

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Pushing the Envelope named agency for charity auction

Samantha Scott, president of Pushing the Envelope Inc., a Bonita Springs-based mixed marketing communications firm, announced that her firm will be acting as the agency of record/public relations counsel for the March of Dimes Signature Chef's Auction this fall. PTE is responsible for the organizations entire public relations efforts for the event. Their goal is to

increase awareness of the March of Dimes fundraiser as well as increase attendance and funding for the Signature Chef's Auction. "We are honored to help the Signature Chef's Auction. They do such vital research and advocacy benefiting all the area's children," said Ms. Scott. "We look forward to a successful event and a great partnership with the March of Dimes." ■

Airport traffic falls

During May, 524,520 passengers traveled through Southwest Florida International Airport, a decrease of 8.9 percent compared to May 2008. Year-to-date, passenger traffic is down 3.6 percent over the same period last year. The traffic leader in May was Southwest with 75,634 passengers traveling to and from Fort Myers. Rounding out the top five airlines were AirTran (74,995), Delta (69,221), US Airways (63,333) and Continental (55,223). Southwest Florida International Airport had 5,650 aircraft movements (takeoffs

and landings), a decrease of 16.6 percent over May 2008. Page Field General Aviation Airport saw 5,252 movements, a 22.3 percent decrease from May 2008. In addition, more than 2.3 million pounds of air freight moved through Southwest Florida International Airport in May 2009.

Southwest Florida International Airport served more than 7.6 million passengers in 2008 and is one of the top 50 U.S. airports for passenger traffic. For more information, log onto www.flylcpa.com. ■

Airport wins business award

The Federal Aviation Administration Office of Civil Rights recently honored Southwest Florida International Airport with the prestigious award of the 2009 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Advocate and Partner. The award was presented to the Lee County Port Authority at the 25th annual Airport Business Diversity Conference in Baltimore, Md. This award is given to airports who have demonstrated excellence in meeting the letter and spirit of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Pro-

gram. To be considered, the airport sponsors must make significant contributions in developing innovative outreach programs to build DBE capacity, eliminate barriers or increase business opportunities. "Receiving this award is a tribute to the dedication of Port Authority staff and our commitment to the advancement and inclusion of women, minority-owned and disadvantaged businesses in all aspects of airport contracting," said Robert M. Ball, executive director of the Lee County Port Authority. ■

SWF Attractions Association plans monthly mixer July 22

The Southwest Florida Attractions Association will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, July 22, at 7:45 a.m. at the Hilton Garden Inn on Summerlin Road and College Parkway. Doors and buffet open at 7:45 a.m. and the program begins at 8:15 a.m. This social media opportunity doesn't just talk about Facebook - this meeting will teach you how to start your own Facebook page and how to maximize

your marketing opportunities for your business. You will leave this meeting with handouts and tutorials and suggested plans for your marketing strategy. During this meeting, the SWF Attractions Association will collect canned goods to donate to area food banks. Visit the new Web site, www.swflattractions.com, where the association has added a new feature: Great Getaways. ■

Bonita Chamber hosts after hours July 9

The Bonita Springs Chamber of Commerce has scheduled a Business After Hours event from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 9, at Trianon Bonita Bay. The largest chamber event of the month, Business After Hours will feature a 50/50 raffle, door prizes and an opportunity to network with local professionals while enjoying complimentary drinks and appetizers. Atten-

dance for members is \$10 prior to July 8, \$15 at the door and future members are \$40. Trianon Bonita Bay is located at 3401 Bay Commons Drive in Bonita Springs. For more information or to register for the event, visit www.BonitaSpringsChamber.com or contact Gabrielle O'Boyle at 992-2943 or Gabbi@BonitaSpringsChamber.com. ■

Bonita Chamber wins award

The Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce has been awarded the Membership Achievement Award from the American Chamber of Commerce Executives. The MAA recognizes the chamber's excellence in membership during the 2008 year noting the achievement of a top 10 placement in the \$450,001 to \$900,000 total revenue category in the divisions

of Number of New Members and New Member Dollars. The Member Achievement Awards are determined from data compiled annually in the ACCE's Chamber Operations Survey. Categories include Number of New Members, New Member Dollars and Membership Retention. For the complete survey results, visit www.acce.org/index_ektid405.aspx. ■

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