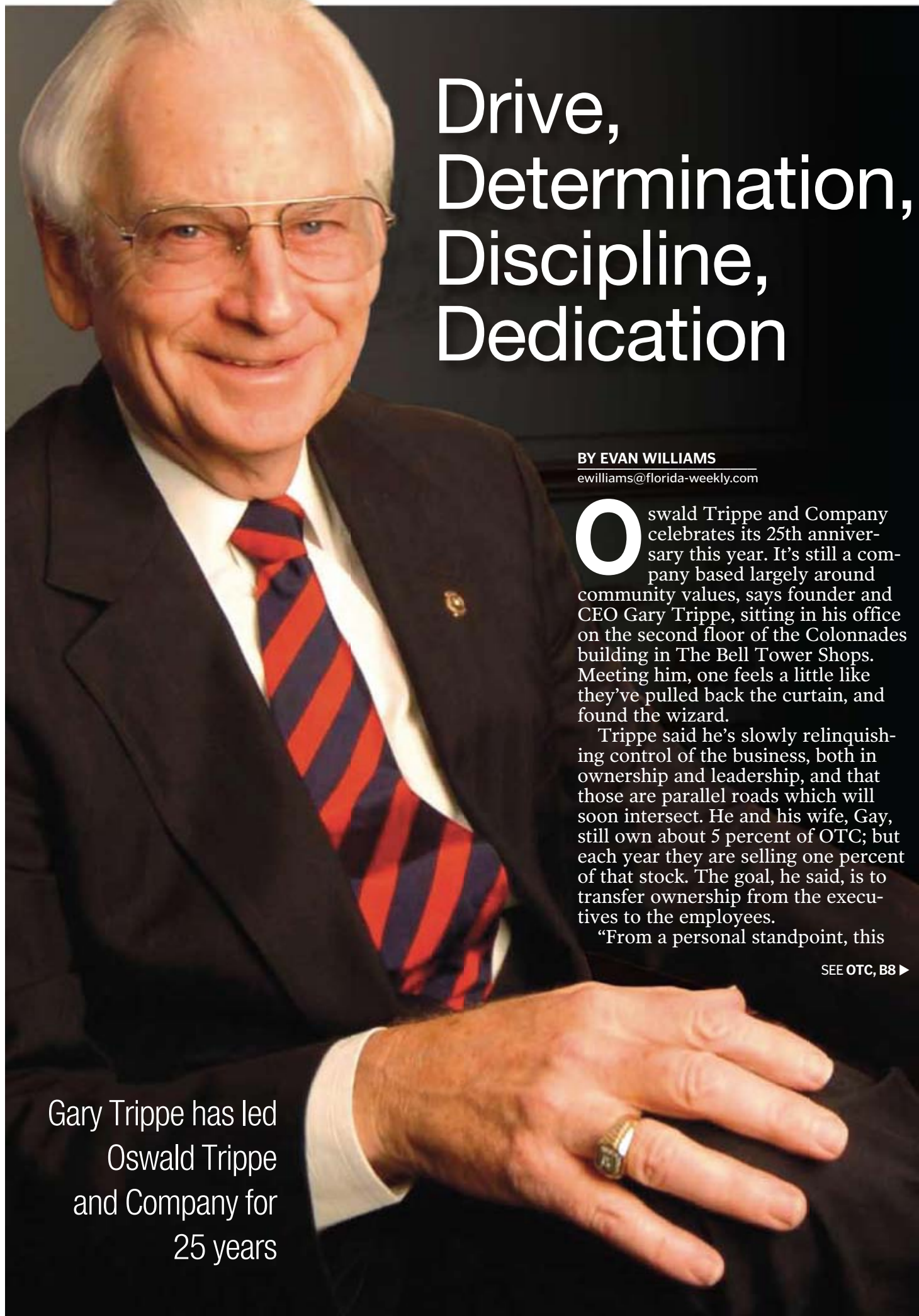


# BUSINESS

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 22-28, 2007

A GUIDE TO THE GREATER FORT MYERS BUSINESS INDUSTRY



## Drive, Determination, Discipline, Dedication

BY EVAN WILLIAMS  
ewilliams@florida-weekly.com

Oswald Trippe and Company celebrates its 25th anniversary this year. It's still a company based largely around community values, says founder and CEO Gary Trippe, sitting in his office on the second floor of the Colonnades building in The Bell Tower Shops. Meeting him, one feels a little like they've pulled back the curtain, and found the wizard.

Trippe said he's slowly relinquishing control of the business, both in ownership and leadership, and that those are parallel roads which will soon intersect. He and his wife, Gay, still own about 5 percent of OTC; but each year they are selling one percent of that stock. The goal, he said, is to transfer ownership from the executives to the employees.

"From a personal standpoint, this

SEE OTC, B8 ►

Gary Trippe has led Oswald Trippe and Company for 25 years

## WEEK at-a-glance



### Women in business

And other networking social events in Greater Fort Myers. **B10 &11** ►



### Taking up space

Architect Rick McCormack is changing the look of Southwest Florida. **B2** ►



### Women & Money

Financial advisor, writer, and TV personality Suze Orman on when to buy and when to sell. **B9** ►

## Fireservice Disaster Kleenup handles those really big messes

BY EVAN WILLIAMS  
ewilliams@florida-weekly.com

When the next big meteor strikes the earth and in particular, the tri-county area (Lee, Charlotte, and Collier), Fireservice Disaster Kleenup will be ready, said spokesperson Greg Frith.

"We clean up some ugly stuff," he said, an amiable smile juxtaposing thoughts of dirty work. "Warehouses covered with soot. Or the Porter paint store fire. It's dark, you're sweating...It's not the cleanest job in the world, but it's a job."

The screensavers in his office near the corner of Metro Parkway and Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers display pic-

tures of New York City during an apocalypse scenario and his cell-phone plays The Doors, "Riders on the Storm."

Frith said the company, which has been in business in the Fort Myers area for 33 years and is available 24/7, will cleanup just about anything: water, fire damage, mold, hurricane aftermaths, and "specialty services" like crime scene cleanup, and death claims.

"A guy the other day tried to kill himself with a chop saw," Frith said. "He brought the saw into the living room, cut his arm off, and then called 911. They brought him to Tampa. We had to clean up the blood. That's biohazardous waste."



FLORIDA WEEKLY PHOTO EVAN WILLIAMS

Greg Frith, Fireservice Disaster Kleenup.

The company employs about 100 people, he said, with offices in North Port, Fort Myers, and Naples. It's owned by Bill Maute, the son of the original owners, and a Fort Myers High classmate of Frith's.

"Naples was a perfect market," he said. "Because you've got a lot of condos. When a pipe breaks in a condo, it spreads to all those floors."

Fireservice is also a general contractor, which means that it has the proper license to rebuild your damaged property, after they've cleaned it up for you.

SEE FIRESERVICE, B7 ►