

Business

Friday, May 8, 2015

SUBMIT YOUR BUSINESS NEWS DIRECTLY ONLINE

naplesnews.com/BIZwireOR EMAIL NEWS@NAPLESNEWS.COM

BREAKING GROUND IS A DAILY NEWS WEBSITE about the development and construction industry. Go to naplesnews.com/bg
Email BreakingGround@naplesnews.com
Follow [ndn_breakground](https://twitter.com/ndn_breakground) on Twitter

IT'S YOUR BUSINESS
DAILY NEWS STAFF

Leaming joins Miromar Development

Miromar Development Corp. has announced the appointment of **Clark Leaming** as land development manager. He has more than 25 years experience in all phases of land development and construction for numerous single family and multifamily communities in Southwest Florida. Most recently, he was the land development manager for WCI Communities in Bonita Springs.

He will be responsible for the land development activities at Miromar Lakes Beach & Golf Club and Miromar's new University Village project. Leaming is a graduate of Auburn University in Alabama.

Young joins Bonita Springs chamber

The Bonita Springs Area Chamber of Commerce has announced the appointment of **Jake Young** as membership development representative.

Young moved to Southwest Florida from the Atlanta area in early 2014. He graduated from Kennesaw State University with a degree in business administration. Young is passionate about marketing and sales and spent the last several years working as a bartender and shift leader at California Pizza Kitchen.

As membership development representative, Young will focus on developing and recruiting new members. Businesses interested in information about membership are encouraged to contact him by phone at 239-992-2943 or by email at Membership@BonitaSpringsChamber.com.

Bank to host small business seminars

IberiaBank, a 128-year-old subsidiary of Iberiabank Corp., announced a partnership with the **Florida Small Business Development Center at Florida Gulf Coast University** to host a series of five seminars aimed at helping small business owners with a variety of topics.

All presentations will be at the IberiaBank branch at 775 Airport Road N. in Naples. Registration will be held from 5 to 5:30 p.m., and presentations will be from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Reservations may be made by calling 239-430-1639. Light refreshments will be served.

The first presentation will be May 20 and will help attendees gain a greater understanding of their profit and loss statement as well as key balance sheet metrics.

Other presentations are scheduled for June 17, July 15, Aug. 19 and Sept. 16.

To submit your business news directly online, go to naplesnews.com/BIZwire or email news@naplesnews.com.

Uber hopes for friendlier Legislature in special session

By **James L. Rosica**
Naples Daily News/Tribune Bureau

TALLAHASSEE – After state lawmakers failed to pass any Uber-friendly bills, the ride-booking company sent an email blast to users and supporters, asking them to sign an online petition.

"The Florida Legislature had a chance to pass legislation to keep Uber in Florida, but didn't get it done," the email said.

The petition urges lawmakers

to add Uber to the agenda when the Legislature returns in special session this summer to finish the state budget for next year.

"Please don't conclude this special session without getting this done," the petition says, echoing the email.

Uber set a goal of 20,000 signatures, surpassed that Wednesday morning and reset the goal to 30,000.

But the petition doesn't say which bills or what provisions

the company wants to see passed in Florida. Moreover, the 20-day special session will be devoted to the budget, and policy measures likely won't make the cut.

The bill most likely to have passed this year mandated insurance coverage that was almost identical to a bill enacted in Kansas this week — one that caused Uber to stop operations there.

Not surprisingly, what Uber wants is a version of a House bill

introduced this session before it was weighed down with amendments the company didn't like.

"We just want a sensible, modern regulatory framework like the bill" that was first filed in the House, Uber spokesman Bill Gibbons said.

In other words, the company wants to be free from the drag of local regulations on hired cars, including taxis and limos.

See **UBER, 2B**

After winning prestigious national award

Marco dentist is all smiles

By **John Osborne**
Daily News Correspondent; 239-435-3435

A Marco Island dentist is cleaning up on the awards circuit at the same time he's cleaning teeth.

