegaChallahBake.

JAN. 12-16

SARASOTA WINTER CARNIVAL

UTC's annual carnival will be held in parking lot 4 at The Mall at University Town Center, 140 University Town Center, Sarasota. Enjoy carnival rides, food and games. General admission is free; ride wristbands and tickets are available for purchase.

■ Visit UTCSarasota.com.

JAN. 12-22

MANATEE COUNTY FAIR

The Manatee County offers rides, games, livestock shows, musical entertainment and more at the Manatee County Fairgrounds, 1402 14th Ave. W., Palmetto. Hours vary by day. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$6 for military and children 6-12, and free for children under 6. Parking is \$10.

Visit ManateeCountyFair.com.

JAN. 14

BEER & BURGER FESTIVAL

The annual fest returns from noon to 8 p.m. in parking lot 4 at The Mall at University Town Center, 140 University Town Center, Sarasota. Enjoy a variety of burger vendors, craft beer, live music and burger- and beer-themed activities. Admission is \$15; children under 18 are free.

■ Visit MallAtUTC.com.

JAN. 21

THE BIG 5K

Start the new year with a run around Nathan Benderson Park, 5851 Nathan Benderson Circle, Sarasota, starting at 8 a.m. The 5K is \$35 for the first 100 registrants; registration is \$40 starting Jan. 14. A virtual 5K is \$40. The race benefits Big Bill Foundation, which gives scholarships to children who have had cancer and other life-threatening conditions.

Visit RaceRoster.com.



JAN. 21-22

LAKEWOOD RANCH FINE ART FESTIVAL

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day on Lakewood Main Street, meet artists from across the country with handmade works of paintings, sculptures, photography, jewelry and more.

Visit ParagonFestivals.com.

LAUGHTER IN LWR

The stand-up comedy show at Grove, 10670 Boardwalk Loop, Lakewood Ranch, features Robert G. Lee, Nora Lynch and Vince Morris with emcee Jeffery Kin. There will be two shows, at 5 and 8 p.m. Ticket sales will be announced online.

■ Visit GroveLWR.com/comedy.

FEBRUARY

FEB. 18

RUN FOR THE BEADS

The Lakewood Ranch Community Fund is hosting a new race to support local nonprofits. The 5K run/walk begins at 8 a.m. at Waterside Place, 1561 Lakefront Drive, Sarasota. All participants will receive a race shirt, a bib and a medal. Admission is \$40 or \$45 beginning Feb. 12.

■ Visit RaceRoster.com.

Camryn Shear of the Carlos E. Haile Middle School FFA hugs her cow Trooper who took first place in Class 6 at the 2021 Manatee County Fair.



Sun City's Yolanda Rivera enjoys making challah during the 2021 Mega Challah Bake.



12 Month Financing \$0 Down, 0% Interest



Fairfax Floors, Inc.

8111 Lakewood Main St. #110 | 941.822.8596

Lifetime Installation Warranty





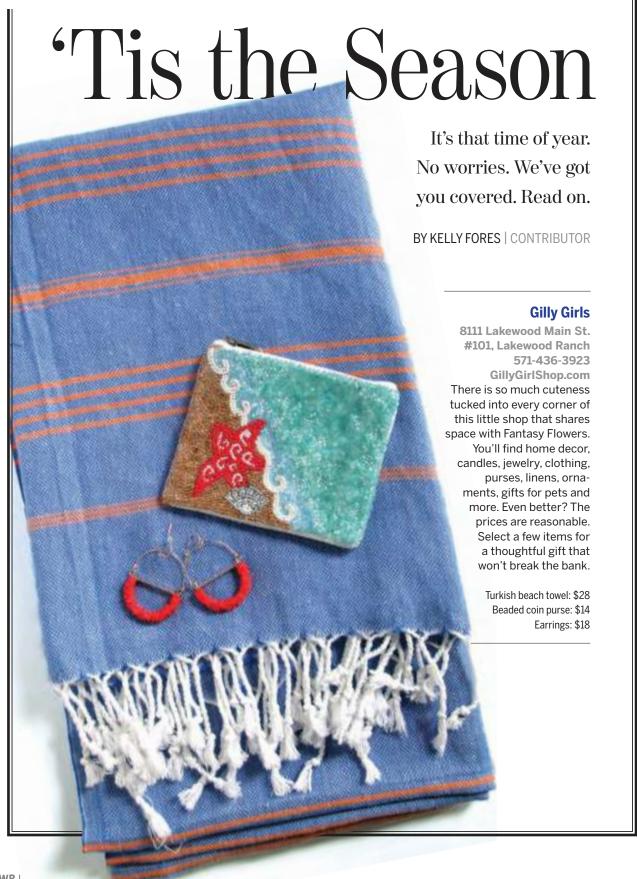
Mon-Sat 9-5 Now Open Sunday!

lakewoodranchflooring.com



Family owned and operated with over 30 years of experience

style



Epic Home Decor

10671 Boardwalk Loop, Lakewood Ranch 941-210-4713

EpicHomeDecor.com

Faux succulents are like slow cooker meals – set 'em and forget 'em. Epic Home Decor has an intriguing faux succulent "bar" for those who love plants but have difficulties keeping them alive. They also have these gorgeous cheese serving accessories which any "charcuterian" would adore. (Charcuterian: One who survives on charcuterie. Possibly a made-up word, but isn't it fun?)

Lynn & Liana Designs cheeseboard: \$85 Nikita Fine Art cheese utensil set: \$64





5.11 Tactical

5231 University Parkway, University Park 941-538-5402

511Tactical.com

This may seem like an odd place to find a gift if you've never been in the store. 5.11 Tactical has gear for outdoor enthusiasts, workout attire,

backpacks and sling bags. This

rugged Rush Moab 6 sling, with a pocket built for

a 1.5-liter hydration bladder. is perfect for a full day of exploring Myakka River State Park.

Rush Moab 6 Sling Pack 11L: \$80



Yeowww Catnip Banana:

\$5.99

Fluff + Tuff Nelly Giraffe:

\$18.49





St. Martha Catholic School creates an environment that encourages problem solving, collaboration, student-led inquiry and hands-on projects. Our Catholic faith is woven through all subjects and grade levels, promoting a culture of innovation and ethical action.

SCHEDULE A PRIVATE TOUR (941) 953-4181 Mrs. Maria Smith Admissions Director

4380 Fruitville Road Sarasota, FL 34232 www.stmarthaschool.net



Strength in Faith • Excellence in Knowledge • Character in Service





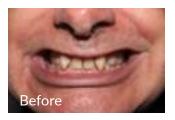
Cosmetics, Implants and Bite Reconstruction

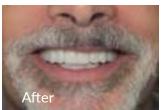
Actual Patients

Smile Makeovers and Veneers

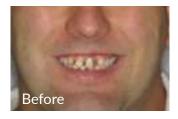


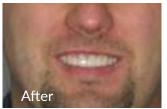


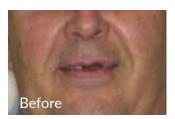




Dental Implant Surgery and Reconstruction









On-Site Laboratory with Master Technicians to Customize and Control Results

Implant Dentistry



Burr Bakke, DDS

- Fellow of the American Dental Implant Association
- Fellow of International Congress of Oral Implantologists
- Fellow of the American Academy of Dental Facial Esthetics
- Member of American Academy of Implant Dentistry
- Post Doctoral Instructor of Full Mouth Reconstruction

Cosmetic Dentistry



Jill Morris, DMD

- Accredited Member of the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry (only 550 accredited dentists worldwide)
- Fellow of the American Academy of Dental Facial Esthetics
- Post Doctoral Instructor of Full Mouth Reconstruction
- Member International Academy of Oral Biological Dentistry and Toxicology
- Practicing dentistry for 33 years

Orthodontics



Cameron Johnson, DMD

- Member of North American Association of Facial Orthotropics
- Member of the American Orthodontic Society
- Member of the International Association of Orthodontics
- Member of American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine
- International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology



Real Patients. Real Results.

"Dr. Jill and the staff at World Class are just that—World Class. I felt heard and supported through the entire process. They were clear as to what the procedures would be and what I could expect. The result—well it was beyond my expectations!

I always shied away from smiling and now I can't stop!"

Kathryn Ross-Nash Smile Makeover Patient

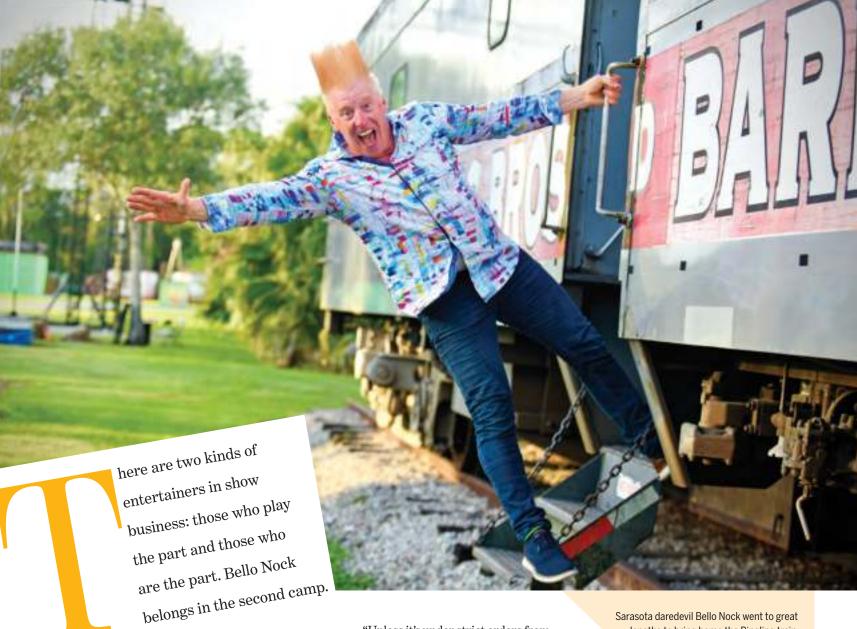












For decades, the dauntless daredevil has risked life, limb and exceptional hairspray hold in his quest to pull off record-setting aerial feats for the adoring masses. He does this, of course, while masquerading as a hapless clown in an ill-fitting tuxedo with a stiff, foot-high stalk of strawberry blond hair teased straight up in the air.

At 54, Nock should be tired and sore. He should be kicking back in a comfortable chair at the foot of his pond, watching the sunset over his 16-acre East Sarasota "Funny Farm." He should be regaling his granddaughter with circus stories from days of yore, as grandpas tend to do.

