

In the era of high-stakes testing, things like music and art, engineering and design, project based learning, and large scale problem solving are disappearing from our schools at an alarming rate. We aim to bring these things back while developing new and innovative ways to teach students valuable skills, all while providing a home for students to explore new interests and talents without the stress of a test looming over their heads. Learning should be fun. Learning should be unique to the student. Learning should be collaborative and with others that also want to learn and share and help. These are our core values at **Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead**, and why we are doing what we are doing.

BIZ PROFILE

**HILARY SHORE
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5Q EDUCATION**1 What is unique about having a business in swfl?**

SWFL is home to a very diverse group of families and community members. We aim to prepare our children for an advanced, technological world in a way that supports our older community members. It is our goal to close the achievement gap in our varied socio-economic areas by reaching out to donors in an effort to offer free or discounted tuition to needy students.

2 What do you enjoy most about owning the business?

We love being able to teach what we want and what our students want, the way we want it. Owning our own educational business allows us the flexibility to spend time on critical, yet underrepresented content and skill sets. Despite good intentions from the public school system, there simply isn't enough time in the school day to do the arts and sciences justice. Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead gives us the opportunity to enrich our students education and have a greater impact on the kids in our community.

3 What types of work experience or training were required for you to run your own business?

We each bring 8 years of teaching experience to this business. Ryan Shore, 2014 Golden Apple Recipient, brings a wealth of knowledge and innovative instructional ideas to Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead. Initially a computer science major and later switching to education, Ryan uses his technological prowess, his infectious sense of humor, his insatiable thirst for knowledge, and a natural ability to

relate to children in every lesson he teaches. Hilary Shore has her Bachelor's degree in vocal performance and her Master's degree in Music Education. A classically trained singer and pianist, she brings energy and excitement to her music classes and lessons. Hilary has been the coordinator for the All County Honors Chorus and served on many statewide projects and leadership committees for music education. Our own education, years in the classroom, professional development, leadership experiences, and newfound business training have prepared us for this exciting experience.

4 If someone gave you a million bucks to improve your business how would you spend it?

A million dollars worth of free admission! We're working hard to ensure that Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead reaches as many students as possible from all walks of life. Bottom line, we're doing what we're doing for the kids. With a million dollars, we could work to build a sustainable model that can be replicated to bring the highest quality enrichment, materials, and overall education to communities around SWFL and beyond. We want everybody to have a chance to discover and pursue their interests in the arts and sciences without limitation.

5 What does your business offer that's unique compared to businesses like yours?

Full S.T.E.A.M. Ahead allows students to learn science through the arts, and the arts through science. Existing programs offer only arts or only science; our program unites them. Learning is hands-on, project-based, and fun! We help students become creative, fearless problem-solvers possessing the skills to confidently tackle the future.

If you would like to nominate yourself or someone for a business profile, please email news@naplesnews.com. Include the business owner's name and title, place of business and contact information including phone number and email address. Or you can fill out a form on www.naplesnews.com/participate.

BUSINESS BRIEFS**Lee County tax report**

Continuing on their upward trend, Lee County's tax collections on hotel and other vacation stays rose 9 percent year-over-year in March. Preliminary collections for March grew to more than \$7.65 million, up from a little over \$7 million last year, according to a county report. Lee County charges a 5 percent bed tax on short-term stays. Year-to-date, tax collections for the county's fiscal year are up nearly 16 percent. From October to March, Lee collected more than \$23.4 million in tourist taxes, up from about \$20.2 million for the same months last year.

Owen-Ames-Kimball hires Reed

Owen-Ames-Kimball, a Fort Myers-based construction contracting and management company, has hired Alesha Reed as assistant project manager.

Sunbelt hires Minolta

Expansions, Sunbelt USA Inc., a printing, marketing and mailing firm, announced the addition of three Konica Minolta Digital presses to its operation.

5th Avenue Coffee heading to Marco

5th Avenue Coffee Company has signed a lease with Continental Realty Corp. for a new coffee shop and quick-serve restaurant within The Esplanade Shoppes, 760 N. Collier Blvd. near Elkcam Circle, a 51,000-square-foot mixed-use project on Marco Island. This represents the second coffee shop and restaurant location for owners Frederik and Karen Overdijking in the South Florida region, joining the inaugural site in Naples, with a targeted opening this fall.

Two join board at Friends of Foster Children

Friends of Foster Children of Southwest Florida announced that Dr. Rebecca Lambert and Elaine Rubin Moorin have joined the board of directors. Lambert, a founder and director of the Woodruff Institute, is a board-certified dermatologist and fellowship-trained Mohs micrographic surgeon. Before moving to Naples, Dr. Lambert was in private practice in Carmel, Indiana. Moorin completed post-graduate coursework in early childhood education from the University of Michigan and a master's degree in human development from the Merrill Palmer Institute in

Detroit, Michigan. The mission of Friends of Foster Children is to focus on the children they serve by providing targeted educational and enrichment opportunities that allow each child to fulfill their potential. For more information about Friends of Foster Children of Southwest Florida, visit friendsoffosterchildren.net or call 239-262-1808.

