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Among the features of this year's Stay in May Festival will be the showcase of high school chef culinary arts, with Brian Roland, above, as celebrity chef. CAROLINA HIDALGO/NAPLES DAILY NEWS



**Life is Heald**  
Kevin Heald  
Guest columnist

## The voice texting angel was not from these parts

The first class I took that wasn't rooted in the three Rs was typing, back in middle school. Turns out, I was pretty good at it. So, whenever I had the chance, I took it again. And again. It was a decision that served me well to this day, this very moment actually.

Fast forward several decades and now texting is the way the world communicates. We don't talk on the telephone anymore. Your kids haven't answered your phone call since the day after never. And you're no better, because between telemarketers and caller ID, the kids were in diapers the last time they heard the phone ring and nobody yelled, "Don't answer it!"

While it's true that my fingers waltzed across the typewriter keyboard pretty much from day one, that was before they shrunk the dance floor and put it on a cell phone. And it didn't help matters that my dancing shoes trended more toward cleats than ballet slippers. This stemmed from my time on my mother's old school typewriter, the kind with nary a plug or volt of electricity to be found. If you wanted ink on the paper, you needed firepower in your fingers. To this day, I've been known to type whole pages without ever touching the keys; they just flinch out of fear.

And finally, while I'm not fond of likening my fingers to 10 little sausages, full disclosure requires that I

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# STAY IN MAY

and you'll get healthy here as well as entertained

Harriet Howard Heithaus Naples Daily News | USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

The Stay in May Festival has been to the doctor's office. In looking over its offerings in recent years, festival organizers made a surprising discovery: The wellness lectures and exercise sessions were selling out first.

So this year, the festival has added more information about body-mind connections: workshops on awareness of breath, conquering stress and "Music as Mind Medicine." Learning from its attendees, it also has broadened its varieties of music and added more classes.

### From international to eclectic

"In the interest of keeping the festival fresh we changed it from the themes of countries. It was a great thing to launch the festival. But now we have categories," said Trey Farmer, chairman and president of the festival. "Each year we can put together a different type of event in each of those categories."

The festival also has put more emphasis

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### To learn more

**Festival tickets, information:**  
stayinmay.com



LEFT: "Breaking Cat News" BY GEORGIA DUNN



RIGHT: "Wallace the Brave" BY WILL HENRY

## NEW COMICS DEBUT MONDAY, MARCH 26

New faces are coming to the Naples Daily News comics pages starting Monday, March 26.

The longtime comic strip "Nancy" has been discontinued by its writer.

In its place — in the daily paper starting Monday, and on Sundays,

starting April 1 — we are introducing "Wallace the Brave" by Will Henry, a whimsical strip about a curious little boy named Wallace, his best friend Spud and the new girl in town, Amelia. Wallace lives in Snug Harbor with his fisherman father, his plant-loving mother and his feral

little brother, Sterling.

Also retiring from the daily comics pages is "Get Fuzzy," whose creator, Darby Conley, no longer produces daily strips. "Get Fuzzy" will continue in our Sunday comics.

The new daily strip debuting Monday is called "Breaking Cat News."

Drawn and written by illustrator Georgia Dunn, it is based on her real cats Elvis, Puck and Lupin, who provide live coverage of "news important to cats," such as "There's a great big box in the living room!" or "Someone ate all the flowers and threw up in the hallway."

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# Stay

Continued from page 1D

sis on partnerships with local arts and cultural organizations whose venues they use.

“With the venues each year we can do things that are better for our partners to highlight what they’re doing this year, too,” Farmer said.

The festival is April 24 through May 12 this year, and it roams from North Naples Church own to the South Regional Library in its disparate events and classes. According to Farmer and Claudia Polzin, festival development director, the festival brings in people from around the state, but its crowds are still 80 percent local.

