



# Auter Bail Stells Wednesday, October 11, 2017 / \$1.50 PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK



Renee Whisner, center, is joined in prayer and worship by her mother, Mimi Treadway, left, and the community at the Unity of Naples church on Oct.1. In November 2014, Whisner was left paralyzed by a car accident in India, where she was studying and working toward yoga certification. With a positive attitude, Whisner is hoping to raise enough money to undergo intensive therapy at the Kennedy Krieger Institute in Baltimore to reclaim her mobility and leave the wheelchair she now relies on. PHOTOS BY LIAM JAMES DOYLE/NAPLES DAILY NEWS

## Naples quadriplegic hopes to walk again

Crash victim finds hope in program but needs funds to participate

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It's only in her dreams that Renee Whisner can walk.

She's learned to treasure those fleeting images that play out in her sleepy mind, when her 5-foot-2-inch frame isn't in her 450-pound wheelchair — she calls it a "machine" — but when she can walk through her life with purpose and poise once again.
"The Renee in my head is not the

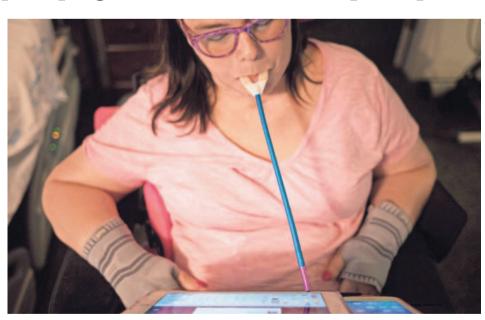
same Renee I see in the mirror," the North Naples woman said.

Since the car crash three years ago that left her a quadriplegic, Whisner, 45, misses traveling, hiking and rollerblading. She misses the little things, too, like the feel of the paper between her thumb and index finger as she turns the page of a good book. Now she has to read on a tablet, and it makes her feel tired.

She misses the rev of her motorcycle, a Harley-Davidson Buell, a sportbike known for its speed.

She misses her independence. The way she used to jump in a car and go for a drive. Make her own phone calls. Scratch an itch without having to call for help.

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Whisner uses a mouth stylus to type out a message on her iPad. NEWS



See more photos and a video. naplesnews.com

### Collier officials 'frustrated' by FEMA

Claim: Federal agency inefficient, unhelpful

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A total of 256 residents in Collier County have been approved for FEMA trailers, but county officials couldn't say if any have arrived yet — or when they will.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Gov. Rick Scott's office have been too slow in bringing needed housing, now a month after Hurricane Irma leveled homes in Everglades City, Immokalee, Goodland, East Naples and parts of North Naples, said Dan Summers, director of the county emergency operations cen-

ter.
"To be honest, I'm pretty frustrated at this point," Summers

County commissioners voted unanimously Tuesday to have Summers write a letter to Scott and FEMA Administrator Brock Long to demand that housing start being made available.

Part of the problem is federal agents are spending weeks chasing down options that anyone familiar with Collier County would know are impossible, Summers

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#### Man arrested after stabbing at coffee shop

**PATRICK RILEY** 

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From the start, J.D. Loden knew there was something off about one of the other patrons sitting at a popular downtown Naples coffee shop Tuesday morning.



He wanted to keep the man - sitting just a table over at 5th Avenue Coffee Company & 6th Street Diner, a corner restaurant along Naples' tony downtown main street in his sight.

"I purposely faced him so that I could keep an eye on him," Loden, of Naples, recalled in a phone interview Tuesday.

A peaceful breakfast with his

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Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk Saturday, October 14 Check-in begins lakeside at 7:30 a.m. Walk begins near WINK PLAYLAND at 9 a.m.

