

ANDREW'S NEWS

End of 2nd Quarter 2020 (Issue # 63)



FAREWELL TO OUR MANAGERS, JOSEPH & ISABELLA – Today is Joseph & Isabella's last day. We are so sorry to see them leave as they embark on the next chapter of their lives. We cannot thank them enough for their exceptional and diligent care of La Scala these past 17+ years. Their stewardship of this fine luxury tower has been exceptional, and we will miss them. We are happy that they will be staying close by, and I know that Jackie and I will be continuing our relationship with them both.

QUICK NEWS – A black bear was spotted in Pelican Landing, running through the Creekside Crossing neighborhood and not stopping to ask for directions. He was then seen on 6/29 outside La Scala and captured later the same day at the Hyatt Regency Resort, when he tried to check in (no, not that last part) * A Saharan dust cloud has traveled 5,000 miles to South Florida and is creating spectacular sunrises and sunsets * Large bufo toads are back, and a female can produce 30,000 eggs in a single clutch * Hillsdale College has a great selection of free online courses at <https://online.hillsdale.edu> * Pelican Landing has several boat slips available at Spring Creek for \$1,100 per year. Slips are 11' long and 8' wide * In April, a human-caused fire ravaged 25,000 acres in the Loop Road area of Big Cypress National Preserve, destroying 5 houses. We had just explored the Loop Road a few weeks earlier and saw more alligators in one day than ever before * While the Fitness Center at La Scala was closed down, a few of us kept active with Water Aerobics 3 times a week (photo inset) *



AREA RESTAURANT CLOSINGS – Some eateries are open for dine-in, but with limited capacity, some are only open for to-go order; some are closed while the pandemic endures, and some have not been able to hold out and are closed down and out of business for good. Do not assume your favorite restaurant is open. Call first to find out! The following list will inevitably grow, but here is a list of area restaurants that are sadly no more. Fort Myers: Leopardi's Italian Restaurant. Gulf Coast Town Center: Aurelio's Pizza, Tijuana Flats. Estero: Applebees, Ruby Tuesday. Bonita Springs: Perkins. North Naples: Sweet Tomatoes, Agave. There are possibly other eateries that I have missed in this list and, sadly, there are probably more restaurant closures to come. More on this Perkins photo on the next page...

PANDEMIC OR PANDEMONIUM? - A visitor to the U.S. could be forgiven for thinking that our country is now turned on its head; that everything these days is potentially offensive to someone; that civility is no longer the norm; that some people's lives 'matter' more than others; that street riots can break out without warning, anywhere; that any statue one does not care for can be pulled down; that businesses can be looted and burned to the ground; that the police are rendered helpless and that pretty much everyone is either being racist or else accusing someone of it. Yikes! Where are we headed from here?





It reminds us that despite our commonality as *Americans*, our citizens have different ideas of The American Experience and of what America should try to become. Remember that after 'Monday' and 'Tuesday', even the weekly calendar says WTF.

The blacked-out 'Perkins' sign at US 41 & Bonita Beach Road (photo on first page), and the Perkins flagpole now absent its huge American flag waving in the breeze – seem oddly emblematic of the dysfunction in our new 'Alice in Wonderland' world, where common sense and common decency are turned topsy-turvy. Then there is also the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, which shows no sign of abating. In short, 2020 is not turning out to be such a great year for anyone, and everything you read here seems trivial by comparison.

If it's true that *what doesn't kill you makes you stronger*... well, I would be The Incredible Hulk by now.

Today at La Scala, we now welcome our new manager, Shelby Beal, and we wish her all the best!

Stay safe...

Andrew

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DISCLAIMER: In today's world where everyone is offended by *something* they don't like, what use is a disclaimer?