But that's certainly not the only job Dr. Robert Abiatti performs when it comes to polishing his clients' pearly whites.

"I offer a full dentistry service — crowns, bridges, cleanings, periodontal, implants, implant restoration, full and partial cosmetic dentures and I also see kids," said Abiatti, who last month was named an American Top Dentist by the Guide to America's Top Dentists.

"There's very little I can't handle."

Except, perhaps, for finding enough wall space to accommodate the slew of plaques coming his way. In 2012, Abiatti also received an Academy of General Dentistry Award, another top prize in his field that his employees and clients said was equally well-deserved.

"I've been in this field for 40 years, and this is hands-down the best office I've ever worked in," said front office manager Patty Sandoval, a California native who has been with Island Paradise Dental since October. Abiatti's clients said there's good reason for that.

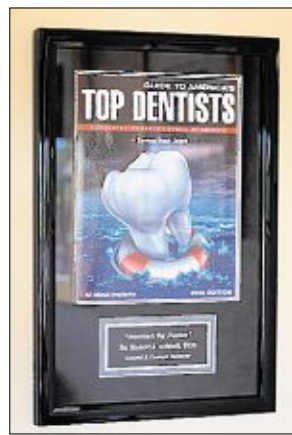
"Dr. Abiatti and his assistant, Luna Johnson, who is very knowledgeable and so kind-hearted, both treat you with special gentleness and skill," said patient Pamela Shudes, who credits Abiatti with diagnosing an oral infection that could have otherwise caused serious health issues.

"And Patty, with so many other special skills, is efficient, friendly and fun. Island Paradise Dental is certainly the appropriate name."

Client Suellen Keeran of Naples also lavished praise on Abiatti and his employees.

"His abilities and experience are extensive, and along with his people skills, that makes him awesome," she said. "He hand-picked his entire staff and they, like him, are warm and friendly. Marco Island is very lucky to have him, and personally, I'm very proud to call Dr. Abiatti my dentist and my friend."

Although Abiatti's nominal office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, he said his workday usually stretches longer



A framed copy of the Guide to America's Top Dentists hangs in Abiatti's Marco Island waiting area.



DAVID ALBERS/STAFF (2)

Dr. Robert Abiatti, a dentist on Marco Island, was named an American Top Dentist by the Guide to America's Top Dentists. See more photos at naplesnews.com.

than that because of the same-day guarantee he offers.

"The difference with my business is that we will get you in today, regardless of how busy we are," said Abiatti, a University of

Southern California School Dentistry grad who worked as an emergency trauma dentist specializing in low-income patients in

See **DENTIST, 2B**

Alabama man sentenced in fraud that involved several Naples properties

By **Laura Layden**
llayden@naplesnews.com; 239-263-4818

An Alabama man has been sentenced to more than 17 years in prison for his role in a \$15 million mortgage fraud scheme that ensnared several town homes in Naples.

Kinard Henson, 43, was sentenced to 210 months in prison in New Jersey on Wednesday for his involvement in the scam and for attempting to kill a witness in the federal case.

He was one of 11 participants charged in July 2012 with conspiracy to commit wire fraud and conspiracy to commit money laundering. He previously pleaded guilty to those charges, and attempted murder.

The case primarily involved properties in Wildwood Crest, North

See **FRAUD, 2B**

Daily News reporter wins silver award in real estate journalism contest

Daily News staff

Naples Daily News reporter June Fletcher earned a Silver Award in the National Association of Real Estate Editor's journalism contest.

Fletcher's story about how home prices in Collier County often are out of reach for the working class earned a silver in



June Fletcher

the Best Small Daily Newspaper category for real estate writing.

"June is an authority on the real estate and growth and development beat, and the award is a reflection of her smart coverage," Naples Daily News Executive Editor Manny Garcia said.

Fletcher will pick up her award June 26 at the 49th annual National Association of Real Estate Editor's conference in Miami.

Fletcher has worked at the

See **FLETCHER, 2B**