

# ENDING AN ERA

Jackie Traina and Ryan Iamurri finishing softball careers at Alabama just as they began as 6-year-olds in Naples — together. **SPORTS**



# STAYIN' ALIVE

Pacers beat Heat 93-90 in Game 5 of NBA Eastern Conference finals. **SPORTS**



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“People were saying to me all the time, ‘This stuff’s really good — I want some more,’ so I finally said to myself, ‘Why don’t I try to put this in some stores?’”

Thomas A. Lewis, Lee County sheriff's deputy and cheese spread entrepreneur



A selection of Thomas Lewis' beer cheese spread, Ashby's Beer Cheese, at Oakes Farm Market in Naples on Wednesday.

## Home prices

# Market bounces back, but not as high

■ Collier, Lee prices nowhere near what they were before bust

By June Fletcher

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Although home prices have soared in Southwest Florida since the recession, a new report for April shows they remain far below the peak levels they reached during the housing boom.

Irvine, California-based research firm RealtyTrac says Southwest Florida home prices were down from their peaks by a larger percentage than the nation as a whole, although they are about on a recovery level with the rest of Florida.

“Most of Florida has not recovered to peak pricing, and that includes Collier and Lee,” RealtyTrac Vice President Daren Blomquist said.

Median home prices in Collier County were down 38 percent from their peak of

See HOME PRICES, 4A

## Lottery schemes

# Scammers cash in with offers too good to be true

By Maria Perez

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Carmela Mota-Marcos remembers walking out of the Dollar General store in Immokalee in April where she met a woman who needed a ride and later confided she risked losing the chance of a lifetime.

The woman, who said her name was Ana, had a winning lottery ticket, but she couldn't cash it because she was in the country illegally and had no identification.

She begged for help and offered to share the winnings, but first Mota-Marcos would need to put up good faith money. She did — \$3,000.

See SCAMMERS, 4A

# Deputy becomes a big cheese



SCOTT MCINTYRE/STAFF (2)

Thomas A. Lewis adds price tags to his beer cheese spread, Ashby's Beer Cheese, at Oakes Farm Market in Naples on Wednesday. The Lee County Sheriff's Office deputy, who began his beer cheese enterprise by giving batches of his homemade recipes to friends and fellow deputies, now distributes it in several states and has won awards in beer cheese competitions.

## ■ Thomas Lewis' homemade snack spreading into a nationwide business

By John Osborne

Daily News Correspondent; 239-435-3435

When he's not out patrolling the streets of Lee County, sheriff's deputy Thomas A. Lewis is in the kitchen tinkering around with recipes for a down-home treat his mother taught him how to make in his native Kentucky.

Now, he's distributing that down-home treat nationally, and is looking to grow.

With its signature product already carried in more than 200 Giant Eagle and Heinen's grocery stores in the Midwest (and half a dozen locations in Lee and Collier counties, including Oakes Farm Market on Davis Boulevard in East Naples), Naples-based Ashby Foods recently reached an agreement with an additional 300 grocery stores in Texas to carry its four varieties of beer cheese spread: original, hot, horseradish and port wine.

And a recent agreement with a cheese-broking company in St. Louis opens up the possibility that 4,000 more grocery stores soon could come onboard. Walmart and Winn-Dixie also have begun to show some interest lately.

Heady stuff for a soft-spoken man who started off making small, homemade batches of a spreadable cheese snack for his friends and co-workers at

See CHEESE, 4A



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## MAYA ANGELOU DEAD AT 86

Celebrated poet and author was one of the first black women to enjoy mainstream literary success.  
**NATION, 13A**



## LEE SPELLER IN THE SEMIS

Jacob Williamson, 15, of Cape Coral, advances in Scripps National Spelling Bee.  
**LOCAL, 3A**



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