Gross admitted to bar

Wollman, Gehrke & Solomon P.A. Senior Partner Eric L. Solomon announced that Naples native Adam Gross has been admitted to the Florida Bar. Gross joined the firm in August 2014 after graduating with honors from Emory University School of Law in Atlanta, Georgia. While Gross' practice will focus on estate planning, elder law and guardianship matters, he has a strong background in contract and property law. Edward Wollman founded Wollman, Gehrke & Solomon P.A. in Naples in 1995. With its primary offices located at 2235 Venetian Court, Suite 5, Wollman Gehrke & Solomon PA can be reached at 239-435-1533 or online at probate-florida.com.

Royal Shell honors top producers

Royal Shell Real Estate has recognized its top producers for April. The Sanibel/Captiva office top listing producers team are the McMurray & Nette Team; individual/partners: Brian Murty; top sales producers team: Burns Family Team; individual/partners: Cindy Sitton. Fort Myers Office top listing producers team: Maciaszek Team; individual/partners: Patti Testa; top sales producers team: Stoutenburgh Team; individual/partners: Patti Testa.

Local doctor is featured at conference

Naples doctor Daniel I. Wasserman, who is board certified in dermatology with a dual fellowship in Mohs micrographic surgery and laser and cosmetic medicine, presented at the recent 47th American College of Mohs Surgery annual meeting. His topic was the intraoperative use of fractionated carbon dioxide lasers for the improvement of postoperative scars. Wasserman also moderated and spoke at a separate session with Dr. Christopher Barker, a radiation oncologist at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

Members attending the sessions earned continuing medical education credits. Wasserman has provided medical care for over four years to Naples and Marco Island. He established Skin Wellness Physicians in 2014 and services include general dermatology, skin cancer detection and treatment, Mohs micrographic surgery, laser and light medicine and cosmetic rejuvenation. Skin Wellness Physicians is located at 8625 Collier Blvd. Call 239-732-0044. For more information visit skinwellnessflorida.com or follow on Twitter @swflderm.

Two join Pushing the Envelope

Chelsea Bear and Vanessa Fernandez recently accepted positions as communication coordinators at Pushing the Envelope, Inc. Bear and Fernandez will provide public relations services for the company's clientele, including publicity and media relations, social media strategy and management, online reputation management and email marketing. Bear graduated in the Spring 2015 class at Florida Gulf Coast University with a bachelor's degree in communication with a concentration in public relations. Fernandez received a bachelor's degree in communication from FGCU, in addition to a bachelor's degree in philosophy with minors in digital media design and critical theory.

Local attorney elected to committee

Nick Mizell of Cheffy Passidomo in Naples has been elected to the Executive Committee and will serve as an officer of the Thomas S. Biggs American Inn of Court for the 2015-2016 season. Mizell is a Master of the Bench in the Inn and practices as a civil trial attorney.

Ave Maria named top community

Ave Maria was recently named the top single family community in the Naples-Fort Myers market, based upon annual housing starts, by Metro Study, a HanleyWood company. In the Metro Study 2015 first quarter report, Ave Maria ranks at the top of the list with 263 annual starts for the markets encompassing all of Fort Myers and Cape Coral as well as Naples and Marco Island. Ave Maria's residential builders ranked highly on the study, with Pulte Homes placing fourth, CC Devco following in fifth, and Del Webb in ninth place, based upon an-

nual closings. Ave Maria is located at the intersection of Oil Well and Camp Keais Roads in Eastern Collier County. For more information, visit avemaria.com or call 239-352-3903.

Ferguson tapped to lead Grace Place

Grace Place for Children and Families board of directors announced the appointment of Timothy B. Ferguson as executive director of Grace Place, effective July 1. Ferguson is currently the executive director for Student Related Services with the Lee County School District, overseeing Exceptional Student Education, Intervention Programs and Student Services. Ferguson will bring over 30 years of experience in educational leadership to Grace Place. Prior to his current position, he served as the founding principal of Veterans Memorial Elementary School in Naples and also served as an administrator with the District School Board of Collier County from 1997 until 2013.

Gayer named investment adviser

Thomas Gayer recently passed his Series 65 exam and has been named an investment adviser representative with Capital Wealth Planning. The Series 65 Uniform Investment Advisor Law Examination is a comprehensive exam that focuses on retirement planning, portfolio management strategies and fiduciary obligations. Capital Wealth Planning is a fee-only Investment Advisory Firm based in Naples. The firm has been building and managing proprietary income-oriented portfolios since 2005. For more information, call 239-593-2100 or visit capitalwealthplanning.com.

Conservancy gets grant

Conservancy of Southwest Florida, a nonprofit that aims to protect Southwest Florida's unique natural environment and quality of life, has been selected by LongHorn Steakhouse restaurants in the Naples and Fort Myers areas to receive a \$4,000 grant as part of the Restaurant Community Grants program from the Darden Restaurants Foundation, the charitable arm of Darden Restaurants. This grant is one of the largest awarded this year.

All business briefs must be emailed to news@naplesnews.com.