“The year-round audience has a little different interest than the visitor audience,” Polzin pointed out. “They said, ‘We love jazz we love bluegrass.’ And I think because we go to so many different venues, they wanted an experience, not just a concert.”

So the festival has added opportunities, among them an afternoon of art classes April 28 for beginners who would like to try creating art, from painting to pottery, with “Find Your Inner Artist: A Variety of Classes at the Naples Art District.” Artists who teach there will offer classes in their media for \$20. (A full list of events, prices and ticket purchase opportunities are on the organization’s website, stayinmay.com.)

The district has become a solid partner in this year’s festival, organizing a special art walk at 5 p.m. May 2 (\$5). “It’s grown amazingly,” said Farmer of the district, which is north and west of Pine Ridge and Airport-Pulling roads, founded by Taylor Street and J&C Boulevard. “Just a few years ago there were 30 art studios there, and now there are close to 60.”

## Not without dinner

Among the culinary offerings, the group elected to bring back its showcase of high school chef culinary arts (\$30) April 24, with Brian Roland as celebrity chef. The dinner event, as it did last year, demonstrate the quality of students coming from Naples high school culinary programs and the credentials of their teachers, who include graduates of the Culinary Institute of America and Johnson & Wales Culinary School.

But there is also a Moroccan dinner created by and hosted by Sur La Table, showing work in process by artist Cynthia Adams, who has spent time in the country and whose art reflects its influences (\$95, May 1). Adams worked with the dinner selections as well.

Angela Sanders, whose Mindful Mindz offers centering and meditation classes in Naples, will be the facilitator. Glen Estrin, founder of an organization for musicians with function-specific pain or incapacity (dystonia) will join her for the final one.

Farmer recalled Estrin’s presentation last year, showing the change in brain cells at work when a mus-



Seraphic Fire will perform at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church on May 8. SUBMITTED PHOTO

cian played an instrument. “You could see different cells lighting up. It was fascinating. But not everyone can play an instrument. So this year the focus is on

how music affects you as a listener,” he said.

Music, as the foundation of what originated as the Naples World Arts Festival, is still a pillar.

“This year we have a lot of jazz, rock and pop offerings,” Farmer noted. Among its music events:

■ The Bumper Jacksons group, with roots jazz April 27 (\$35) at a new location, the Moorings Park auditorium

■ Artistic director William Noll’s Fifth Avenue Chamber Orchestra, with Dickie Fleisher, harp, and Travis Jones, flute (\$40, Sugden Community Theatre) on April 30

■ The William Noll Jazz Ensemble, with guest, violinist Glenn Basham, on May 3 (\$25, Bentley Village)

■ Jazz from New Orleans to New York, May 4 (\$37, South Regional Branch, Collier County Public Library)

■ “The Bach Boys,” Johann Sebastian and Christian, May 5 (Bower Chapel in Moorings Park, \$35)

■ “Sweet Jazz” with Wycliffe Gordon and Lew Del Gatto at North Naples Church May 7 (\$35)

■ Seraphic Fire, performing music for Shakespeare, at Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church (\$30, May 8)

■ Big Band and Art Deco Meet” at the Marco Island Historical Society, with art being painted onsite by local artist Malenda Trick (\$32, May 8)

■ A return of the Grand Pipes Organ Crawl with American Public Media’s “Pipedreams” program host

Continued on next page

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Continued from previous page

Michael Barone, this year featuring the new Vanderbilt Presbyterian Church organ among others (\$37, May 10)

■ As a finale, the music from "One Night in Memphis," by its original Broadway stars at (\$37, gardens of Naples Zoo)

The pipe organ crawl returned because it was so popular that the "crawlers" specifically asked for another, Polzin said. The same is true for the short films festival, which has been curated by a locally resident filmmaker, Judy Copeland. Copeland is bringing in a director to talk with the audience for its two dates (\$15, April 26 and May 2). Both intentionally are at a smaller venue, the Sheffield Theater at Moorings Park.

