

SRQ Daily

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"The companies that are actually going to survive have felt a little better, and have a better understanding now of what their needs are."

- Joe Hembree, Hembree and Associates

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TODAY'S NEWS

[Business] **Commercial Real Estate Market Evolving**

JACOB OGLES, JACOB.OGLES@SRQMEDIAGROUP.COM

Is the commercial real estate market improved from a few months ago? The answer from local agents is complicated. Rental prices are down, meaning less profit for sellers but better deals for consumers. Office vacancy rates seem on a gradual decline, but there is little new construction.

"It really depends on how you term improvement," said Ian Black, owner of Ian Black Real Estate.

Black said the commercial market still has very soft pricing. That may be changing, but not at a rapid pace. "The consumer is conditioned that if he does something in today's world, he wants to know he is getting a deal."

Joe Hembree, president of Hembree and Associates, characterized the market as "tough," but said excess space is being absorbed and overall business vacancies are competitive with other regions.

He said vacancy rates depend right now on the commercial area. In downtown Sarasota, for example, there is a 13.5 percent vacancy rate, but around Interstate-75 from Fruitville to Clark Road, the vacancy rate is between 25 and 27 percent. That is because businesses downtown, which tend to center on courtroom and government activity, were not hit as hard by the recession, while offices around the interstate are frequently former homes of businesses which were dependent on development.

"If you were a real estate attorney just handling closings and were located in a shopping center or office building by the interstate, you probably didn't have a practice when everything shut down," he said.

Things are improving everywhere, he said, and will do better if there is more certainty for investors. [SHARE:](#) [f](#) [t](#) [t](#)

HUNTING & GATHERING

[Good Bite] **Milk Marks the Shot**

ASHTON GOGGANS, ASHTON.GOGGANS@SRQMEDIAGROUP.COM

It takes a real barista to make a macchiato. Don't let the chains fool you; it's a delicate and intricate endeavor. The macchiato's name came from the cafés of Europe, where baristas needed to let servers know which espressos had milk in them. The 'marked' them—hence the name. A macchiato is espresso with just a touch of steamed milk—traditionally the drink shouldn't exceed three to six ounces. A talented barista can, with only drops to spare, pour a beautiful rosetta—what looks like a lotus flower—or a heart. Lelu Coffee Lounge, in the Siesta Village, makes mean macchiatos, as good as any south of NYC and east of Firenze. [SHARE:](#) [f](#) [t](#) [t](#)

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Beverly A. Smith, "Acceptance," 48" long x 60" wide, Oil on Canvas, The Celery Barn, 226 South Links Avenue, 941-504-0792



INSIDE THE BRAND

[SRQ MEDIA] **OUR PLACE: The Art of Graffiti**

Graffiti as art? It's true! As part of this year's Sarasota Chalk Festival, artists from across the globe will set out to prove that graffiti can be beautiful, creative and inspiring. Benefiting the Avenida de Colores organization for the cultural arts, Clothesline Gallery will be hosting "Art of Graffiti" from November 1st-7th featuring the creation of art on various South Pineapple Avenue walls. SRQ Media Group is very excited to offer up our northern wall to artists looking to create vertical artwork; we cannot wait to see the creativity and artistic infusion this event will bring to our corner of Burns Square! [SHARE:](#) [f](#) [t](#) [t](#)

Lelu Coffee Lounge, 5251 Ocean Blvd. Siesta Key, 941-346-5358



[Daily Shop] Artisan's World Marketplace Sale

KATHARINE ULRICH, KATHARINEU@SRQMEDIAGROUP.COM

To celebrate fifteen years of business, Artisan's World Marketplace is hosting a 15% discount on all products in both the Sarasota and Lakewood Ranch stores. The store carries a range of fair trade items from around the world, ranging from musical instruments to wall hangings. Our favorite items include the ornate soap stone boxes, carved by descendants of the stone cutters who built the Taj Mahal, and colorful Indian journals made from recycled rags. Shop Artisan's World Marketplace by the end of July to benefit from a sale that will ultimately benefit others. SHARE: [f](#) [in](#) [t](#)

Artisan's World Marketplace, 128 South Pineapple Ave., Sarasota, 941-365-5994; 8130 Lakewood Main St., Ste. 103, Lakewood Ranch, 941-306-5859

BUSINESS

[Opening] SMH Opens Stickney Point Urgent Care

Sarasota Memorial Health Care System expanded its Urgent Care Center and relocated it from a medical office complex on the west side of U.S. 41 to a free-standing facility north of the Stickney Point Road-U.S. 41 intersection. The facility is one of three urgent care centers the health system operates in the Sarasota-Manatee region. Staffed by Sarasota Memorial's board-certified emergency, internal medicine and family physicians, the urgent care centers provide comprehensive walk-in medical care to meet the community's urgent and routine health needs. The new 4,500-square-foot facility—700 more square feet than the current one—has nine patient examination rooms, a lab and an X-ray area where physicians may take, view and share images with other physicians throughout Sarasota Memorial Health Care System. More than 8,000 patient visits are expected in the first year, with up to 12,000 annual visits expected in the future. SHARE: [f](#) [in](#) [t](#)