But kicking back isn't Nock's thing. Nock would much prefer getting launched out of a cannon. "Unless it's under strict orders from a doctor, you won't see me giving this up anytime soon," Nock says. "I was a dyslexic, redheaded, bucktoothed, pigeon-toed klutz as a kid, bullied and never picked first for a team. I had ADHD before the world even knew what that was. I learned how to thrive in environments where I felt like a fish out of water. Once you learn how to do that, you never lose your sense of passion and persistence. It stays with you."

A seventh-generation aerial stunt artist, the daredevil clown is as effervescent today as he was when he kicked off Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus' "Bellobration" tour 15 years ago. The tour — the first and only time Ringling ever named a production after one of its performers—

Continued on Page 70

Sarasota daredevil Bello Nock went to great lengths to bring home the Ringling train car his circus performer parents lived in more than 50 years ago.



Under the makeup, hair and stumbling shtick, Nock is a modernday version of Evel Knievel.

Get Behind the Headlines

Your membership supports independent local journalism here, at home, in your neighborhood.*

Membership benefits include:

- Unlimited access to our email news letters and website; no registration pop-ups when logged in
- Coming Soon! Get our e-Newspaper on your laptop, smartphone or tablet all in our new, easy-to-use app.
 Scroll through the pages of the paper on any device, and take us with you, wherever you go.
- Quarterly eNewsletter, Extra! Extra!, from the Observer Newsroom
- · Invitations to member-only events
- Opportunities to connect with our journalists and give feedback

Become a Newsie Today!

\$5 /mo.
Or \$50 year

Questions?

Call 941-366-3468 or newsies@yourobserver.com

*Don't worry - we're still free and always will be.

JOIN TODAY, VISIT YourObserver.com/newsies



Continued from Page 68

cemented Nock's place in daredevil history, serving as an inspiration to misfits with big dreams.

Nock, a Sarasota native born to Aurelia and Eugene Nock Sr., a Ringling power couple who met while starring in "The Greatest Show on Earth," did exactly what he said he'd do when teachers at Tuttle Elementary School scolded him for goofing off in class. He became a famous clown.

In fact, he became so famous that Time magazine named him "America's Best Clown."

And therein lies the paradox of Nock's daredevil clown persona. Under the makeup, hair and stumbling shtick, the performer is a modern-day version of Evel Knievel, but with fewer broken bones and more Guinness World Records. Although he long ago earned his circus stripes, he's still hustling like a kid who's got something to prove.

Jennifer Nock, the performer's wife and manager of 35 years, says the secret to Nock's success comes down to this one expression: a body in motion stays in motion.

"He doesn't believe anything is impossible," Jennifer says. "I've seen him wear out two 25-year-olds running in the Wheel of Death. To other people it looks like he's leading this exciting, crazy life, but to Bello it's just his normal life."

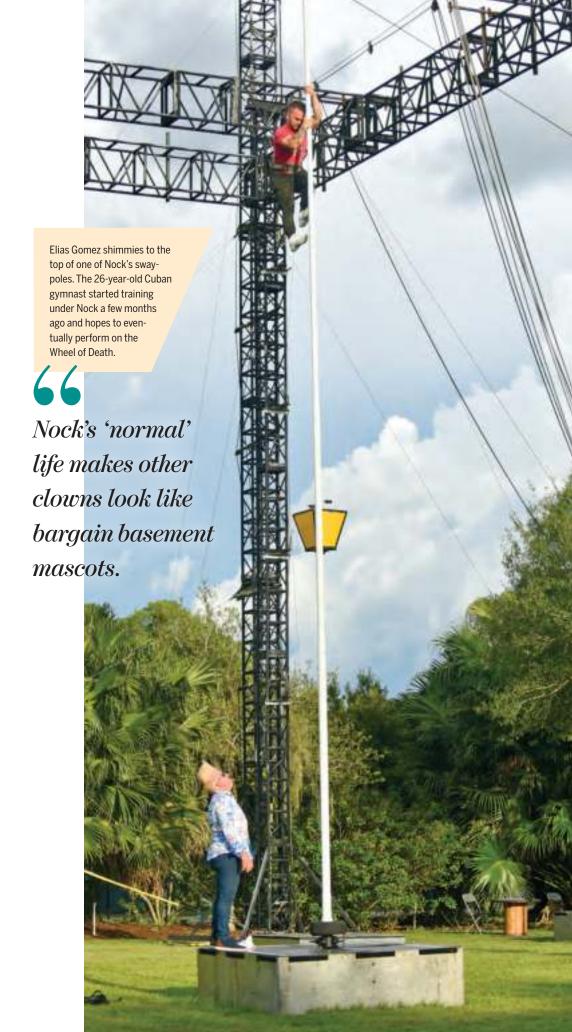
Nock's "normal" life makes other clowns look like bargain basement mascots. The daredevil's stunt reel is almost too long to list and includes such acts as riding an elephant through New York City's Midtown Tunnel, hanging by his toes from the bottom of a helicopter flying over the Statue of Liberty, repelling off Madison Square Garden and walking for 429 feet on a high wire above a cruise ship in the Bahamas, for which he earned the Guinness World Record for Longest Tightrope Walk Unsupported.

"To me he's far exceeded what any clown has ever done," Jennifer says. "He truly does live in the now."

Nock fell in love with Jennifer in third grade and by 18 they were married.

The union flummoxed Nock's parents. Like most circus kids, Nock was expected to grow up and marry

Continued on Page 72



There's no place like HONE for the holidays



HOSTING FOR THE HOLIDAYS?
Shop our IN-STOCK & READY
to DELIVER outdoor patio furniture





VISIT OUR NEWLY EXPANDED SHOWROOM

Sarasota: 7606 S. Tamiami Tr. Ste. 101 (1/2 mi. South of Clark Rd. on 41) • 941-217-6547

MON-SAT 10AM - 6PM, SUN 12-5PM

SARASOTA • BONITA SPRINGS • NAPLES









It hit me recently how much I was called upon to mentor young people."

Continued from Page 70

another circus kid. But Jennifer — a sensible introvert whose parents ran a recycling garage in Wisconsin Dells, where the Nocks performed in a waterski show each summer — came from more pedestrian roots.

"Had he married another performer I think there would have been competing egos and agendas," Jennifer says. "I prefer to give him the spotlight."

Except that the spotlight shifted when the pandemic hit, forcing the Nock to do the unthinkable: slow down.

With live entertainment put on hold, the Nocks began brainstorming ways to reach the local community. Spurred by the recent growth of Lakewood Ranch into Sarasota County, they decided to allocate space (and time) to hosting events on their sprawling compound — a gated wonderland of circus milieu, complete with aerial rigs, stunt apparatuses, daredevil contraptions,

old Ringling train cars and a lake large enough for a Jet Ski show.

In 2020, they created "Bello Nock's Adventure Center" and began offering family-friendly stunt spectacles to the public. Both born-again Christians, the couple also transformed the inside of their biggest storage building — a pole barn-type warehouse that once functioned as Nock's personal hall of fame — into a gathering place for monthly prayer groups.

"I'd really like to build a circus arts school," Nock says. "But something more immersive than just a school, something more like a vocational program that gives students hands-on experience learning to do the things no one shines a spotlight on."

The student with the most Nock training under her belt is perhaps 26-year-old "dare daughter" Annaliese, a powerhouse of a stuntwoman who holds the Guinness World Record for the most somersaults on a Wheel

of Death in one minute. (Over the last three years, the father-daughter duo appeared together on "Britain's Got Talent" and "America's Got Talent.")

"Annaliese is totally fearless," Nock says. "For a woman in this business to be doing what she's doing at her age ... she's pretty unstoppable."

All of these inevitable winds of change have made Nock decidedly more introspective. Daredevilry is a young person's game, and he's been thinking a lot about his legacy.

"I could rattle off all the accolades—and there are great accolades, but I've gotten to an age where it's not about that anymore," he says. "That's an ego-driven out to please an audience of one. It hit me recently how much I was called upon to mentor young people because sometimes the impact you have on one person is more valuable than the impact you have on a million."

His current protégé — 22-year-old Channing Gross, a Sailor Circus Academy alum — is currently performing in Howl-O-Scream at Sea World in San Antonio, Texas. Gross, a Riverview High School graduate, started working for Nock straight out of high school. According to the young sway-pole performer, the experience has completely elevated his life.

Gross, who trained with Sailor Circus for three years, first recalls seeing Nock in the audience at some of his performances. The clown's hair made him hard to miss. And while everyone else in the tent appeared awestruck by the circus celebrity's presence, the sheltered Gross had no idea who Nock was. "To me he was just the tall-hair guy," says Gross.

The aspiring aerialist was eventually introduced to Nock by Circus Arts Conservatory Vice President Jennifer Mitchell during his senior class trip to the Funny Farm. Mitchell told Nock that Gross was seriously interested in pursuing a professional career in the circus. Gross, then 18, received a text message from the star shortly thereafter.

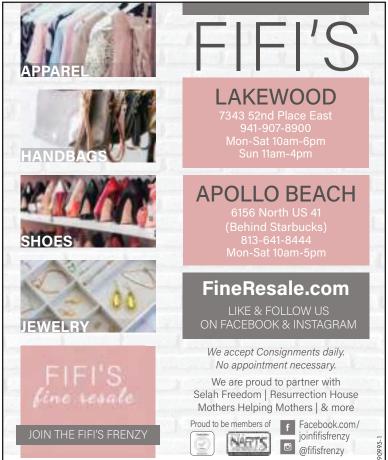
"It said something like 'come over tomorrow and we'll talk," Gross says. "So, I went over and talking turned into working ... and I've been working for him ever since."

One of the first things Nock asked Gross to do when he arrived at the Funny Farm was sand and repaint four of his

Continued on Page 74

BELLO NOCK





Give Thomas

Now with inflation, even more help is needed.

You can turn empty plates into ThankFULL tummies.

Give today at allfaithsfoodbank.org 941.379.6333





IMAGINE

you want to
make a difference
in the community

but don't know where to begin...



For more than 40 years, the Community Foundation of Sarasota County has been key to unlocking possibilities for all who call our area home.

As your partner in charitable giving, we are helping solve problems for long-term, generational change and building a community where everyone thrives.

Each one of us has the potential to impact a person, a cause, our community.

How will you Be The One?



2635 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34237 941.955.3000 | cfsarasota.org



Continued from Page 72

45-foot sway-poles. The job took Gross two weeks to complete, and in the heat of the summer no less.

