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## MANATEE'S BENNIGAN'S CALLS IT QUILTS

*Brian Neill, Herad Staff Writer*

If you've had a hankering for an Irish Haystack or Guinness Glazed Popcorn Shrimp, you'll have to head to Sarasota to get it. The Bennigan's on Cortez Road in Manatee County has closed. Though a spokeswoman for the company did not return calls, Tom Houlihan, the agent handling the sale of the property, said the franchisee simply decided to call it quits. "Bennigan's is a tired concept. It's been there since 1982," Houlihan said. "The company didn't put any money into it. It needed upgrading."

The property went on the market a couple of weeks ago and he's been talking to some banks, fast-food chains and restaurants about the 6,000-square-foot former Bennigan's, adjacent to the DeSoto Square mall.

"Nothing wrong with the location," Houlihan said. "The location is great."

Bennigan's still has a location at 1277 S. Tamiami Trail in Sarasota. It operates 44 restaurants throughout Florida, according to the company's Web site.

Cosimo's catering menu Cosimo's Brick Oven, an Italian eatery in Sarasota, recently announced a new catering menu in time for the holidays.

There's sliced filet mignon with balsamic glazed red onions, horseradish sour cream and French rolls (\$125 for a tray that serves eight to 10 and \$175 for one that serves 12 to 16) and chicken Marsala with wild mushrooms (\$75 for 8 to 10 people and \$99 for 12 to 15 servings).

The catering menu also offers a variety of pasta dishes and platters. For dessert, Cosimo's catering menu includes a full tray of tiramisu, enough for 18 to 24 people, for \$70.

Cosimo's opened in the Westfield Southgate shopping center in 1998 and was recognized in the 2002 Zagat Survey.

Those wishing to have an event catered can call Cosimo's catering hotline at (941) 953-3777.

Hurricane Liquors blow in Paulie Hoffman, owner of Hurricane Hank's pub and restaurant, envisions a place where people can sample pinots and cabernets while getting a few gift ideas for the holidays.

That vision's scheduled to materialize Dec. 15, when Hoffman anticipates opening Hurricane Liquors next door to his establishment at 5346 Gulf Drive on Holmes Beach.

Hurricane Liquors will be a full package store carrying wine, beer, liquor and assorted gifts, Hoffman said.

"During Christmas holidays, if we're open, we're going to have a piano playing Christmas carols and stuff like that," Hoffman said. "There's a need for a full-service package store. We're trying to make it like a friendly place. We'll have wine tastings once we're open."

Wanna buy a duck?

Al Robinson is looking for someone to take over the reins of his D. Coy Ducks on Holmes Beach.

Kenneth Jackson of Green Real Estate confirmed that the pub and live music venue is for sale.

Robinson referred all questions to Jackson.

"He's (Robinson) ready to move on," Jackson said. "He always wanted to own a bar until he owned a bar."

D. Coy Ducks, 5410 Marina Drive, has done a steady business since Robinson purchased it about three years ago. It's one of the few live music venues on the islands, Jackson said.

The business is being offered for \$550,000, including the liquor license, Jackson said.

"They're selling it as a package deal," Jackson said. "They'd like it to continue just the way it is."

## **Cork & Olive** in area?

A Tampa-based chain that seeks to lighten up the often intimidating experience of learning about wines has its eyes on the Bradenton-Sarasota area.

**Cork & Olive** is currently negotiating two locations in Sarasota and has looked at possible sites in Manatee County, including the Lakewood Ranch area, said Stephanie Nelson, the company's director of operations.

The chain opened its first store in Clearwater in 2004. Nelson said the philosophy is based on making wine education fun. The company offers catering events, and stores feature comfortable leather chairs and a centrally located wine-tasting table, encouraging a relaxed tasting experience, Nelson said.

"We are really trying to take the pretense out of wine," Nelson said. "We've been quoted as being the Starbucks of wine."

The Broken Egg debuts Bob Kirscher has brought The Broken Egg restaurant, a Siesta Key tradition for breakfast and lunch, to Lakewood Ranch. The new location opened about a week ago at 6115 Exchange Way, just east of Interstate 75 off North Frontage Road, said Kirscher, owner of the restaurants.

"It was available, it looked good and Lakewood Ranch is booming," Kirscher said of the factors that led him to open a second location. The new restaurant serves breakfast and lunch from 7:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. It will have the same menu as the Siesta Key location, featuring breakfast favorites like The Shepherder --- two poached eggs over hash browns, smothered with cheddar and Swiss cheese --- and lunches like Brad's Fave --- seasoned chicken breast with onions, tomatoes, melted cheddar and pineapple pepper jelly on grilled sourdough bread with cole slaw. Kirscher said he did a soft opening for the new location, announcing its arrival with a direct-mail campaign.

"As we go along and get all the kinks worked out, we'll hit the print media and some radio," Kirscher said.

The Broken Egg has been a favorite eating spot for ESPN announcer and Lakewood Ranch resident Dick Vitale. Kirscher said breakfast patrons at the new location now have a good chance of bumping into college basketball's top analyst-in-residence.

New Buckeye Peach Buckeye Peach's LLC, the franchising arm of the locally owned Peach's restaurant chain, announced Wednesday it has tapped Bill Rosen to serve as executive vice president and chief operating officer, overseeing franchise development in Ohio.

Rosen has served in various executive positions in the food service industry during the past 25 years, according to a company statement. The restaurant chain, founded by Mike Luciano, plans to open 50 Peach's Rise & Dine franchise locations in Ohio. A December opening is planned for the first of those restaurants, located in Ohio's Grandview community. Two other locations in the Columbus area are under negotiation, company officials said. There are currently 10 Peach's in Bradenton owned by Luciano. A franchise was also recently awarded for a Sarasota location in the Landings Shopping Center on Tamiami Trail.