[Sarasota Memorial Health Care System](#)

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[Honor] Eckes Appointed Officer of Royal Norwegian Order

A performer and researcher of the music of Edvard Grieg, Sylvia Eckes was recognized for her efforts to enhance musical bonds between the U.S. and Norway. Eckes, a Sarasota resident and professor emerita of piano from Ohio University, was recently appointed Officer, Knight First Class, of the Royal



THINGS TO DO

[TODAY] FOOD: YPG Food and Wine Event, Young Professionals Group, Jul. 20, 6-8pm

Come and join the Sarasota Young Professional's Group for a seasonal wine tasting at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota. This is an event not to be missed. Chef Tony Pondpaga will discuss and create samplings at each station. Tasting stations will include a Watermelon Steak with arugula, goat cheese and balsamic glaze served with Mas Donis Rosat, Spain, 2010. The second tasting station will hold Medallion of Anchiote Chicken Breast with chorizo potato hash paired with Evodia Grenache, Spain, 2009. For dessert, Vanilla Roasted Peached, cinnamon syrup and toasted rice sampled with Pasorina Moscato, Paso Robles, 2009. Remember to bring your business cards for the networking opportunity. Reservations can be made online at [www.sarasotaypg.com](#). For questions, call Valarie Wadsworth 941-780-3858. **Hyatt Regency Sarasota, 1000 BLVD of the Arts, Sarasota, 941-780-3858.** SHARE: [f](#) [in](#) [t](#)

[TODAY] SPORTS: Design Zone, MOSI, Museum of Science and Industry, Contact Museum for Times.

Design Zone has come to MOSI this summer. In Design Zone, you can go behind the scenes and see how videogame developers, music producers, roller coaster designers and other creative problem solvers use math and science to do the amazing things they do. **MOSI, 4801 East Fowler Ave. Tampa, 813-987-6000.** SHARE: [f](#) [in](#) [t](#)

[TODAY] EXHIBIT: Farmers, Builders, Warriors: The Hidden Life of Ants, South Florida Museum, May 7–Oct. 9, 10am–5pm

The Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service and the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History presents "Farmers, Builders, Warriors: The Hidden Life of Ants." Small, yet abundant, and with complex and wildly diverse lifestyles, ants are everywhere, living mostly hidden from our view. The South Florida Museum lets us see into their world, on their level, with the aid of a macro lens and the insights of ant expert and photographer Mark Moffett. This family friendly exhibition is included with general admission into the Museum and can be seen in the East Gallery. **South Florida Museum, 201 10th St. W., Bradenton, 941-746-4131.** SHARE: [f](#) [in](#) [t](#)

Norwegian Order of Merit and received the award from the Consul General of Norway, Jostein Mykletun, at the Tampa Yacht and Country Club. This title, established in 1985, honors foreigners and Norwegian residents living abroad who have performed outstanding service in the interest of Norway. Mykletun presented Eckes with the Medal of St. Olav, and Honorary Consul of Tampa Arthur Savage presented her with a citation signed by King Harald V of Norway. A performer and researcher of the music of Edvard Grieg, Eckes was recognized for her efforts to enhance musical bonds between the U.S. and Norway. During the ceremony, the Consul General highlighted her acclaimed status as a top-level performer of Grieg's music and the work she's accomplished to promote his music. Eckes is a soloist and chamber musician with close ties to Norway. SHARE: [f](#) [in](#) [t](#)

[The Order of St. Olav](#)



[TODAY] FILM: THE HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER, Burns Court Cinema, Contact Theater for Showtimes

Burns Court Cinema presents *The Human Resources Manager*. The Human Resources Manager of Jerusalem's largest bakery is in trouble. He is separated from his wife, distanced from his daughter, and stuck in a job he hates. When one of his employees, a foreign worker, is killed in a suicide bombing, the bakery is accused of indifference, and the HR Manager is sent to the victim's hometown in Romania to make amends. Far from home, on a mission to honor a woman he didn't even know but has somehow grown to admire, the HR Manager rediscovers his own humanity and his ability to truly care for human resources. **Burns Court Cinema, 506 Burns Ln., Sarasota, 941-955-3456.** SHARE: [f](#) [in](#) [t](#)