The Sarasota teen quietly freaked out, worried he had gotten in over his head working for the overzealous entertainer.

"To be honest, Bello can be a little intense," Gross says. "Before you complete one task, he's got another one lined up. But there's a method to his madness, and it completely changed my outlook on everything. Before Bello, I didn't know how to do much for myself. Now I can change a tire, jump a car, cook a meal and wash a load of whites. I never worked for anyone with that kind of drive before. It's been a quick intro into the world of solving your own problems."

Now Nock's right-hand man, Gross has traveled with the star to gigs in California, Texas, San Diego, Germany and most recently Saudi Arabia, where he performed with Nock and Annaliese in the opening ceremony for Cirque du Soleil.

Like all his endeavors, Nock says mentoring Gross is just another step toward a higher purpose, just another way of lifting someone up.

"There's this perception that the circus is all chaos," Nock says. "But actually, it's the direct opposite. The reality is that it's designed to make you think it's chaos when really it's highly structured. That's how we're able to do all these exotic, thrilling shows three times a day and not get hurt. What happens behind the tent is amazing. You'd have to see it to believe it."

Channing Gross and Elias Gomez wrap up an evening of sway-pole training on the Funny Farm. "He's a very serious coach," Gross says of Nock. "But he's also very calm and encouraging."

I learned how
to thrive in
environments
where I felt
like a fish
out of water.
Once you
learn how to
do that, you
never lose
your sense of
passion and
persistence."

BELLO NOCK







Animal Harm

Dozens of unwanted and abandoned animals have found a safe haven at Farmhouse Animal & Nature Sanctuary in Myakka City.

BY ERIC SNIDER | CONTRIBUTOR

aylor, an enormous potbelly pig, is the property's unofficial greeter, waddling out to meet visitors with friendly snorts. Blair, a 2-foot-long bearded dragon lizard, likes to wrap around peoples' necks for extra warmth when she's not watching TV. Luna, a prairie dog, works the X's and O's on a Toss Across Tic-Tac-Toe game. Emily, a kangaroo, loves to be petted on the bottom of her neck.

These are just a few of the 130 animals that reside at the six-acre Farmhouse Animal & Nature Sanctuary in Myakka City. The nonprofit facility is owned and run by Lisa and Dave Burns, who've been married since 1986. They live in a house on the property.

This is their life. Feeding animals, watering animals, cleaning animal habitats, calling the vet to treat animals, watching over animals, playing with animals. Loving animals. The menagerie includes horses, goats, tortoises, all sorts of birds, lots of rabbits, koi fish, a hedgehog and tiny marsupials called sugar gliders, which are native to southeastern Australia.

The Burns haven't taken a vacation since establishing the animal sanctuary in 2017.

"I never thought I would be doing





this," Lisa says of her more than full-time job. "I still can't believe it. I never liked to get dirty when I was a kid. I never thought I'd have a rooster that wants me to carry him around. You don't realize what you like until you actually try it. I got out of my comfort zone and fell in love. When you really love what you do, you can live without vacations."

Farmhouse Animal & Nature Sanctuary is a rambling assemblage of fields, fences, barns, coops, an aviary, and elaborate dwellings designed to meet the needs of particular creatures, some of which are not native to Florida. Luna the prairie dog's home has decorative tile on one wall so she can't climb out.

Dave, 58, does the building, repairs, digs trenches to drain off water and whatever else needs doing on the grounds. Lisa, 57, handles the business end, writing grant applications, keeping track of finances, covering the paperwork that goes into running a nonprofit, plus a whole lot more. They rise at 5 a.m. and begin the feeding and cleaning. The process takes four to five hours, plus another 90 minutes in the evening. Sometimes a volunteer helps, but Lisa reckons that she and Dave do it on their own three to four days a week. "Our volunteers are wonderful," Lisa says, "but volunteers can cancel. They have lives, too. Things come up."

Farmhouse has a core group of 11 volunteers, who, Lisa estimates, log 76 hours a month. They're augmented mostly by groups of high school kids putting in service hours. "We could use another 30 volunteers," Lisa says, adding that she has two women who help write grants and blogs and do other office work. In 2021, Lisa says, the nonprofit amassed \$73,000 in donations and grants. "We spent all of it running this place," she says. That sum enabled Farmhouse Sanctuary to effectively break even — if you don't count the time put in by its owners. To help make ends meet, the couple owns Backyard Getaway, a part-time landscaping business that specializes in water features. Dave also does drywall work on the side.

Lisa's goal — her dream, if you will — is to boost the yearly budget by about \$50,000 to hire a full-time em-

 $Continued\ on\ Page\ 80$



Above: "It's a juggling act for sure," says Farmhouse owner and cofounder Lisa Burns of the demands of running two small businesses in addition to a nonprofit animal sanctuary. "We need more help, but we make it work." **Right:** Farmhouse co-owner Dave Burns doles out animal crackers to his menagerie of four-legged farm critters. The crackers are a special treat in comparison to the usual medley of carrots, apples, grapes, peppers, melon and romaine lettuce.





Farmhouse Animal & Nature Sanctuary owners
Dave and Lisa Burns rise at 5 a.m. to begin the
feeding and cleaning. The process takes four to
five hours, plus another 90 minutes in the evening.

Matching You & Your Home to

Your Lifestyle



With so many beautiful neighborhoods in Lakewood Ranch, how do you choose? Whether you are seeking an active community with amenities such as golf, tennis & pickleball, or desire a tranquil retreat, Donna will provide all the assistance needed to make a great buying decision even if you choose to build your new home!

Donna is a Lakewood Ranch resident with over 24 years of experience as a Luxury Home Specialist. A longstanding professional and certified stager, she will help your home show like a model and sell in record time!

As the #1 selling Agent for Berkshire
Hathaway HomeServices Florida Realty
Lakewood Ranch office who sold \$24 million
in 2021, Donna has a proven track record.
Her integrity, dedication and enthusiasm
for the real estate profession makes her the
clear choice when Buying or Selling in the
greater Lakewood Ranch area.

CONTACT

8319 Market St | Lakewood Ranch
941.518.7950 | www.donnasellssarasota.com
donna.sarasotarealestate@yahoo.com

DONNA WROBEL

Your Luxury Home Specialist

#1 Realtor in LWR 2019, 2020 & 2021 for BERKSHIRE

HATHAWAY

HomeServices Florida Realty

ployee. "That person could do the feeding and cleaning and other stuff," she says. "I could get those hours back to go after more donations and work on grants. And spend quality time with the animals."

A BUCOLIC SETTING

Touring Farmhouse Sanctuary is simply a wonder. On a sunny, humid Saturday morning in mid-September, we drive through a metal gate, just off Bradenton-Arcadia Road. It's a bucolic setting, a good 10 miles east of developed areas. A symphony of animal noises rises and falls.

The Burns are there to greet us. As we make small talk before beginning the tour, Dave, clad in a white T-shirt tucked into dark jeans, quietly says to his wife, who's wearing a black tank top, "You're covered in goat hair." She shrugs. There's no photo shoot today.

Dave gives us a handful of animal crackers to dole out as treats. Somehow it doesn't seem ironic. Our tour is limited because frequent downpours have rendered much of the grounds squishy, muddy and filled with puddles. Dave points out a huge "poop pile" in the distance. "We really need a backhoe to handle it," he says. "But some of it has turned into good soil."

As we walk through a barn, Kerstin Wiles takes a break from her toils to chat. She comes over from Lakewood Ranch to help twice a week. Wiles signed on when she saw kids from Lakewood Ranch High School doing volunteer work here. "I scoop a lot of poop," she says offhandedly.

In all, our tour is a fun, fascinating two hours. When do you ever get the chance to pet a kangaroo? When have you ever had a ferret lick the sweat off your arms for the salt?

Farmhouse Sanctuary does not offer tours to the public — yet. After some back and forth between Dave, Lisa and the board members, the nonprofit applied with the USDA to run tours as well as hold classes for youngsters in a small building on the property. Lisa was the last holdout. She worried that the initiative would add another burden to an operation that's already stretched to the limit.

Lisa did some research and found

Continued on Page 82



The menagerie includes horses, goats, tortoises, birds, rabbits, koi fish, a hedgehog and tiny marsupials called sugar gliders.



George, a sulfate tortoise with a reputation for being an escape artist, is estimated to be about 20 to 25 years old and was found wandering around Sarasota a couple years ago.



More than a dozen goats live on the property, including this curious billy, Joker, who was born April Fool's Day and surrendered by an owner who didn't wish to keep a male goat.



Belgian bantam chickens such as Tulip are a great fit for families with small children.

HERE



FOR

Be a part of something big while you have the chance. World-class contemporary art is on display now in the original Sarasota High School building. You'll feel it when you see it.

- Monthly Free Second Sundays
- Jazz Thursdays
- Something for all ages
- Bistro and coffee bar
- Shop for unique delights



NOW

ARASOTA ART MUSEUM
Ringling College of Art + Design

1001 South Tamiami Trail

SarasotaArtMuseum.org



that the most they can charge for a tour is \$20 to \$25, so the initiative won't add substantially to the coffers. "But it'll be good for raising awareness," she says. "It'll show educationally what goes into taking care of these animals. It should help in fundraising, too. And maybe some of the people who visit will become volunteers."

Lisa says she expects the tours and classes to begin in the spring.

A SAFE REFUGE AND LAST RESORT

Most of the animals arrive at Farmhouse Sanctuary through Manatee County Animal Control, the Sarasota Sheriff's Animal Services, and the Exotic Pet Amnesty Program of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. Many of the creatures were given up by their owners. The baby potbelly pig that seemed like an adorable pet is now 3 feet long and north of 100 pounds. That tortoise that once fit in the palm of your hand is now bigger than a garbage can lid. And kangaroos? Yes, there are people who think they'd make cool pets. They don't. But in Florida you can own one without a permit.

Other Farmhouse Sanctuary animals, however, were abandoned and, unsurprisingly, some have been through hell. Emi, a Muscovy duck, had been wandering around Tampa for five months with an arrow through her neck. A rescuer found her and dropped her at a rehab center, where a vet removed the arrow. After rehabbing for a month, she was moved to Farmhouse Sanctuary, where she's doing fine.

Colt the Wonder Goat was found limping around Punta Gorda by someone who then went door to door trying to find the owner. When that failed, the person reached out to animal services, who contacted Farmhouse Sanctuary. Colt had a badly broken shoulder and at first a vet wanted to amputate her entire leg. Lisa and Dave raised \$4,000 to pay for a complicated operation that required the insertion of a plate and four pins into Colt's shoulder. The Wonder Goat has made a wonderful recovery.

