

FORT MYERS FLORIDA WEEKLY®

YOUR NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT SOURCE

WEEK OF JULY 1-7, 2009

www.FloridaWeekly.com

Vol. III, No. 15 • FREE

INSIDE



GETTY IMAGES BY GAB ARCHIVE/REDFERNS

Michael Jackson with Bubbles in 1984.

Jackson's chimp living the good life in SWFL

Bubbles was once a celebrity himself

BY E.I. ROTTERSMAN
news@floridaweekly.com

Bubbles, the chimpanzee who was Michael Jackson's constant companion for years, has been living at the Center for Great Apes, a sanctuary for chimpanzees and orangutans in Wauchula, about 70 miles north of Fort Myers, since 2005.

"He's a wonderful chimpanzee," said Patti Ragan, founder and director of the ape center.

Ms. Ragan said the 26-year-old chimp spends his days playing with fellow chimpanzees, running around the center's tunnel system and, well, just being Bubbles.

"We have lots of celebrities here," Ragan said. "We treat them all the same. We try to keep their lives as rich as we can."

Bubbles was born at a biomedical research facility in Austin, Texas, in 1983. While still an infant, he was purchased for Mr. Jackson by animal trainer Bob Dunn, center officials said.

The chimp reportedly lived with the pop star at his Neverland compound, sat in on the recording of the "Bad" album and accompanied Mr. Jackson on the "Bad" world tour in 1988.

However, the singer's relationship with Bubbles was mocked in the press and became the first in a series of bizarre, eccentric behaviors that followed the pop icon the rest of his career.

When Bubbles grew too large, he was removed to Mr. Dunn's California compound. In 2005, Mr. Dunn

SEE BUBBLES, A10 ►

OUR YOUNG WORKFORCE

COMPETES FOR LIMITED, AND AT TIMES, VOLUNTEER JOBS



"Things have gotten really competitive. I've never had a hard time finding a summer job before, but this year it's been impossible."

— Michael Serge, 16

BY PAM V. KROL
pkrol@floridaweekly.com

NOT LONG AGO, FINDING a job was a fairly simple matter for teens interested in earning some extra spending money over the summer. The

whole enterprise typically took place the week after school let out and required little more than a trip to the mall or a couple of local restaurants. After filling out a few applications, a kid could pretty much count on being employed by the following weekend.

Few things are that simple for anyone in today's job market, but especially for teens.

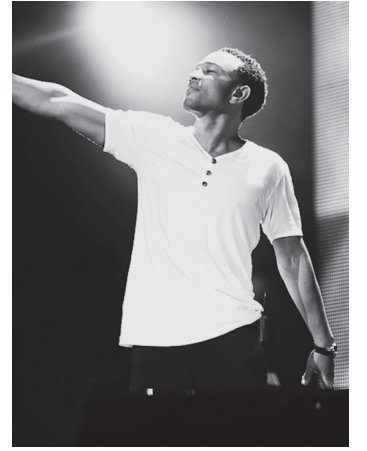
For one thing, competition for the limited

>>inside:

Tips to get the job & how some Web sites are helping teens win.

A9

SEE WORKFORCE, A9 ►



A Legend in Fort Myers

Six-time Grammy Award-winner John Legend plays Mann Hall. C1 ►



Grapes and Glasses

And other society events in Lee County. C26 & 29 ►



Bell Tower Shops

The aging Fort Myers mall is getting a new look to compete for younger shoppers. B1



Independence Day

Check out what's happening this Fourth of July. A12 ►

POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FORT MYERS, FL
PERMIT NO. 715

ROGER WILLIAMS A2
OPINION A4
15 MINUTES A6
BUSINESS B1

ON THE MOVE B4
NETWORKING B10 & 11
ARTS C1
EVENTS C6&7

NANCY STETSON C8
SOCIETY C26 & 29
CUISINE C31
REAL ESTATE D1

DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE RUSH
POSTMASTER - REQUESTED IN-HOME DELIVERY DATE: JULY 1, 2009