[SOON] MUSIC: Jerry Garcia Tribute, WSLR-LP 96.5, Aug. 7

WSLR-LP 96.5, Sarasota's community radio station, will be sponsoring its third annual "Very Merry Jerry Day" on Sunday, August 7, to celebrate the life and legacy of Jerry Garcia. Featured bands include The Fogt's Jr. All Stars, Kid Red, Another Roadside Attraction, The Schmitz Brothers Band and Steve Arvey and Friends. The event will take place at Sun-N-Fun RV Resort just east of I-75 on Fruitville Road. Attendees can bring their own chairs, outdoor games, and coolers (no glass bottles please). Food and drink will be available for purchase from Chu Chu's Barbecue, The Monterey Grill and Keneki's Shaved Ice. There will also be coordinated youth activities. Children 16 and under are free. Day passes for the pool will be available for \$5.35. Jerry Garcia was born on August 1, 1942, and lived to become one of the most famous counterculture icons of the 20th Century. Playing guitar and singing for his band, The Grateful Dead, as well as several others, Garcia took his hippie movement from the '60's into the '90's, sustaining a cult following that exists today and will undoubtedly go on forever. His performances inspired the following of millions of long-haired, tie-dye t-shirted, carefree "Deadheads." His art inspired a line of dress ties. His following's attitude inspired Ben and Jerry of Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream to name a flavor after him, Cherry Garcia. The Grateful Dead have been recognized as the first "jam band" and gave birth to the first generation of what are now called "tapers". In short, Jerry Garcia was a legend in his own time,

[Opening] Studio 145 to Open in Sarasota

Studio 145, Sarasota's new 3000 square-foot digital soundstage, will host an open house August 18 at 3pm. The studio is located at The Education Channel in the new Sarasota County Technical Institute complex on the corner of Beneva and Proctor roads. Studio 145 will serve as the production facility for the Sarasota County School District's cable station and will be available for rent to film and video professionals. The open house will feature the S/S Extreme Mike Alstott 1969 Camero from S/S Motorsports of Sarasota in a commercial shoot with photographer Maria Lyle and Sarasota's Lightning Strike Films. SHARE: [f](#) [in](#) [t](#)

[The Education Channel](#)

[Exec Moves] Law Firm Puts Hawk on Shingle

The law firm formerly known as Porges, Hamlin, Knowles and Prouty added firm principal Mary R. Hawk to the company name. The firm will now be

known as Porges, Hamlin, Knowles and Hawk. The name change was precipitated by Steven W. Prouty, a principal with the firm, accepting the position of general counsel for State College of Florida. Porges, Hamlin, Knowles and Hawk has a longstanding relationship with State College of Florida as its legal counsel that dates back to 1970. Hawk joined the Firm in 2004 and became a principal in 2007. As a litigator and Florida Supreme Court-certified circuit civil mediator and a certified arbitrator, she leads the firm's dispute resolution and civil litigation and appeals section. Hawk specializes in matters involving contract and business disputes, homeowner and condominium association law; probate disputes, commercial and residential tenancies, mobile home law, foreclosures and real property disputes. Hawk has Bachelor's degrees from Florida State University and Georgia State University and a law degree from Georgia State University College of Law. [SHARE: !\[\]\(2bdfe261b986065ee0ac76460d6528c9_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(eebbd3dc1abeccf4c1e5751ec03fc559_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(269a46bd9f0c528dd4b0b2018aec306d_img.jpg\)](#)

[Porges, Hamlin, Knowles and Hawk](#)

[Honor] North Port Instructor Earns Gold at USAT Nationals

Tim Steger, owner of North Port Taekwondo, placed first in sport poomsae at the USA Taekwondo National Championships held July 2 and 3 in San Jose, California. Steger is a fifth dan Kukkiwon and is now a two-time national champion and three-time state champion, as well as a 2010 National Team member. Steger also earned gold in Male Team as a member of a three-person team. USA Taekwondo is the national governing body of taekwondo for the United States Olympic Committee, and only athletes who qualify through a state championship are eligible to compete at the national championship. North Port Taekwondo opened in 2003 and is North Port's largest martial arts training facility. [SHARE: !\[\]\(23d9fc146e83b5c3013cfa32c784f8d5_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(f5c463b8c1554ac5049d611bd8e33a51_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(54f1390f33a36173a1b97c4b6eb40204_img.jpg\)](#)

[North Port Taekwondo](#)

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OLD GRAY MAYOR

[Column on City Politics] Mercer Contract Close to Final Approval

LOU ANN PALMER, LOUANN.PALMER@SRQMEDIAGROUP.COM



Although the City of Sarasota's 2007 city manager experience with the Mercer Group was problematic, Sarasota County Administrator Terry Lewis has checked with several other communities served by the recruiter and has received positive results from questions about the firm's practices. Sarasota County Commissioners chose Mercer to find a permanent administrator.