Yeesaw, a donkey, lived with a loving family, but when the couple divorced, they reached out to a neighbor who promised to take care of him. Sometime

THE EFFECTS OF HURRICANE IAN

Hurricane lan, which occurred after the writing of this story, caused considerable damage to the sanctuary. Most of the fencing was knocked down. Thirtyfour trees fell, some hitting buildings. But the Burns were not hurt and none of the animals were injured. Lisa estimates that it will take roughly \$50,000 and six months to get the property back to where it was. Now, more than ever, Farmhouse Sanctuary needs monetary support from the community. Those wishing to contribute can visit FarmHouseSanctuary.org or donate through the Louis & Gloria Flanzer Philanthropic Trust, which will match any contribution, from \$25 to \$500, at FlanzerTrust.org.

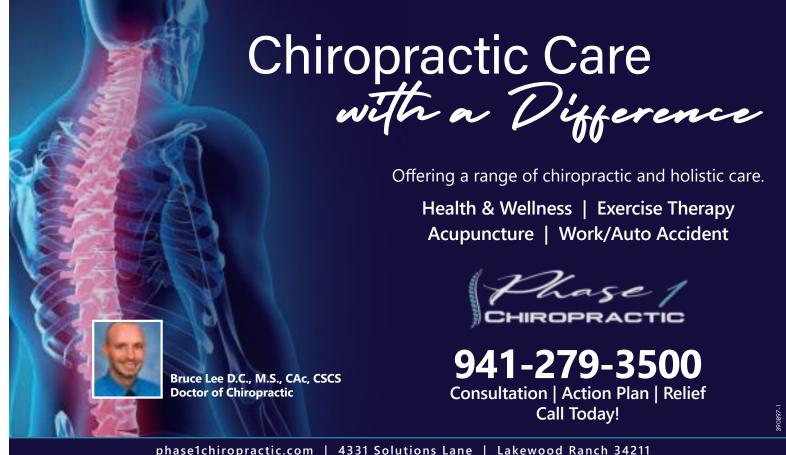


Sugar gliders Huey, Louie and Dewey were surrendered two years ago by a woman who purchased them from a repticon show in Tampa. "She wasn't prepared for them being nocturnal and needing vet care." says Lisa.



Taylor is the oldest pig on the property. He and this rooster (named Copper) are as chummy as two barnyard animals get.





Continued from Page 82

later, a visitor found Yeesaw by himself in a field, with no food, his hooves in such bad shape he was unable to stand up. It took three men to get the donkey in a trailer to bring him to Farmhouse Sanctuary. Yeesaw, too, has recovered.

SWEET BEGINNINGS

Dave Burns and Lisa Wakefield were born 30 miles from each other in upstate New York, near Buffalo. Lisa's family moved to Bradenton when she was 11. Dave, who grew up on a horse ranch, came down to Palmetto at age 16.

Lisa worked at her father's Amoco station in Palmetto while attending college. Dave, who was friends with her brother Tony, would pull in and ask her to come out and pump his gas. "I told my father I couldn't pump gas and still do my studying, so he had my brother do it," Lisa recalls. Dave overcame the setback and worked up the gumption to ask Lisa out. They married two years later. They have two grown children, Carrie Brown and David Burns.

The couple got into volunteer work

through an animal sanctuary in Parrish called Majical Miniatures. Partly because of those efforts, Dave got the itch to get a horse, but that wasn't practical given that they lived in a subdivision off Cortez Road in Bradenton. Lisa balked at the idea of moving to the country, but she agreed to visit the property in Myakka City that would ultimately become Farmhouse Sanctuary. "We took a drive out on a Sunday and I fell in love," she says. "It was so peaceful."

In 2010, they signed a five-year lease and moved in. Danny, their horse, had plenty of room to romp. The Burns also fostered some animals at their property. When the owners of Majical Miniatures retired from running it full time, Dave and Lisa relocated to the Parrish facility as live-in animal caretakers.

In 2017, Lisa and Dave purchased the current site and started Farmhouse Sanctuary, taking in most of the animals from Majical Miniatures, which closed. The facility's animal population has grown steadily, and most are here for life — although some, like bunnies, are eligible for adoption. Farmhouse Sanctuary is at capacity for some ani-



mals but has ample room for others. For instance, the quarter-acre kangaroo habitat, which currently houses four, can accommodate up to a dozen. They've had that many in the past.

To the onlooker, running this place looks so daunting. Lisa allows that there are days "when it's so hectic that I feel in over my head, like it's all just too much," she says. "But this is what we do. We work through it. And there are lots and lots of good days."

Farmhouse Animal & Nature Sanctuary owners Dave and Lisa Burns spent 10 years working at an animal sanctuary in Parrish before opening their own nonprofit farm in 2017. The Myakka animal sanctuary is actively looking for volunteers so it can effectively open its doors to the public.





Introducing...

EMFACE®

We are excited to be offering, EmFace, the first and only needle-free procedure that simultaneously treats facial skin and muscles in 20 minutes.



- Reduce wrinkles by 37%
- 30% more muscle toning
- See 23% more lift





Welcome to our new suite!

9114 Town Center Pkwy., Suite 102, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

Schedule your visit

941-866-8989 | FLSPA.com





Art and About

Winter is associated with life's ebb. The temperature drops a little in our region.

But our arts scene heats up with new possibilities,

expressions and connections. Here are a few to warm your heart.





BY SU BYRON CONTRIBUTOR



All You Need Is (Divine) Love. "Gods and Lovers: Paintings and Sculptures from India" at The Ringling features small-scale paintings and sculpture that were created for elite patrons in the royal courts of northern India from the 14th through the 19th centuries. Despite their diminutive size, these artworks have a major impact. Often bound in books and albums, the images accompanied tales both sacred and profane drawn from the "Bhagavad Gita," Indian folklore and court gossip. Think war, murder, affairs, flirtations and true romance. It isn't Bollywood — but it also isn't tame. These pieces honor the beliefs and beings of Buddhist, Hindu and Jain traditions and reflect the astonishing diversity of Indian art and culture. Through May 28; The Ringling, 5401 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota; Ringling.org.

Peace on Earth. Choral Artists of Sarasota will fill Church of the Redeemer with songs of earthly and heavenly peace in this joyful celebration of Christmas. Joseph Holt leads the 32 Choral Arts Singers, along with soloists Ann Stephenson-Moe on organ, soprano Danielle Talamantes, and baritone Kerry Wilkerson. Gerald Finzi's "Terra Pax," is the concert's centerpiece. According to Holt, the British composer was inspired by Luke's account of angels and shepherds witnessing the birth of Jesus. "I can picture Finzi wandering the English countryside and imagining that peaceful night 2,000 years ago," he says. "His choral anthem captures that sacred serenity in a profoundly moving way." Dec. 11, at Church of the Redeemer, 222 S. Palm Avenue, Sarasota; ChoralArtistsSarasota.org.

Close Encounters with Genuis. The Perlman Music Program (PMP) brings its gifted young string musicians, 12 to 18, to a rigorous, two-week winter residency in Sarasota as part of an initiative presented by the local Perlman Music Program Suncoast. PMP's life-changing program was founded by Toby Perlman, and boasts a world-class faculty led by acclaimed violinist Itzhak Perlman. The pandemic forced the Sarasota program into temporary retirement for the past two winters.



Courtesy photos

The goddess Kali at The Ringling's "Gods and Lovers: Paintings and Sculptures from India"







Joseph Holt will conduct the Choral Artists of Sarasota at Church of the Redeemer on Dec. 11, featuring soloists Ann Stephenson-Moe on organ and soprano Danielle Talamantes



Perlman Music Program (PMP) founder Toby Perlman and acclaimed violinist Itzhak Perlman

Continued from Page 87

Good news! The residency returns Dec. 28 through Jan. 7. The public is invited to watch free orchestra and chorus rehearsals and works-in-progress recitals in a performance tent on the USF Sarasota-Manatee campus. Don't miss the "Celebration Concert," conducted by Itzhak Perlman, at the Sarasota Opera House on Jan. 5. Visit PerlmanSuncoast.org.

Family Feuds. Lydia R. Diamond's "Stick Fly" explores a turbulent weekend in the life of an affluent Black family in their home in Martha's Vineyard. When their maid can't make it one summer, she sends her daughter instead. Cheryl's never been a maid, but grew up in this house, watching her mother work. Now, instead of playing games with the brothers, she's cleaning up for them — and doesn't like it. Her tension cracks open buried conflicts of race, class, gender and generational divides. The resulting family feud is sometimes funny, sometimes revelatory, but always mesmerizing. Director Marcus Johnson brings it to life in this FSU/ Asolo Conservatory production. Jan. 3-22; FSU Center for the Performing Arts, 5555 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota; AsoloRep.org/Conservatory.

Heavenly Harmonies. What's the next world like? Sarasota Orchestra's upcoming "Mahler: A View of Heaven" concert might offer a glimpse. Mahler's breathtaking Symphony No. 4 dances between terror and wonder. The first movement sparkles with naïve joy. The second movement hits like a panic attack. (The composer described it as being "seized with panic and terror" on "the most beautiful day in a sunlit forest.") From there, the symphony finds hope — and ends with a blissful vision of heaven as seen through the eyes of a child. (Soprano Laquita Mitchell will lend her luminous voice to this song.) Sibelius's transcendent Violin Concerto flashes like rolling thunder and the celebrated violinist James Ehnes will channel all of the composition's power. Jan. 5 at Neel Performing Arts Hall, 5840 26th St. W., Bradenton; Jan. 6, 7 and 8 at Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall, 777 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota. (The Jan. 6 "Guided Tour" concert features conduc-



The Perlman Music Program orchestra conducted by Itzhak Perlman



Marcus Johnson will direct "Stick Fly" at FSU Center for the Performing Arts Jan. 3-22.





Soprano Laquita Mitchell and violinist James Ehnes will perform in Sarasota Orchestra's "Mahler: A View of Heaven."



TILE & STONE | MOSAICS | CABINETRY | COUNTERTOPS | FLOORING



INFINITE POSSIBILITIES. ONE SOURCE.™

SARASOTA

941.355.2703 4500 Carmichael Ave., Sarasota, FL 34234

Continued from Page 88

tor Peter Oundjian integrating the performance with insights into the history, context and personal connections behind the music.) Visit SarasotaOrchestra.org.

