Neapolitan TRENDS & CLASSIFIED

Crimson Gucci chain shoulder bag
SUBMITTED PHOTOS





Naples women's and children's center gets help from handbag lovers' auction





Harriet Howard Heithaus

Naples Daily News | USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

he right handbag transcends the function as a home for your Kleenex, credit cards and keys.

It's the declarative punctuation of a well-regarded outfit — eye-catching in shade, sublime in architecture, an engineering feat that ingests combs and checkbooks and still looks svelte dangling from the arm.

It may, with a designer's name on it, offer a quick status statement. And there's more, as Kirsten Ferrara can tell you. Ferrara is coordinator of the Old Bags Luncheon on Wednesday, April 4, where 350 handbags will be offered in a silent auction to benefit The Shelter for Abused Women & Children here. (For details, see the information box.)

"A handbag can be a focal point. It can be art. It even contributes to our good mood throughout the day," offered Ferrara, who has worked with some of the best mood setters in the world. She spent five years in the employ of the venerable fashion house of Louis Vuitton.

There she learned the skills of an authentica-

See HANDBAGS, Page 7D

Black racer recovering after attack by a cat



Inside the Wildlife Clinic

Joanna Fitzgerald

A Black racer and six Virginia opossums were among the 61 animals admitted to the von Arx Wildlife Hospital at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida last week. Other admissions include a prothonotary warbler, a merlin, a broadwinged hawk, a northern gannet, a gopher tortoise and a Brazilian free-tailed

hat

The black racer was found cold and bleeding after being attacked by a cat. A physical exam was performed as part of the admissions process to the von Arx Wildlife Hospital. The snake had lacerations along its neck which left tendons exposed and caused a significant amount of bleeding. The snake also suffered a punctured spectacle on its right eye. The snake was responsive and active despite the injuries it sustained.

The Conservancy vet needed to sedate the snake in order to suture the neck wounds. A course of injectable antibiotics was started as was an antibiotic eye drop.

While the racer continues to recover in the reptile room at the von Arx Wildlife Hospital, the eye injury has caused serious concerns. A consultation with veterinary ophthalmologist, Dr. Christi Warren, will help determine the appropriate course of treatment for the snake.

While saddened that the snake was injured due to a house cat roaming free outdoors, we are grateful the cat's owner was concerned for the well-being of

the snake and brought it to the wildlife hospital for medical treatment.

Snakes deserve the same care and consideration as all other sick or injured wild animals yet so often snakes are feared and intentionally killed.

Native snakes are natural forms of pest control. Snakes commonly prey on items such as rodents and insects, both of which are considered pests by most people.

If you encounter a snake that is in-

See WILDLIFE, Page 4D

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"Six of my girlfriends got together, and they showed up at my door with 18 handbags. They told me, 'We're here for you. And we really love what the shelter stands for. We want to support this."

Kirsten Ferrara, coordinator of the Old Bags Luncheon

Handbags

Continued from Page 1D

tor for couture handbags, an especially fortuitous skill for this event.

Patrons will be bidding on bags such as a cobalt blue, butter leather purse with the Salvatore Ferragamo signature on its gold hardware or a tasseled crimson shoulder bag with the familiar Gucci double G on its flap. Organizers want them all to be genuine

"If you pay up for something you want it to be authentic," Ferrara declared. "We want everyone who bids to feel confident about what they are bidding on."

who aren't Those financially equipped to go after a Judith Lieber or Kate Spade bag have a friend in Ferrara, who has been has coordinated all three of Naples' biennial silent auctions.

"There are bags as low as \$20, so everyone from every socio-economic level who wants to help can be part of the cause,"she said.

Along with name purses like Fendi and Ted Baker are unique handmade purses from around the world, clever cigar box pocketbooks designed by Cuban craftswomen, for instance: "They're all supporting different causes for women," Ferrara explained.

The handbags will take over three ballrooms of The Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort in North Naples..

Some are new, donated by stores; many are like new, gently used by their previous owners."We count on the generous nature of our community to part with these previously loved and lightly used handbags. Most are in brand-new, pristine condition," Ferrara said.

The event includes a luncheon to fortify the bidders and speaker Jennifer Hyman, CEO of Rent the Runway.

MAX

SHO

302 600 (5:05) Crazy Heart (2010) (R)

320 620 (5:50) The Verdict ★★★ (1982, Drama) Paul Newman. (R)

340 640 (:55) Sleepless (2017, Action) Jamie Foxx. (R)

Tonight (N)

Cartoon

Old Bags Luncheon

What: Luncheon, speech and silent auction of new and gently used handbags to benefit the Shelter for Abused Women and Children in Collier County

When: 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 4

Where: Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort, 2600 Tiburon Drive, Naples,

Tickets: \$350

To purchase: Visit the Shelter for Abused Women and Children website and type "Old Bags" in the search func-

Something else: Cell phone bids on the purses can be made from anywhere registering at naplesshelter.org/oldbags. Images of all bags will be on the web before the auction, but bids will be taken only on the day of the auction.

There's also a live auction for a single item: a Jumbo Classic Chanel black caviar leather bag with yellow gold hardware, valued at \$6,000. Drawing prizes include spa days and a \$5,000 VISA gift

There is serious good work at the end of all that fun. The shelter, besides operating a 60-bed facility and seven transitional housing cottages, works with women and their families on mental health counseling, job training, education and safety plans. It even operates an onsite kennel to allow victims to bring their pets.

The shelter's work has inspired Ferrara to return year after year. She still remembers the first handbags she received for that auction.

"Six of my girlfriends got together, and they showed up at my door with 18 handbags. They told me, 'We're here for you. And we really love what the shelter stands for. We want to support this."





Atomic Blonde ★★★ (2017) (R)

Billions: The Wrong Maria

Barry

(:45) Frost/Nixon ★

Billions: The Wrong Maria.

Sil Valley

★★½ (2008, Drama) Michael Sheen, (R

Homeland: Lies. (TVMA)

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King in the Wilderness (2018, Profile) Clifford Alexander.

Jackie ★★★ (2016, Drama) Natalie Portman. (R)

Homeland: Lies. (TVMA)