After Lewis became aware of the city's issues, he contacted ten city and county administrators that had used Mercer for their personnel searches.

Mayor Tim Beehan of Oak Ridge, Tenn., was very satisfied by Mercer's search for their current and previous city managers and fire chief.

Bob Farrar, assistant city manager and human resources director of Bangor, Maine, indicated city staff were very pleased with the Mercer Group, but some of his nine member council were not as they only had a draw of about 50 candidates. However, Farrar opined his council may have had unrealistic expectations based on the economy. He said Mercer worked hard to bring in a good fit, and though a second search was needed, the result was the city manager they currently have.

Mayor Marilyn Hatley of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., said: "The Mercer Group is one of the most professional, qualified and ethical organizations I have

up until his death on August 9, 1995. Come out and help us recreate the mood and celebrate what would have been Jerry's 69th Birthday on August 7. Tickets are \$10 and are available at Rocketman, Sarasota Emporium, Sarasota Guitar Company, Fogt's Music and online at www.wslr.org. **Sun-N-Fun RV Resort, 7125 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, 941-894-6469** [SHARE: !\[\]\(c1168d6a8b365d11e842ece304635fa7_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(821e2adbc4e694c5a65f45cf90787bff_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(a379c93c259bb90edf5293abf22f698d_img.jpg\)](#)

[SOON] FOOD: Craft Beer Mondays, Libby's Cafe and Bar, Mondays in September

Start your week off right with our new Craft Beer Mondays. Libby's now offers 18 different craft beers to choose from along with recommended food pairings from our new summer menu. Try a 90 min IPA with Crispy Grouper Fish Tacos or Abby Ale with Blackened Boneless Prime Rib. Sweet, salty and savory includes Whale's Tale Pale Ale with BBQ Pork Mac and Cheese or Dales Pale Ale with "Karubi" Pork Belly Ribs. Want to try something lighter? Try Maximus IPA with Wasabi Crusted Tuna or Tangerine Wheat with Orange Miso Spinach Salad. You can't go wrong. **Libby's Cafe and Bar, 1917 South Osprey Ave., 941-487-7300.** [SHARE: !\[\]\(d3e32d099174a7c248ec1f564ee4f69c_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(016eb73bb06245f3d4156a3a5b5af270_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(3a51704261ae7dd5c5fbbe42f7bc90af_img.jpg\)](#)

[SOON] THEATER: THE SAVANNAH DISPUTATION, Florida Studio Theatre, Aug. 3 -Aug. 28

Florida Studio Theatre presents *The Savannah Disputation* The Catholic faith of two elderly sisters is rocked after a visit from a young evangelist. To fight back, the women invite the missionary and their unsuspecting parish priest to a truly devilish dinner party where they stage a theological showdown in this all-out questioning of religious faith and belief. **Florida Studio Theatre, 1241 North Palm Ave., Sarasota, 941-366-9000.** [SHARE: !\[\]\(ccd39a0dc6d5afcc151e1371f9462f58_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(f49923b0c29f216bd29daa1e909082f0_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(2b049842d0d28f63899e54d504fa8663_img.jpg\)](#)

[SOON] ART: 3rd Annual Dog Days Art Show, Art Uptown, Aug. 2-Aug. 25

Art Uptown, Sarasota's oldest cooperative fine art gallery, is proud to present the 3rd Annual Dog Days Art Show. An opening reception to the exhibit will be held on Friday, August 12 from 6-9pm. The art show will exhibit the submitted work of Sarasota-Manatee County area artists. Judges will select three winning entries to be prominently displayed in the gallery's Main Street window for two weeks. All other entries will be on display in the gallery's main exhibit hall. **Art Uptown, 1367 Main St., Sarasota, 941-955-5409.** [SHARE: !\[\]\(1f99bf65f43889da445ecc1fe8d9504f_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(a7701fd885e07c9a2352fce4252da8ed_img.jpg\) !\[\]\(03c45162207ca863157643ba63c566c6_img.jpg\)](#)

worked with... I have used their services several times... They are efficient and have the ability to listen to you and your Council to recommend the right candidates for your community... I would definitely hire their firm again and am glad to recommend them."

Though Sarasota County Commission Chair Nora Patterson evidenced concern over the problems that were not brought to the City of Sarasota's attention in 2007, she said: "Given the fact that questions have been raised regarding their service (to the City), I would expect the Mercer Group to be putting out their best efforts to place Sarasota County on their satisfied client list."

Company president Jim Mercer was unavailable for comment.

Based on the aforementioned research, Lewis is continuing negotiations. He is expected to finalize the contract in the next few days.

SRQ *Columnist Lou Ann Palmer is a former Sarasota mayor and equal opportunity pissar-offer.* SHARE: [f](#) [G+](#) [t](#)



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