

Panther Community Bank

BUSINESS OWNERS:

*We are here! We are solid!
We are lending! We Care!*



**PANTHER
COMMUNITY BANK** N.A.
More Than You Expect.®

Talk with us today and experience how a Community Bank can help business owners with their cash flow and financing needs:

- Real Estate Loans
- Lines of Credit
- Business Equipment Loans



Panther Community Bank, N.A.
"More Than You Expect"

239-303-7310 | PantherCommunityBank.com

COMMERCIAL BANKERS,
AVID STRATEGISTS,
team players.



"We keep up our game and strive for excellence with every match and every client relationship."

John Reingardt, executive vice president/senior loan officer, and John Weaver, commercial lending officer, work together as a team on the courts and in the office to help their clients achieve their goals.

You can choose your bank, or you can choose your banker.

At Florida Gulf Bank, your banker is your neighbor, your friend, an active participant in our community. He or she is also a highly-trained expert in full-service banking, the latest technology and a unique approach, *The Power of Personal Service™*. The result? An efficient, convenient banking experience with a friendly, personal approach.

Choose *your* personal banker today...at any one of our eight convenient locations.

Fort Myers:

9101 College Point Court · 239.332.4440
2247 First Street · 239.332.3527
7580 Winkler Road · 239.481.2875
8870 Daniels Parkway · 239.225.7268
8341 Dani Drive, at Six Mile Cypress and
Colonial Blvd · 239.433.6020

Cape Coral:

812 Del Prado Boulevard South · 239.985.8120
2546 Heydon Lane, on Veterans Parkway at
Sandoval · 239.433.6000

Estero:

23250 Via Villaggio, at the Coconut Point Mall · 239.985.8140

**FLORIDA
GULF
BANK** 

The Power of Personal Service

www.FloridaGulfBank.com

**NEWS OF THE WEIRD**

BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

DISTRIBUTED BY UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Bad decisions

► Chrysler Corp. might be on its last legs as a stand-alone company, but that didn't stop its representatives from disrupting a funeral proceeding in Cranbury, N.J., in March to subpoena the corpse (which the company said is relevant to a pending lawsuit over mesothelioma).

► Joseph Milano, owner of Gomba's Pizza in Palm Coast, Fla., was in the federal witness protection program for squealing on Bonanno crime family members in New York but lost his anonymity in January when he was arrested for allegedly pistol-whipping a customer who had dared to criticize his calzone. ■

Cultural diversity

The Natural Resources Defense Council and Greenpeace commenced campaigns in February critical of the peculiar preference of Americans for ultra-soft or quilted toilet paper. In less-picky Europe and Latin America, 40 percent of

toilet paper is produced by recycling, but Americans' demand for multi-ply tissue requires virgin wood for 98 percent of the product. The activists claim that U.S. toilet paper imposes more costs on the planet than do gas-guzzling cars. ■

Elfin logic

When Alcoa Inc. prepared to build an aluminum smelting plant in Iceland in 2004, the government forced it to hire an expert to assure that none of the country's legendary "hidden people" lived underneath the property. The elf-like goblins provoke genuine apprehensiveness in many of Iceland's 300,000 natives (who are all, reputedly, related by blood). An Alcoa spokesman told Vanity Fair writer Michael

Lewis (for an April 2009 report) that the inspection was costly but necessary: "(W)e couldn't be in the position of acknowledging the existence of hidden people." (Mr. Lewis offered several explanations for the country's spectacular financial implosion in 2008, including Icelanders' incomprehensible superiority complex that convinced many lifelong fishermen they were gifted investment bankers.) ■

Latest religious message

Buddhist monks continue to add to their 20-structure compound near the Cambodian border using empty beer bottles, according to a February feature in London's Daily Telegraph. Their build-

ing program, begun in 1984, already uses 1.5 million bottles, mostly green Heinekens and brown, locally brewed Chang, both of which are praised for letting in light and permitting easy cleaning. ■

Questionable judgment

A high school student in Oakton, Va., was suspended for two weeks in March when she inadvertently brought to school her birth-control pill (her prescription for which was approved by her mother). It was only then (with two weeks off to research it) that the girl discovered

county rules required only one week's suspension for bringing heroin to school. Officials told the *Washington Post* that birth-control pills are particularly objectionable because they countermand the school system's abstinence-only sex education classes. ■

Feral Americans

► Sheila Bolar, 49, was arrested after biting a transit driver because she wanted to ride only a "hybrid" bus (New York City, January).

► Aleyda Uceta, 30, was arrested for biting her son's principal during a parent-principal conference (Providence, R.I., March).

► Curtis Cross was arrested for alleged-

ly biting off another motorist's ear in a road rage incident (New Castle, Ind., April).

► Lyndel Toppin, 50, bit down on his fiancée's arm, resulting in nerve damage, because she had arranged the cheese incorrectly on his meatball sandwich (Philadelphia, April). ■

Our elected leaders

► During an April Texas House committee hearing (according to a Houston Chronicle report), State Rep. Betty Brown suggested a solution to the voter-registration confusion caused by Chinese-Americans' Anglicizing their names (which yields nonstandard spellings): "Do you think that it would behoove you and your citizens," she asked a Chinese-American activist, "to

adopt (names) that we (lawmakers) could deal with more readily here?"

► During a March Florida Senate debate on whether to exempt "animal husbandry" from the law against bestiality, Sen. Larcenia Bullard asked (seriously, according to a *Miami Herald* reporter), "People are taking these animals as husbands?" ■

Recurring themes

News of the Weird has noted two previous instances of "Weekend at Bernie's"-like attempts by a relative or friend of a newly deceased person to dress up the corpse and bring it to a bank to convince officials that the dead man is merely frail and to request funds from his account. Both of those attempts failed.

However, but in Witbank, South Africa, in March, the Afrikaans-language daily Beeld reported success. A post office supervisor released a government check to two women who had brought in a dead pensioner — but only after the women promised that the money would only be used for the man's burial expenses. ■

A News of the Weird Classic (January 1994)

Homeless couple Darryl Washington and Maria Ramos were injured in 1992 when a train rammed them as they were having sex on a mattress on the tracks at a New York City subway station. The injuries were not severe, thanks to a quick-acting motorman. Nevertheless, the couple

went on to file a lawsuit against the Transit Authority for "carelessness, recklessness and negligence." (The outcome of the lawsuit was not reported, but the couple's lawyer was, at the time, quite aggressive in justifying the filing: "Homeless people are allowed to have sex, too," he said.) ■