# Neapolitan FOOD & CLASSIFIED

**SECTION D** 



Sailing into season, the new Sails restaurant and bar plans to launch before Christmas in a newly developed dining space at Fifth Avenue South and Third Street South in downtown Naples. SAILS RESTAURANT

# Sailing into season

#### Sails Restaurant to launch at Fifth and Third in Naples



IN THE KNOW TIM ATEN

The owners of a new European-style coastal restaurant want to flip perceptions about Fifth Avenue South in downtown Naples.

Although the iconic avenue is commonly considered to begin at U.S. 41's Four Corners and stretch west to the beach, the owners of Sails Restaurant say the local parade of upscale shops, dining spots and residences actually begins at the Gulf of Mexico.

"Worldwide, all the important streets start from the beach," said Veljko Pavicevic, who with fiancée Corinne Ryan co-owns Sails, under construction in redeveloped space on the northeast corner of Fifth Avenue South and Third Street South.

"We love to travel and we travel a lot. Everywhere in the world, all the Fifth avenues start near the beach. Where there is a beach, it starts near the beach. So we feel we are the beginning of Fifth Avenue."

Sails, delayed about four weeks because of Hurricane Irma, is targeted to open by Christmas in the former American Momentum Bank space at 301 Fifth Ave. S. It's in one of more than a dozen buildings in Old Naples owned by Hoffmann Commercial Real Estate, the St. Louis-based real estate holding company that is a division of Osprey Capital. Hoffman also owns the neighboring building where The French brasserie opened to raves earlier this year.

"We're happy that more good restaurants

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Veljko Pavicevic, left, and Corinne Ryan co-own Sails Restaurant. SAILS RESTAURANT

**IM Tapas** chef Isabel Polo prepares a lentil salad for a table at the restaurant in Naples in 2015. IM Tapas will host a cooking class Oct. 16 during the third annual Foodie Camp SCOTT MCINTYRE/

NAPLES

**DAILY NEWS** 



### Eight days of Foodie Camp showcases top local chefs

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A team of local chefs has planned eight days of foodie heaven.

Southwest Florida's food-lovers will "cook around town" with a series of interactive cooking classes hosted by chefs at their local restaurants. Starting Monday, about 345 people will participate in the third annual Foodie Camp, and tickets are still available to most of the classes.

Popular chefs from Barbatella, Bayside Seafood and a dozen other locations will lead the classes that last until Oct. 25. Tickets range from \$50 to \$60.

And what's more: it's all for charity. Funds from Foodie Camp benefit the culinary education program at St. Matthew's House, and funds the Naples Originals' Culinary Scholarship at Florida Gulf Coast University.

And this year, the Naples Originals, the team behind Foodie Camp, celebrates its 10th anniversary, at a time when being a "foodie" seems to be the cool thing to do.

The idea for Naples Originals started with Lisa Böet, chef and owner of Chez Böet, a French-inspired restaurant that has operated for 15 years in Naples. Bothered by the onslaught of chain restaurants in Naples, she published a commentary 10 years ago in the Naples Daily News.

"We had a lot of bigger corporate restaurants coming to town," Böet said.

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#### Sails

Continued from Page 1D

are coming here on Fifth Avenue. We feel that Fifth and Third, both of our streets, are the crown jewel of Naples and there should be more restaurants and more things happening and more hospitality," Pavicevic said. "This is the heart of Naples."

Pavicevic considers it a plus that Sails will be located near The French and across the street from Bice Ristorante because more area businesses translates to additional traffic and potential guests.

"I really feel that between the three of us here we can create a lot of synergy" he said.

ergy," he said.
Sails Restaurant will predominantly focus on seafood with a European seaside concept bringing together the finest flavors and dining experiences of France, Italy and Greece, Ryan said.

"We have a large fresh seafood display which will be just in front of the double doors (on Third) and will be tiered on ice where guests can walk in and visualize the seafood and, if they like, they can pick the seafood themselves right there and have it weighed on a scale beside the display," she said. "Behind the seafood display will be a gentleman who is going to clean the fish and scale the fish in front of them and then it will go to the wood-fired grill which is literally next door so that can happen very quickly."