"Naples is very personable. They enjoy the interaction. They enjoy the intimacy," Farmer said of the smaller venues this festival primarily employs. "And these film goers in particular are a sophisticated group. They want to know more."

"The films they're seeing here, further, you're not going to see anywhere else. These don't generally show at your standard cinema."

But among them, thanks to Copeland's sleuthing, are some high-caliber films, including one that became an Academy Award nominee and another that received an award at the Tribeca Film Festival in New York.

"We were surprised to get this call from the Tribeca Film Festival," Farmer said. "But they wanted to tell us one of our films was a winner there."

## Heald

Continued from Page 1D

tell you I've been in zero commercials as a hand model. None of these attributes work well with a teensy-weensy keyboard. Bottom line, me texting on a cell phone is just the perpetual Scrabble game from Hell in which I get the letter I want and six I don't.

Texting was a lesson in frustration and a class in anger management. And then along comes voice texting. No longer would I pound the tiny nail that was my cell phone keyboard with the jackhammer that was my finger. I could push a button, say my piece, and there on the phone screen in front of me, would be the words I had spoken. Or so said the salesman. Seems God put an angel in charge of voice texting that wasn't from around these parts because what I said wasn't what the angel wrote.

Now, I'm man enough to admit that no one is ever going to mistake my particular dialect with that of old Billy Shakespeare, but I ain't exactly Charlie Brown's teacher, either. By the time I proofread and corrected what the angel thought I said, I was back on the same mail schedule as my fat-fingered predecessor.

OK, we can fix this. I'll speak slowly, clearly and correctly. I will enunciate and punctuate, and soon the angel and I will be finishing each other's sentences, like twins or soulmates. The next day I'm in the men's section of a store trying to voice text the wife and tell her where I am. Picture me speaking in the manner I just described. Or, and this works much better, picture me doing slow-motion yoga with my lips while attempting to get to first base with my cell phone. You would've thought I was trying to get a cramp out of my face.

Despite my exceptional efforts at elocution, the angel wasn't having it. I texted my wife, "men's pants by the Dockers and Haggard Clothing sign." I kid you not, she got, "Men's pants by the doctors and hate your

clothing sorry." She was halfway into a vicious retort about my sweatpants when I reminded her of my voice texting issues, and she was still mad.

I had to find the right gear for the spoken word. If I spoke too slowly, something like "Go figure" became "Go fig her," which could be anything from a snack suggestion to the first wardrobe directive from God. The slower I spoke, the more southern I became, to the point where I had to go north to find the Deep South and where Gomer Pyle was my speech pathologist. If I spoke too fast, the angel just went to lunch and left that spinning dial thing in the message box that said he'd be back when I learned how to talk right.

Still, I had to give the angel some credit for trying to make things work, even if it was doomed to fail. After I would speak and release the button, you could see the angel working away, changing the words, moving them around, like he was trying to solve today's "Dixie Word Jumble." It seemed sort of ironic that the angel would use context clues to decipher my text. When all was said and done, I might as well have been trying to order grits on the subway.

There is no happy ending here today, folks. I still struggle to text, be it with digits or decibels, and I had to dump my favorite pair of sweatpants after the wife cleansed her soul with that Dr. Phil rant, the one triggered by my "hate your clothing" text. I guess there's some hope if maybe the folks at Apple are fixin' to roll out a dialect-detailed, geography-specific, accent-oriented version of voice texting, one that would never tell you that my favorite meal is a "big kiss for great veal" when anyone within a decent hog call would know it's "biscuits and gravy." I'll keep my fingers crossed, or as the angel would say, "Aisle keep the zingers tossed."

*Figuring his fat fingers were the culprit, Kevin went on a low-cuticle diet that failed. When asked why, he said he didn't know, there wasn't any one thing he could put his finger on. His column runs every other Sunday. He can be reached at LIFEisHEALD@yahoo.com.*

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