Fly Away. Anna Ouvang Moench's "Birds Of North America" is migrating to the Urbanite stage. Her haunting meditation on life's transitory nature, directed by Summer Dawn Wallace, embraces the pain of time's arrow, both within the human family, and the web of life beyond. Moench's play focuses on two characters — a father and daughter, who are both birders. John and Caitlyn scan the skies of Maryland for the red-headed woodpecker and other rare birds. The birds come and go, time passes, and some species of birds never return. Life is changing at home. Thanks to climate change, life is also changing in the world surrounding it. In both the microcosm and the macrocosm, you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone. Jan. 6-Feb. 12 at Urbanite Theatre, 1487 2nd St, Sarasota; UrbaniteTheatre.com.

Tribute to George Crumb. Composer George Crumb (1929-2022) expanded the universe of modern music. This Grammy and Pulitzer Prize-winning composer synthesized styles ranging from Western classical music to folk songs, to hymns, to non-European musical traditions. EnsembleNewSRQ's artistic directors, violinist Samantha Bennett and percussionist George Nickson, feel indebted to his transformative artistry. They're honoring it with a concert of works by Crumb and his protégé, Margaret Brouwer. Crumb's compositions include "Black Angels," a heart-wrenching lament about the Vietnam War for electric string quartet; "Madrigals," an evocative ode to childhood's end for soprano, flute and percussion; and "Idyll for the Misbegotten" for flute and percussion. Brouwer's "Demeter Prelude" is also on the program. Lucy Fitz Gibbon, the celebrated soprano, will sing on two compositions. Jan. 16 at First Congregational Church, 1031 S. Euclid Ave., Sarasota; EnSrq.org.

Making Dance New Again. Sarasota Contemporary Dance's annual "Dance





Summer Dawn Wallace directs "Birds of North America" at Urbanite Theatre Jan. 6-Feb. 12.



Soprano Lucy Fitz Gibbon will sing on two compositions in ensembleNewSRQ's tribute to George Crumb.



Photo by Matthew Holler ensembleNewSRQ's artistic directors George Nickson and Samantha Bennett





Samantha Miller and Monessa Salley of Sarasota Contemporary Dance



Connect with Tidewell to build a brighter community by helping those who need it most. Volunteer at Tidewell Hospice. Share a connection with a patient during their most difficult moments. Provide respite to a busy caregiver. Be a source of strength for a grieving child. Donate to ensure all who need the services of Tidewell Hospice receive it. Get involved, and let your light shine through.

Let's brighten lives together.

TidewellFoundation.org

Tidewell Foundation is grateful to our sustaining annual corporate partners for their ongoing sponsorship of the Foundation's mission.













Continued from Page 90

Makers" series showcases new dance pieces by celebrated contemporary choreographers. This year's focus shifts to jazz dance and Afro-Cuban choreography - and dance to the music of Miles Davis and others in compelling solo and duet performances. Featured choreographers include: Gilliane Hadely of Orlando; Lisa del Rosario of Austin, Texas; Melissa Cobblah Gutierrez of Miami; and Tania Vergara Perez of Sarasota, who works with the Sarasota Cuban Ballet School. Jan. 26 -29 at FSU Center for the Performing Arts, 5555 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota; SarasotaContemporaryDance.org.

What's So Funny About Peace, Love and Understanding? Embracing Our Differences' annual, outdoor art exhibition celebrates the diversity of the human family with large-scale artwork from around the nation and world. Each of the 50 billboard-sized images is accompanied by an inspiring quotation. This year marks the 20th anniversary of this monumental exhibit. According to Sarah Wertheimer, EOD's executive director, this vear's selections are as diverse as the artists who created them. "The human family is an intricate tapestry of identify, origin, orientation and belief," she says. "No single style or statement fully expresses that beautiful diversity. Embracing Our Differences does it justice by letting each artist speak with their own unique voice." Jan. 18-March 12 at Bayfront Park in downtown Sarasota; March 22-April 19 at Butler Park in North Port; April 26-May 29, at State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota, in Bradenton; EmbracingOurDifferences.org.

Fibers of Being. "A Beautiful Mess: Weavers & Knotters of the Vanguard" showcases a vast range of textile art created by contemporary female artists. These pieces range from gargantuan installations filling entire galleries, to miniature marvels that fit in your hand. The artists' mediums and methods are equally eclectic. They weave yarn, stitch threads, twist wires, knot rope and mesh fiber fragments into clay. The resulting pieces push the limits of fiber art. They're also beautiful to look at. Feb. 25 - June 25 at Sarasota Art Museum, 1001 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota; SarasotaArtMuseum.org.



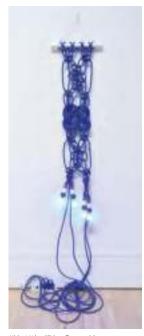
Artist Alexis Thompson in front of her banner, "Threat," at Embracing Our Differences' 2022 exhibit.



"Liberty Enlightening the World" by Arya Badiyan was part of EOD's 2021 outdoor annual exhibit at Bayfront Park.



Student at EOD's 2020 exhibit.



"Untitled" by Dana Hemenway

BRADENTON GULF ISLANDS Concert Series

Hosted by and a portion of the proceeds benefit:

BEATLEMANIA NOW DECEMBER 10TH

The community's gathering place







GRAND FUNK RAILROAD FEBRUARY 25TH

DOORS OPEN AT 6PM OPENING ACT AT 7PM HEADLINER ABOUT 8PM

The Center of Anna Maria Island 407 Magnolia Ave. Anna Maria Island, FL 34216



Tickets are Limited Get yours Today at: **CenterAMI.org/events**

THE ORCHESTRA STARRING ELO FORMER MEMBERS MARCH 21st



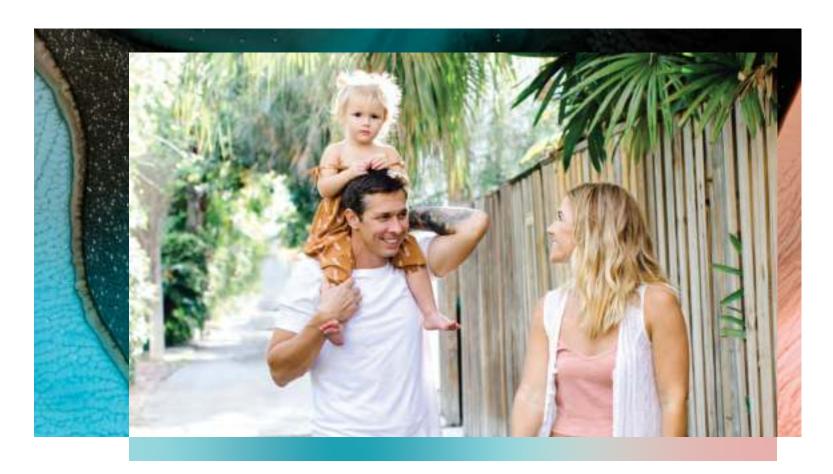
THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS







A place as special as you.



Michael Saunders & Company is family-owned and locally rooted that consistently makes us the unrivaled and trusted choice for real estate services in the region with \$4.79 billion in sales volume in 2021.

Nowhere but here.

Michael Saunders & Company









Lakewood Ranch | A4531620 | \$3,500,000 Chris Baylis | 941-735-4713



Lakewood Ranch | A4539533 | \$3,375,000 Stacy Haas | 941-587-4359



Lakewood Ranch | A4547956 | \$2,450,000 Deborah Angelo O'Mara | 941-730-0777



Lakewood Ranch | A4546018 | \$1,399,000 Jonnie Dwyer & Bianca Dwyer | 941-812-6283



Lakewood Ranch | A4541881 | \$925,000 Stacy Haas | 941-587-4359



Lakewood Ranch | A4550231 | \$750,000 Beth Ann Boyer | 941-780-6606



Lakewood Ranch | A4548465 | \$699,000 Nicole DeSantis & Diane Fogo Harter | 941-725-3538



TINA CIACCIO

REALTOR® GRI, CLHMS, CIRE, RENE













Artist Luca Mancini added a garland of joyous angels to his interpretation of Da Vinci's "The Annunciation."

or someone with an Italian soul, driving through the gates of the Lake Club in Lakewood Ranch can be like coming home. That's the way Mary Ann Cricchio felt back in 2020. "The fountains, the lake, the terra cotta, the vineyard. I knew right away. This is where I was going to live."

Cricchio, a Baltimore girl, discovered her love of all things Italian when she married Domenico Cricchio. For 37 years the couple ran Da Mimmo, a local institution in Baltimore's Little Italy and an obligatory stop for every celebrity passing through. Donald Trump and Hilary Clinton have both dined there, though probably not together. Some guests became close friends. Look for the Tony Bennett watercolors hanging in the hall.

The home Cricchio has just finished creating for herself at the Lake Club is filled with Italian panache and hospitality. She named it Villa Marianna, and it blends many different styles — Venetian Rococo, Milanese Modern, the folk art of the little villages. Some

details are subtle and some — well, walk into the living room and look up. You'll see a spectacular ceiling mural, over 16 square feet painted by the noted Italian artist Luca Mancini. Inspired by Da Vinci's masterpiece, "The Annunciation," it gives new meaning to the phrase "wow factor."

The home faces a lake, and its high ceilings and airy atmosphere conjure up a Florida version of la dolce vita. "I wanted to bring an Italian spirit to Florida," Cricchio says. In addition to the mural, you'll see many works by Italian artists, both paintings and sculpture. Also be on the lookout for some remarkable Murano glass. The





Interior Design • Wallpaper Rugs • Custom Bedding Furniture • Window Treatments

REBATES STARTING AT **PURCHASES** SEPT. 10 -DEC. 5, 2022





941.924.4481 | www.B2END.com 4453 Ashton Road, Unit C • Sarasota, FL 34233

HunterDouglas +

Manufacturer's mail-in rebate offer valid for qualifying purchases made September 10, 2022-December 5, 2022 from participating dealers in the U.S. only, Offer excludes HDOrigins and Nantucket™ Window Shadings, a collection of Silhouette* Window Shadings. Rebate will be issued in the form of a Virtual Reward Card emailed within 6 weeks of rebate claim approval. Subject to applicable law, a \$3.00 monthly fee will be assessed against card balance 12 months after card issuance and each month thereafter. See complete terms distributed with Virtual Reward Card. Additional limitations may apply. Ask participating dealer for details and rebate form. ©2022 Hunter Douglas. All rights reserved. All trademarks used herein are the property of Hunter Douglas or their respective owners









Continued from page 100

dining room table, for instance, has custom-designed legs festooned with Murano glass globes. And in the primary bedroom there are a pair of Murano lamps, highly stylized and looking like they're straight out of a deluxe hotel in Lake Como. Another remarkable example of Italian craftsmanship is in the garage — a yellow Ferrari.