The restaurant will have 180 seats with 1,500 square feet for outdoor dining under cover along Third Street, plus another 200 square feet for umbrella tables on Fifth Avenue.

"We will seek approval for another

"We will seek approval for another 200 square feet also on Fifth when we open because we have space," Pavicevic said.

"The outdoor seating is definitely one of the good attractions of this location," Ryan said.

The restaurant will feature an open, French-style kitchen concept with a central island where chefs can mix with guests, who will be able to see the food preparation and fish being grilled for a European coastal feel, Pavicevic said. Sails will include a large, triangular full bar near the entrance with 28 seats and handcrafted cocktails. The entire wall behind the bar will display bottles of wine.

"The interesting thing about the bar is that it's in the shape of a sail, so it's not going to be a circle. It's not going to



Sails Restaurant is targeted to open in the former American Momentum Bank space at 301 Fifth Ave. TIM ATEN/NAPLES DAILY NEWS



The private dining room at Sails Restaurant will be encased in wine. SAILS RESTAURANT

be divided by the walls. Everybody will see each other and will have that interaction between the bartenders and the guests," he said. "We want to create a deep bar so everyone is comfortable sitting at the bar and dining. We love when we go into restaurants and they have comfortable bars so we can sit down and order the food but also to enjoy drinks and entertainment at the bar."

Although Sails will be a high-end operation, its owners also want it to be approachable and not just a special

occasion restaurant. They hope the restaurant's inviting bar, unique oyster-shucking service and floor-to-ceiling bi-fold doors will be among the amenities attracting more than just an upscale crowd.

"You can stop in for just a drink or a beer if you'd like on the way back from the beach or you can stop in for a sixcourse meal. Everybody's welcome," Ryan said.

The goal is to recreate an open-air European coastal experience seen in French resort cities such as Nice, Monaco and St. Tropez, "where you walk in these restaurants and they're goodlooking, but not stuffy," Pavicevic said.

Sails' ambiance will include white linen tablecloths, European crystal, and chairs upholstered with Italian leather. Elegant, modern chandeliers will hang from drop ceilings above a Greek marble bar and French oak flooring. A private dining room will be encased in wine

"We also have an artist who's going to be doing some mosaics for the restaurant to give it that European feel," Ryan said

Sails plans to launch as a dinner-only venue seven days a week, but lunch eventually will be added.

"As soon as we're comfortable, some time in February, we'll open for lunch," Pavicevic said.

Pavicevic, who formerly worked for many years at the Ritz-Carlton Naples Beach Resort and managed all of its outlets, will be general manager of Sails. He formerly managed the fast-paced Gumbo Limbo, the most successful restaurant in the company at its flagship resort.

"I bring the service excellence and Corrine is bringing the product excellence," he said.

For the last 20 years, Ryan has traded meat and seafood around the world. "Veljko and I knew we wanted to

"Veljko and I knew we wanted to start a business here locally in Naples and with Veljko's background and my experience in the product we would like to showcase, it's perfect," she said. "And we love to eat. We're so passionate. Whenever we travel we're always looking for restaurants. Our day is scheduled around what we are going to eat."

Joining the couple on their local voyage is Executive Chef Jacob Jasinsky, who relocated to Naples in May with his wife and their two young sons. Originally from Massachusetts, Jasinsky most recently hails from the kitchen of the acclaimed Ocean House in Rhode Island.

"Coming from the Ritz-Carlton Naples, which is a 13-star property, I admire these individuals that work at triple five-star properties because there are only 11 of them in the world," Pavicevic said. "So, he's bringing a lot of excellence to Sails restaurant and he'll be the only five-star chef on the west coast (of Florida)."

For the latest in local restaurants coming and going, see Tim Aten's "In the Know" columns archived at naplesnews.com/intheknow, and on Facebook at facebook.com/timaten.intheknow.







