

Business

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DAILY NEWS STAFF

Upgrade

CenturyLink Inc. announced the availability of 1 gigabit per second fiber speeds to more than 66,000 business locations throughout Florida as part of a national fiber network upgrade. CenturyLink is offering 1 Gbps service to additional business locations in Florida communities where 1 Gbps fiber service is already available including Arcadia, Cape Coral, Fort Myers, Immokalee, Marco Island, Naples and Okeechobee. Information: www.centurylink.com/Florida

Groundbreaking

Ground was broker on May 15 for Collier County's second **Culver's** restaurant. It will be at 5102 U.S. 41 E. and will open its doors in late summer. Information, www.culvers.com.

Appointment

■ The **American Red Cross** has named **Alfred Sanchez** as **regional chief executive officer** for the **South Florida Region**. He will lead a team of over 3,000 volunteers and staff as they support nearly 8 million residents across 13 counties to prepare for, respond to, and recover from natural and man-made disasters. Information: 305-728-2531

■ **Owen-Ames-Kimball Company** has promoted **Matt Zwack** to **general superintendent**. Zwack is certified in LEED AP Building Design and Construction. Information: 239-267-2638

Improvements

Windstar on Naples Bay has approved a clubhouse interior redesign and greens rebuild for the summer of 2015. The club will close for the summer. Information: 239-775-3400; www.windstarclub.com

Honors

The **Shelter for Abused Women & Children** received a perfect score on its annual quality assurance audit from the **Florida Coalition Against Domestic Violence**. Information: 239-775-3862, ext. 211

Project

Owen-Ames-Kimball Company completed the **Waterman Broadcasting** studio expansion. The project included an 8,000-square-foot tilt-wall addition to the existing studio facility and demolition of the old studio space and atrium. Information: www.owen-ames-kimball.com

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Collier County a top spot for identity theft

■ But don't give up — there are ways you can fight back

By **June Fletcher**
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Naples' affluence makes it an especially attractive place to live — and also a particularly attractive target for identity thieves.

In fact, the Naples-Marco Island-Golden Gate area ranks third of all U.S. cities when it comes to reported identity theft, said Keith Dameron, vice president and business development officer of IBERIA Bank

and a member of Collier County's Identity Theft Task Force.

"When people move here, they think they are moving into a dome of security — but that's the opposite of the truth," he said.

Dameron spoke in front of about a dozen citizens who came to the Golden Gate branch of the bank Tuesday eve-

ning to hear ways to keep the bad guys at bay:

Don't click links: "Because people in this area tend to be older, they tend to be vulnerable to Internet offers and email offers to make them look younger, eliminate wrinkles, or improve virility or memory," Dameron said. "Almost always there will be a link for more info. When you

click, odds are high you will get malware on your computer that will give them access to whatever you have on it."

Don't take online surveys: These often are vehicles for delivering malware, too.

File your taxes early, and always ask the IRS for a PIN number: Almost

See ID THEFT, 2B

From furniture to fine art ...



DAVID ALBERS/STAFF

Everything But The House organizer Cyndee Coulter, center left, and cataloger Linda Jacobson, center right, chat Friday with attendees at a public preview for an online estate sale auction in a Wyndemere Country Club condo in East Naples.

Everything must go!

■ Company's online auction will clear new home of previous owner's stuff

By **June Fletcher**
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When Henry Petersen bought a two-bedroom turnkey condo in Wyndemere Country Club recently, he loved the location, the landscaping and the view — but not the furnishings.

The former owner didn't want them, either. So Petersen hired Everything But the House to sell them through a seven-day online auction.

"I tried Craigslist, but people called and didn't show up. And eBay is a nuisance," said Petersen, 83. "But I'm buying new furniture. The bottom line — I want to get this stuff out of here."

The Petersen sale, one of the first auctions EBTH is hosting in Naples, ran through Sunday. The company said it still is tallying the proceeds of the sale.

The 7-year-old Cincinnati-based company, which operates in a dozen cities from coast-to-coast, recently expanded its operations to Southwest Florida. Last year, the company raised \$13 million in startup capital from Spark Capital and Greycroft Partners to help it expand to 50 cities.

In a twist from the usual online auction format, bids for all items at EBTH sales — from Picassos to pots and pans — start at \$1, with no reserve.

In a twist from the usual online auction format, bids for all items at EBTH sales — from Picassos to pots and pans — start at \$1, with no reserve.

But fine art and other valuable items quickly are bid up into the thousands of dollars, said Andy Nielsen, the company's president and chief executive officer. In one Cincinnati sale in January, record or near-record auction prices were reached for a number of art pieces, including \$65,100 for an Albert Paley steel sculpture and \$26,100 for an 1882 oil painting by Frank Duveneck.

Nielsen said the online format is particularly suited to Southwest Florida's gated communities, which often prohibit estate or garage sales. It's also an alternative to the

area's many consignment shops, which decide items they want to accept, and generally require sellers to either bring their furnishing or have them shipped to the store.

Nielsen says his company will sell nearly everything, from fine art to kitchen garden hoses (but not cleaning supplies and other potentially hazardous items).

"We're a complete, full-service liquidation company," said Nielsen.

For a flat commission of 35 percent to 45 percent of the gross sale proceeds, the company sends a team that consults with the homeowner, assesses its contents, takes pictures, catalogs the items for sale, and advertises it online for seven days. It also hosts a preview day close to the end of the auction so local buyers can peruse the goods.

Nielsen said his employees overseeing the preview are background-checked and secure valuables. If the house has more than two levels, each floor is staffed to guard against sticky fingers.

Two days after the sale, after the team consolidates orders, the company releases items to local buyers and ships them to out-of-town

See AUCTION, 2B

Charter/Time Warner Cable

This \$56 billion deal likely to face less static from regulators

By **Jim Puzanghera and Meg James**
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The last time Time Warner Cable was part of a proposed major corporate merger, objections by federal regulators helped scuttle the proposed acquisition of the company by Comcast Corp.

Now, Charter Communications is the suitor, and experts said its \$56.7 billion

deal for Time Warner Cable, announced Tuesday, stands a better chance of getting regulatory approval for a simple reason: The marriage is smaller.

The new company, which also would include smaller cable provider Bright House Networks, would have about 17.3 million pay-TV customers, compared with the 29 million customers of a combined Comcast/Time Warner Cable.

The new Charter would be the largest

pay-TV provider in five of the top 20 markets nationwide. Comcast/Time Warner Cable would have been the largest provider in 17 of the top 20 markets, including not only L.A. but New York.

And after the acquisitions, Charter would have less than 30 percent of the high-speed broadband market under the latest definition from the Federal Communications Commission. A Comcast/Time Warner Cable combination would

have had controlled 57 percent of that market.

"I think the outlook is quite solid for approval of this deal," said Jeff Wlodarcza, an analyst at Pivotal Research Group.

He noted that Charter will not own any programming, unlike Comcast, which owns NBCUniversal, and that even after swallowing Time Warner Cable and

See CABLE, 2B