Color is crucial to Italian design and here Cricchio has found inspiration in the bright hues of the Amalfi Coast

in southern Italy where she owns a second home. Blues are strong and vibrant, and yellows add a sunny element. You'll also find a lot of white and silver and mirrored surfaces. On a sunny day — or even a cloudy one — the whole home sparkles.

As interesting as the design of the home is, it's the personal story it tells that really brings it to life. Pieces from the restaurant can be found in the entrance hall and living room, including an ormolu-encrusted table with an inlaid marble top, and an elaborate clock

set on an antique table. Both could easily serve as inspiration to Versace. Memorabilia in the story pertains to Cricchio's close friend, baseball legend Jim Palmer.

"Jim really put us on the map," Cricchio explains. "He became a regular customer soon after we opened and was very instrumental in promoting us." Palmer even bought a penthouse condo near the restaurant. He has continued to be their chief booster over

Continued on page 104

Clockwise, from left:

Globes of Murano glass add panache to the dining table legs; a yellow Ferrari is right at home in the motor court; careful detailing makes all the rooms sparkle—including the baths; rosy pink accents and Italian art complement the all-white primary bedroom.





TOP 10% OF AGENTS IN SALES
#1 SALES OFFICE IN THE STATE
OVER \$100 MILLION IN SALES

Judy and Valerie sold our home in Lakewood Ranch, Florida. Their hard work and strong work ethic were apparent from our first meeting. The dedication they paid to us was amazing. They made the process of selling our home easy. They WILL sell your home!!! Judy and Valerie also brokered the purchase our new home. We highly recommend this team!

-D. Karsmarski

Judy Heuerman

Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate 941-356-5260 judy.heuerman@floridamoves.com



Valerie Esposito.

Coldwell Banker Residential Real Estate 941-809-3541 valerie.esposito@floridamoves.com

Continued from page 102

the years. After Mimmo Senior died in 2003, Palmer became like a father figure to the younger Mimmo, whom you may well encounter during a visit as he lives nearby. ("Mimmo" is the diminutive of Domenico.) That statue of Jim mid-swing is a replica of the famous one unveiled on Jim Palmer Day at Camden Yards, the home of the Baltimore Orioles. It was a personal gift to the family from Jim.

Tony Bennett also became a good friend, and he gave Cricchio several of his famous paintings, most notably the watercolors that hang in the hall. Their subject matter? Italian hill towns. Particularly appropriate since they recall Cricchio's other home. It's not in the hills, though, but rather located on the famous Amalfi coast just south of Naples and Mt. Vesuvius. Maori is famous for its beach and its casual atmosphere. In her home there, Cricchio has a ceiling mural similar in quality and impact to her "Annunciation" in Florida. Also painted by Luca Mancini, it finds its inspiration in Da Vinci's famous Sistine Chapel frescos.

Religious art is not just for show in Cricchio's life. She's a devout parishioner of Our Lady of the Angels Catholic Church in Lakewood Ranch where she is active in church affairs and fundraising. The Virgin Mary has been a great influence in her life, and you may notice the little shrine at the entrance to her bedroom, also painted by Mancini as a sort of thank you gift. And, throughout the home, you'll see glimpses of the light blue color traditionally associated with the Virgin. Cricchio made sure the coffee table under the living room fresco has a blue tint in its glass top that picks up the color of the Virgin's robe.

After decades of running a land-mark restaurant, Cricchio has a new adventure. Under the banner, Da Mimmo Tours, she has created a travel company offering boutique-style vacations in Italy, all personally escorted by herself and Mimmo Jr. There are four different itineraries: Tuscany, Venice, Sicily and the Amalfi Coast. The tours are intimate in scale — just 20 tour members — and Cricchio's contacts give participants unique experiences: hands-on cooking classes, four-course

Continued on page 106



The fountains, the lake, the terra cotta, the vineyard. I knew right away. This is where I was going to live."

MARY ANN CRICCHIO



Owner Mary Ann Cricchio enjoys a tropical sunset while relaxing in the home's outdoor living area.



Artwork by Luca Mancini completes a shrine to the Virgin.



A watercolor by Tony Bennett joins an autographed photo of the famed singer.



Memorabilia from close friend Jim Palmer find a home in a corner of the office.

CHERYL SCURLOCK DESIGN

DECORATING DEN INTERIORS®



Award Winning Designer

You deserve something special - let's create it together!

Contact us today at 941.400.8176 to schedule your design consultation.

cherylscurlock.decoratingden.com





A GREAT 1920S PARTY!

FRIDAY~FEB. 17, 2023

Hyatt Regency Sarasota

5:00 "MOB BOSS" VIP COCKTAIL HOUR

Featuring a Special Guest Speaker, Jazz Quartet, a Cigar Station, Champagne, Adult Beverages and Hors d'Oeuvres. VIP Tickets Only.

6:00 BUGSY'S "JAZZ CLUB" GENERAL COCKTAIL HOUR 7:00 SERVED DINNER

8:00 "MACHINE GUN ALLEY" LIVE AUCTION

Entertainment by: Jonathan Cortez and a Spectacular Performance!

BUY TICKETS FOR YOUR SPEAKEASY PASSWORD:

VIP: \$250.00 each

Early Bird: \$200.00 each ~ purchased by January 15, 2023 General: \$225.00 each ~ purchased after January 15, 2023

TO PURCHASE:

Scan the QR code to the right or visit www.SisterhoodForGood.org/gatsby



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:



Stop by DARCI Boutique beginning in the Fall 2022 for your Flapper and Gatsby-style clothing!

Proceeds benefit local non-profit organizations via Sisterhood For Good's Annual Grants Program.

SISTERHOOD FOR GOOD. INC. IS 501(c)(3) NONPROFIT CORPORATION. REGISTRATION #: CH 57279



Italian antiques that once graced Da Mimmo's Restaurant in Baltimore have found a new home in the Cricchio residence.

Continued from page 104

dinners, excursions on private yachts, and, for the upcoming Venice trip, hard-to-get tickets to the Masquerade Ball. Chef Masood Masoodi from the Baltimore restaurant often comes along; like anything Italian, food is crucial to the experience.

Like a good Italian home, Cricchio's is full of friends, family and food. The restaurant is forever present, with walls of celebrity photos from the bar of Da Mimmo's lining the halls. They're a living history of Baltimore and its famous restaurant. You'll spy Liza Minelli, Dustin Hoffman, and Luciano Pavarotti among many others.

But the real star here is the ceiling mural in the great room. Cricchio had trouble persuading the artist Luca Mancini to journey from Italy, but he finally relented. The painting took 40 days and delighted the friends and neighbors who followed its progress. It even made the evening news. It's the most Italian element imaginable, and it elevates Mary Ann's house in the Lake Club to a work of art.





HANDCRAFTED FOR A LIFETIME OF JOY.

INCLUDES -

Dining Bedroom Murphy Bed Office Living Room Entertainment Outdoor Poly Bathroom Vanity Kitchen Cabinets Laundry Room



WE HAVE THE LARGEST SELECTION OF IN STOCK AMISH FURNITURE IN FL! (6100 N LOCKWOOD RIDGE RD. SARASOTA, FL 34243) (3737 BAHIA VISTA ST. SARASOTA, FL 34232) 941,960,2942

DUTCHHAUSFURNITURE.COM @ f P



Home Sellers...

How would you like to pay ONLY 4% or less* to sell your home, while enjoying **CONCIERGE-LEVEL Full Service?**

*3% if I am the only agent involved in the sale.

- Hundreds of home sellers like you have saved over \$2.6MM with REALean!
- Keep more of your home's equity!





Karen Nasello Realtor since 2001 941-219-5959 Karen@Realean.com I live and work in LWR.

- 21 Years experience, integrity, knowledge and detailed care.
- Call me today to find out what your home is worth in today's market!
- The Florida market is still in high demand!

back at the ranch

Ho-Ho-Holiday Stress

Somewhere between college and your 30s, the holidays go from joyful to stressful. Here are some tips and advice on how to survive with grace (and not too much eggnog).



JESS HOLT IS A
HIDDEN CREEK
RESIDENT AND MOM
TO SONS GAVIN,
JACKSON AND
HUDSON.

rantically comparing calendars, a frenzied mother tallies up her family's upcoming obligations — PTA holiday fundraiser, kindergarten winter show, middle school Jack Frost band performance, neighborhood caroling, office lunch potluck (complete with a gift exchange), and a black tie work party (that also requires securing a babysitter during the already crazy season). All this before even considering shopping for gifts, preparing holiday meals and spending meaningful time with out-of-state family, in-laws and friends to celebrate the season. Somewhere between college and your 30s, the holidays go from joyful and restful to chaotic and stressful. How does one gracefully handle the feeling of being pulled in infinite directions while also clinging to holiday spirit? Eggnog! (Just kidding.) Although some loaded nog may help, prioritizing, time management and good ol' fashioned leaning on others is a somewhat healthier way to go.

PRIORITIES

There are a limited number of days during the season to be jolly, and unfortunately this often leads to conflicting responsibilities. There seems to be a direct relationship between the presence of lawn reindeer and the number of double bookings that show up on family calendars. Is it possible for one person to be present at two different events on a Thursday night? No. Therefore, priorities must be set. The good news is these moments provide a great reason to excuse oneself from less than ideal obligations in favor of child-related ones. "Sorry, Susan, my son's band performance is that same night!" sounds much nicer than



"Sorry, Susan, but I'd rather paint my house with a Crayola brush than design holiday mason jars with the dog walking group."

Alternatively, if both events are necessary (and teleporting isn't an option), try the divide and conquer method. Send dad to go caroling with the toddler and enjoy the school show with the angsty middle-schooler in tow (who obviously wouldn't be caught dead caroling). That's two items checked off, and the band performance is more enjoyable without the smallest human wiggling out of his seat 400 times before the end of the first verse of "Jingle Bells." Pro tip: Make sure to nag dad for pictures and videos of his night at least six times.

TIMING

Timing is everything, and fortunately, one of life's greatest consistencies is the calendar. It doesn't matter what level of preparedness you reach; the holidays will show up. The best bet is simply to be ready for them. We aren't talking garland in September or festive tunes in October, but rather, making lists and beginning to organize what is needed to successfully tackle the month of the year that both flies by and seems to last forever all at once. Shop early and take advantage of sales as they come. Buy those trendy collectible end-cap toys for stocking stuffers, snag a random pedicure set and desk



Your hearing is vital to Living Life to the Fullest

High Quality, Cost-effective Hearing Healthcare Services



Call 941-271-9876 for a complimentary consultation with one of our doctors of audiology

Locally Owned & Operated

Bradenton Location 5860 Ranch Lake Blvd. #110 Bradenton, FL 34202 West Bradenton Location 6404 Manatee Ave W, Suite U Bradenton, FL 34209

www.coastalhearingcare.com

Kindness Makes a World of Difference

SAVE HUNDREDS OFF STRESSLESS PRODUCTS

when you donate \$50 to Resurrection House*





FURNITURE + LIGHTING + ACCENTS + INTERIOR DESIGN

7211 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota Mon-Sat 10-6 · Sun 12-5 941-923-2569 copenhagen-imports.com



*With a qualifying purchase. See store for details.

109

mug warmer from the drugstore to use for gift swaps. Begin stockpiling basic side dishes. Basically, hide what you can, freeze what you can! And what you can't prepare ahead of time, plan ahead of time. Bookmark easy recipes (and be the first to claim a spot on the potluck signup sheet), watch pricing on those big ticket gifts that the kids start dropping (not so) subtle hints for. Put babysitters on standby if possible. Pro tip: If it turns out the sitter isn't needed on a specific saved date, take advantage and have a night out anyway to enjoy some much needed pre-holiday de-stress cocktails and dinner.

HELP!

Unfortunately, even for the most prepped parents on the planet, there may be obligations that are absolutely unavoidable and require attendance. There may be conflicts that require multiple people and it's past bedtime or isn't kid friendly. If regular sitters are hard to come by (and let's be hon-

est, December may very well be the most difficult month of the year to secure another human to watch children), tap into the holiday family guilt factor and ask the grandparents to watch the kids. Utilize the social network and text a neighbor or friend. Reach out to that surrounding village for support. Likely, there will be an opportunity to do a kid swap because everyone else is stuck scrambling to figure out childcare too. Pro tip: Conveniently place the gingerbread house kit on the counter right before leaving the kids with grandma for the night. Voila! Both the mess and concurrent anxiety trying to keep all four walls together AND put a gingerbread roof on will be someone else's problem!

No matter how it gets sliced, the joyous and festive time of the year comes with unique challenges. Juggling shopping, cooking, gift giving and places to be can easily cloud the ability to enjoy the "reason for the season." But, with the right focus and preparation (even months in advance), a blacked-out calendar can actually be a hassle-free time.

66

Juggling shopping, cooking, gift giving and places to be can easily cloud the ability to enjoy the 'reason for the season.'





The Area's most Trusted
Name since 1974



100% Dedicated to Keeping Your Home Family Ready



Hot Water Heater Installation*

Must be purchased through Aqua Plumbing & Air

Cannot be combined with any other offers.
Contact Aqua Plumbing and Air for details.
Offer Expires 12/31/2022.

\$100 OFF

Reme Halo Air Purifier

The Reme Halo is more effective than most air purifiers and filter technologies on the market.

Cannot be combined with other offers. Contact Aqua Plumbing & Air for details. Offer expires 12/31/2022.

FREE Water Quality Analysis (\$99 value)

\$100 Credit towards a New Whole House Filtration System Installed

Cannot be combined with any other offers.

Must be present coupon at time of service.

Offer expires 12/31/2022.

CALL NOW! 941.866.6210

or visit www.AquaPlumbingSarasota.com

Lic # CAC1816020 • PLBG CFC1428223 • ELEC EC13009313

SEE HOW MUCH MORE YOU CAN SAVE!!









table talk

Nancy Krohngold of Nancy's Bar-B-Q

The signature barbecue at Nancy's continues to win the hearts of regulars and the raves of reviewers. Her famed barbecue recipe was first born on her backyard Weber grill.

BY ABBY WEINGARTEN | CONTRIBUTOR

Though restaurateur/chef Nancy Krohngold has served in many professions throughout her career, including insurance, graphic design, sales and industrial maintenance, cooking was always her passion.

Now Krohngold lives her dream daily as the chief behind Nancy's Bar-B-Q in Lakewood Ranch, where her signature barbecue continues to win the hearts of regulars and the raves of reviewers.

Born near Cleveland, Ohio, and raised in Sarasota, Krohngold holds a bachelor's degree in political science from George Washington University. But her passion for food runs deep, and her now-famed barbecue recipe was first born on her backyard Weber grill.

Krohngold went from serving her barbecue dishes at casual potlucks to developing a cult following and staging culinary popups around town. She opened Nancy's Bar-B-Q — a casual restaurant and catering company — in downtown Sarasota in 2011. She opened an outpost called Li'l Nancy's at the Ranch on Lakewood Ranch



Main Street in 2015 before moving to the current 5,500-square-foot Lorraine Corners location in 2019.

The locale's kitchen also fulfills thousands of catering orders annually, from small office lunches and intimate dinner parties to church and corporate meals for upwards of 1,400 people. She shared some tips, witticisms and insights with us recently.

My culinary inspirations/ heroes are...

Julia Child, Chris Schlesinger and Ray Lampe.

The best barbecue I ever tasted outside of my own

restaurant was at...

Hill Country Barbecue Market in New York City — an outpost of their Texas store.

The top three U.S. barbecue venues I dream of visiting are...

Arthur Bryant's in Kansas City, Missouri; Charlie Vergos' Rendezvous in Memphis, Tennessee; and Franklin Barbecue in Austin, Texas.

The secret to an amazing barbecue sauce is...

Flavor characteristics that you love but can't be described with just one

Continued on Page 114

Photos by Lori Sax Nancy Krohngold developed a cult following with her famous popups before she opened Nancy's Bar-B-Q in Lakewood Ranch.

WALK-IN LWR Family Practice

- Pneumonia Shots
- Immunizations
- Allergies **Treatments**
- Physicals
- In-Office **Blood Testing**
- Cool Sculpting
- Botox

EW LOCATION FINALLY OPEN!

8431 Heritage Green Way **Bradenton, FL 34212**









Open Monday-Friday 8am-5pm Having Trouble Getting an Appointment?

New Patients Welcomed!

941-896-3900





Serving Lakewood Ranch for Over 13 Years!



Get events directly to your inbox! **JOIN OUR LIST!**

YourObserver.com/things-to-do



SCAN CODE TO SIGN UP



Presenting world-renowned orchestras, chamber ensembles and acclaimed soloists

A Chanticleer Christmas Nov 29, 2022 | 7:30 pm Sarasota Opera House

National Philharmonic Orchestra of Ukraine Jan 18, 2023 | 7:30 pm **Venice Performing Arts Center**

Emerson String Quartet Jan 30 | 7:30 pm **Riverview Performing Arts Center**

Pianist Awadagin Pratt Feb 15 | 7:30 pm **Riverview Performing Arts Center**

Chicago Symphony Orchestra Riccardo Muti, Music Director March 1 | 7:30 pm | Van Wezel

English Chamber Orchestra José Serebrier, Conductor March 12 | 7:30 pm | Van Wezel

Buffalo Philharmonic JoAnn Falletta, Music Director March 27 | 7:30 pm | Van Wezel

BUY 3, SAVE 10%! SCAsarasota.org | 941-966-6161





Continued from Page 112

word. An amazing sauce has to be multidimensional.

One barbecue food cliché I would like to refute is...

Fall-off-the-bone ribs. Smoked ribs should release from the bone with a gentle tug. If the meat "falls off the bone," it's probably been boiled.

Preparing the food at the Van Wezel for President Bill Clinton for Ringling College of Art and Design's Town Hall in 2009 was...

A confirmation of my legitimacy as a barbecue cook!

If you grill at home, you absolutely have to...

Have patience. Think about the fire the same way you do the temperature dial on your stovetop. Control the heat for the best outcome. Faster and hotter is NOT better!

The best way to eat barbecue is...

Outside on a picnic table in clothing you're not worried about staining.

My favorite cut of meat to smoke is...

Hands down, a bone-in pork butt (it's actually the shoulder of the hog, but pork butt or "Boston butt" is the name butchers have given it, and how it's labeled in retail outlets). This is what I first fell in love with and, unlike brisket and ribs, it doesn't require much nuance to have it come out right. Just don't rush the cooking time, meaning smoke it long enough and you're guaranteed a tender and succulent outcome. We smoke our pork for 12 to 14 hours.

My favorite kind of customer is someone who...

Enjoys eating smoked meats in a barbecue "joint." No authentic barbecue smokehouse ever provides a "fine dining" experience.

The top faux pas that a customer can make is...

To drown the meat with sauce. If barbecue is any good, it stands on its own. Let its flavor shine through by adding sauce judiciously.



When I'm not working, I'm...

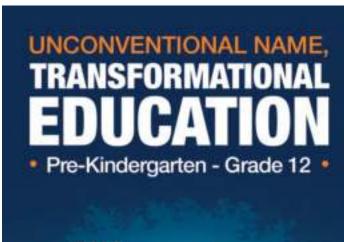
Supporting the local food scene, and my appetite, by figuring out where I'm going to eat my next meal. And then I'm sharing my experience in conversations and on social media. I love sharing the next new great local restaurant or hidden gem with others.

My new go-to cooking book is...

"Turkey and the Wolf: Flavor Trippin' in New Orleans" by Mason Hereford. When Hereford opened his restaurant by that name in New Orleans in 2016, Bon Appétit named it the best new restaurant in America.

This upbeat, cafeteria-style joint draws crowds for house-smoked BBQ that's enjoyed at picnic tables.

If You Go: Nancy's Bar-B-Q: 14475 State Road 70 E., Lakewood Ranch, 941-999-2390; NancysBarbQ.com.

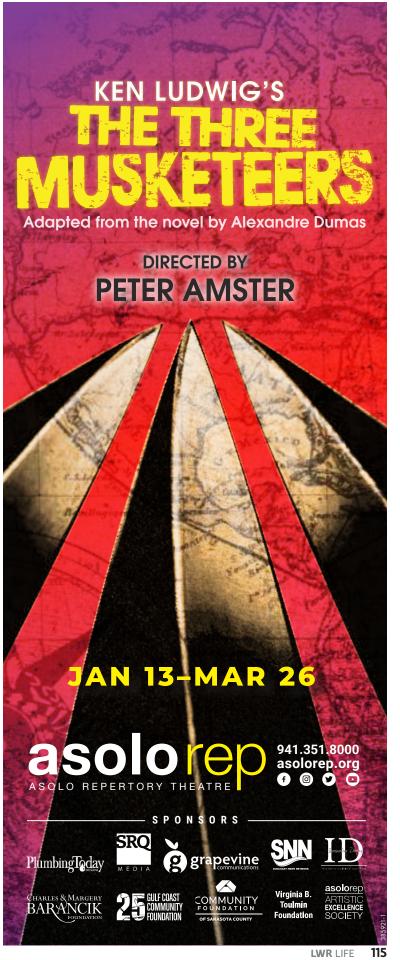


OUT-OF-DOOR ACADEMY est. 1924

oda.edu/discover 941-203-3640









3NATIVES

3Natives - Acai & Juicery takes a healthy twist on the "fast food" mindset by serving healthy and convenient food at an affordable price. This healthy lifestyle cafe is well-known for its fresh and flavorful acai bowls, smoothies, salads, wraps, cold-pressed juices, and more! With 20+ locations across Florida, the Lakewood Ranch location is the first and only location to break ground on the west coast of Florida. Each 3Natives is locally owned and operated and this healthy lifestyle cafe is one you must check out!

Open Daily

11577 E State Rd 70, Lakewood Ranch 941.751.1119 | www.3Natives.com

2nd Location Coming Soon to UTC Area



Blue Surf American Grill

NEW LOCAL RESTAURANT -Blue Surf American Grill

Currently offering Lunch and Dinner Tuesday -Sunday and Brunch on the weekends. Join us for a polished casual dining experience with chefinspired cuisine, desserts, crafted cocktails, and daily food specials!

Open Tuesday - Friday at 11am Saturday & Sunday at 8:30am

Reservations & Carry-Out accepted by phone or online 941-777-7674 www.BlueSurfAmericanGrill.com

5820 Ranch Lake Blvd Bradenton, FL 34202 "Walk-ins Welcome"



ED'S TAVERN

A Jersey Joint in Lakewood Ranch, Ed's Tavern is the perfect blend of local neighborhood sports bar and family friendly restaurant right in the heart of Main Street (next to the movie theater). We're the only lakefront dining in Lakewood Ranch! The menu has something for everyone, from Southern favorites like pulled pork and fried pickles to our authentic New Jersey classics like open-faced sandwiches and disco fries. Our newly remodeled full-service bar now includes 26 ice cold draft selections plus over 31 flat screen TVs. Daily Specials, Trivia every Wednesday and Thursday. Live Music every Friday & Saturday night. Mon - Thur 11am - 12am, Fri - Sat 11am - 2am, Sun 11am - 11pm.

10719 Rodeo Dr, Lakewood Ranch 941.907.0400 | facebook.com/edstavernlwr



GROVE - RESTAURANT, PATIO & BALLROOM

GROVE specializes in contemporary American offerings and onsite event planning. The menu is elevated yet approachable and locally inspired. Overlooking the charming Main Street center, at Grove there's room for everyone at the table! Gathering spaces include a casual patio, a relaxing lounge, intimate private rooms and a lively, modern bar. We serve brunch, lunch and dinner.

10670 Boardwalk Loop, Lakewood Ranch 941.893.4321 | www.GroveLWR.com



KELLY'S

For more than 70 years, Kelly's Roast Beef has been the staple of the North Shore of Boston, renowned for its thinly sliced "melt-in-your-mouth" roast-beef sandwiches and generous platters of New England seafood. Enjoy fried whole- bellied clams, lobster rolls, scallops, homemade clam chowder along with our traditional customer favorites crispy French fries, onion rings, and hot dogs!

Monday - Saturday 11am-10pm; Sunday 11am-9pm

140 University Town Center, Sarasota 941.263.1911 | www.kellysroastbeef.com



MCGRATH'S IRISH ALE HOUSE

Experience a taste of Ireland in Lakewood Ranch; where our community is family. Enjoy a mix of family inspired Irish offerings, as well as everyone's favorites like a Chopped Salad, a Pub style BLT, Traditional Shepherd's Pie, and Fish & Chips. Alongside dinner, enjoy a Kilkenny, Guiness, or choose from our wide range of whiskeys and cocktails that will transport you to the heart of Ireland, all from Lakewood Ranch Main Street. At McGrath's, we believe that no dish can be better than its ingredients.

Mon - Thur 11am - 10pm, Fri - Sat 11am- 12am, Sun 9am - 10pm

8110 Lakewood Main St, Lakewood Ranch 941.210.4398 | www.mcgrathsirish.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS CAR SHOW AND COOKOUT

OCT. 29 AT OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS CATHOLIC CHURCH



Panther Ridge's Rich Epps brought a 1970 Mustang Mach 1.



Lakewood Ranch's 7-year-old Blake Sopcich and 5-year-old Delilah David explore the Trunk or Treat event.



Knights of Columbus members John Joly, and Bill and Connie Rempe, oversee the event.



Greenbrook's 4-year-old Zeke Perez dressed as the Incredible Hulk for the Trunk or Treat event.





Every day, we make spirits bright

Life at Élan Manatee is very merry indeed! Our community inspires the true meaning of friendship and family while providing services and amenities that add ease and comfort to the every day.

- Premier Dining Experiences
- ▼ Full-service Salon & Spa
- ✓ Fitness Center & Yoga Studio
- On-site Staff, 24/7
- Spacious, Designer Apartments
- ✓ Fun, Vibrant Clubs & Activities



ASSISTED LIVING - MEMORY CARE

Ask us how you can **SAVE UP TO \$6,000!*** 941-840-5176

*Savings based on availability; call for details



7375 Stone River Rd, Bradenton, FL 34203 • www.ElanManatee.com

Y G SINITAS

ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY ID # 13316

SAFE DRINKING WATER IS FUNDAMENTAL TO LIFE

Fehl Safe Water Treatment has more than **30 years of experience** in making water safe.

CALL TODAY FOR YOUR FREE WATER TESTING 941-322-8286

For all your water needs:

Water Filtration & Purification Systems Softener Installation & Maintenance Salt & Maintenance Service **Well & Pump Service Aerators & Pressure Tanks 24-hour Emergency Service**

🖪 fehlsafewatersystems.com

DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S IN YOUR WATER?



LAKEWOOD RANCH **COMMUNITY FUND** WINE & GIVING

OCT. 28 AT ESPLANADE GOLF & **COUNTRY CLUB**







Above: Bob Smith holds his Humanitarian of the Year award surrounded by his daughter Amanda Tullidge Smith, wife Julie Smith and Diane Brune. He said the three women have been the biggest inspiration for him. Left: Heather Hernandez (far left) and Jason Hernandez (far right) of Blade and Tine meet with winning bidders Bill and Bonnie Franklin of Lakewood Ranch. The Franklins won the bid at \$3,600.

CUSTOM CASUAL DINING FURNITURE

...where style meets comfort!







LARGEST SELECTION OF STOOLS.

Over 100 stools on display in store



HUGE SELECTION OF IN-STOCK & CUSTOMIZABLE PRODUCTS

Choose from many sizes, colors & styles.

CASUAL DINING SETS • CASTER CHAIRS & DINING SETS • COUNTER & BAR STOOL • SMALL KITCHEN SETS



4227 S Tamiami Trail Sarasota, FL 34231 (941) 924-7114

16738 US 19 North Clearwater, FL 33764 (727)531-6660

488 West State Road 436 Altamonte Springs, FL 32714 (407) 862-0433

Family owned & operated business since 1976 • www.dinettesunlimited.com



Build It and They Will Come.

We are the first ground up private pickleball club in the country. Playing inside is as close as you can get to heaven... for a pickleball player!

Twelve indoor pickleball courts!





Take a virtual tour of the club.

Call 941-271-4444 today to inquire about our membership options.



Play For Life

tpclwr.us | membership@thepickleballclub.us 1300 Sarasota Center Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34240



ArtistSeriesConcerts.org

941-306-1202

Ever Onward

Season 27









DOUBLE FEATURE

Blake Pouliot & Simone Porter, violins

December 6 • 7:30 pm • Sarasota Opera House

Sparks fly when these two astounding young artists come together for an evening of duo magic that includes works by Strauss, Beethoven, and Chausson.

THE 442s

December 13 • 7:30 pm • Historic Asolo Theater Combining three members of the St. Louis Symphony and two of the St. Louis region's finest jazz musicians, The 442s break down the barriers between jazz, classical, folk, and pop music. This concert features holiday favorites and original compositions.

VISION DUO

Ariel Horowitz, violin & Britton-René Collins, marimba December 15 • 11 am concert followed by lunch Sarasota Yacht Club

Classical works with a contemporary twist, performed by a duo that discovered their shared passion for the blended sounds of violin and marimba.

DOVER QUARTET

January 10 • 7:30 pm • Historic Asolo Theater Named one of the greatest string quartets of the last 100 years by BBC Music Magazine, the Grammy-nominated Dover Quartet has quickly become one of the most in-demand chamber ensembles in the world.

This project is supported in part by the Department of State, Division of Cultural Affairs, the Florida Council of Arts and Culture and the State of Florida (Section 286.25 Florida Statutes); and paid for in part by Sarsacka County Tourist Development Tax revenues.





INTEGRITY · Tenacity · EXPERIENCE

It's an honor to be ranked among the top 1.49% of all Realtors nationwide, Stacy's work ethic and reputation have earned her this designation along with your support and referrals.

Specializing in luxury properties in both Sarasota and Manatee counties, Stacy's award-winning service gives you the results you require and the experience you expect.

Connect with Stacy Haas today to discuss your goals.

Her professionalism and commitment remain unmatched.

- Five Star "Best in Client" Award 2007-2023
- Established Lakewood Ranch Specialist and Resident for more than a decade
- Certified Luxury Home Marketing Specialist
- Million Dollar Guild (GUILD) Recognition®
 by The Institute for Luxury Home Marketing®
- Certified Masters Negotiations Expert
- · Former interior design business owner





P.S. The Key to Your Real Estate Success



Your Lakewood Ranch Neighbors and Home Experts

OVER **\$500 MILLION**IN LIFETIME SALES

TOP 1 % OF AGENTS
IN MANATEE AND
SARASOTA COUNTIES

650+ HOMES

SOLD IN

LAKEWOOD RANCH

PSLuxuryGroup.com

HOLLY PASCARELLA, PA 941.225.3218 Holly.Pascarella@CBRealty.com KENNETH SHANAHAN, PLLC 941.702.0443 Kenneth.Shanahan@CBRealty.com **KATINA SHANAHAN,** PLLC 941.702.0437 Katina.Shanahan@CBRealty.com

