

# OUR TOWN



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## Players debuts powerful drama

Irena Synkova's "I Never Saw Another Butterfly" debuts at the **Players Theatre**, 838 North Tamiami Trail, tomorrow, Thursday, Aug. 18. The show runs through Aug. 28, with performances at 8 p.m. Aug. 18-20 and 25-27, and Aug. 21 and 28 at 2 p.m. The powerful drama carries a surprising message of hope, love and survival. The moving plot reveals the story behind the beautiful artwork created by the children of the Terezin Concentration Camp, during the darkest days of the Holocaust.

Tickets are \$17 for adults and \$10 for students. Call 365-2494 to reserve tickets with your credit card.

The clock is ticking on "Menopause the Musical," which will definitely close Aug. 28, ending its record-breaking run at the Florida State University Center for the Performing Arts' **Mertz Theatre**. Tickets for the final performances are selling quickly.

Shows will be presented at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday. Shows also are scheduled at 8 p.m. Wednesday-Saturday. The FSU center is at 5555 North Tamiami Trail, across from the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art. Tickets are \$15-\$47 per person and can be ordered by phone from the Asolo Theatre Company box office at 351-8000 or (800) 361-8388 or online at asolo.org.

The cafeteria at **Venice Regional Medical Center**, 540 The Rialto, Venice, continues to offer specially priced evening meals to those who are 55 years old or older. Meals are available in the hospital cafeteria 5-6 p.m., daily, and include a selected entree, starch, vegetable fountain drink and dessert — all for \$4.60. Parking is available in the hospital garage, or you may valet park. Weekly menus are posted outside the cafeteria. After purchasing 10 meals, participants get the 11th free. No reservations needed.

Those who have been enjoying dinner after a movie matinee at the hospital each Wednesday will have to find an alternative until the renovation work is completed at the hospital. Hopefully, the work will be done soon and then the shows can go on again.

For some great lunchtime entertainment, head over to the **Blue Parrot Cafe** in the Brickyard Plaza. Local folk singer **Carey Chaney** performs every Friday, noon-2 p.m.

# 700 cans of beer on the wall

STORY BY JEREMY ROTTGEN • STAFF WRITER

**D**ave Schultz has been collecting beer cans since the age of 15. "In junior high everybody was doing it," Schultz said.

"It was just the thing to do. It was a fun pastime. A lot of people stop and go on to bigger and better things, but I just continued to collect."

Schultz doesn't collect aluminum cans. He's only interested in cans made out of steel.

"You've got to draw the line somewhere," Schultz said. "You can collect just flat tops, which now I do," he said. "Basically, flat tops are the older, harder ones to get."

At his home, Schultz has about 1,500 cans on display. That is only about a quarter of his 5,300-can collection.

"I had to put my foot down," Schultz said. "You have to narrow it down to what you like. I don't even think I want any aluminum."

A Krueger Cream Ale can from January 1935 is the oldest in Schultz's collection.

"Ale" is in big letters because people didn't know beer was in cans. They were used to bottles, so when you walked into the cooler you'd see 'ale' in big letters."

The Krueger can was something people weren't used to in the 1930s. To them it was a new contraption.

"It even shows you how to open them," says Schultz pointing to the directions on the back of the can. "It's pretty cool stuff."

Schultz's favorite can is of an old malt liquor called Playmate Ale made by the Sunshine Brewing Company out of Pennsylvania.

"The stories behind some of the cans are pretty cool, too," Schultz said. "Hugh Hefner didn't like this. He said, 'If you don't stop making this beer can I'm going to sue you.' They didn't make this

### IF YOU GO

**WHAT:** An impressive beer can collection of more than 700 beer cans from as early as 1935.  
**WHERE:** Jacaranda Public Library, 4143 Woodmere Park Blvd., Venice.  
**WHEN:** Until the end of August.  
**INFO:** Call 861-1270 for details on the exhibit.



Dave Schultz, a Venice native, has been collecting beer cans since he was 15.

beer too much, so it's a very, very rare can."

Some of Schultz's cans really burst with history, like the Soul Stout Malt Liquor can. There are only 50 of them in existence, bringing the value of this particular can up



SUN PHOTOS BY JEREMY ROTTGEN

Venice resident David Schultz has collected more than 5,300 beer cans. A display with 700 of them is at Jacaranda Public Library until the end of the month.

lines. By 1960, though, the big nationals had driven many of those smaller brewers out of business and the cone-top era came to an end.

"They made these for maybe 12 years," Schultz said. "But as the manufacturers were making millions of cans every year, you can fit many more cases of these (flat-top cans) as opposed to these and they basically stopped it because of the space limitations with them."



This cone-top can is worth an estimated \$300. Schultz's mother found it at an antique store for \$3.

Collectibles Club of America there are a few types of beer cans that are considered "collectible."

These are:

### Flat-top style

This steel-can style, first marketed by the Gottfried Krueger Brewing Company in January 1935, and nationally by Pabst in June of the same year, was used until 1970. It's hard to imagine in this day of paper-thin aluminum containers, that the first flat-top cans weighed nearly four ounces.

No wonder that the device designed to open them, called the churchkey, was originally 5-1/2 inches long, 7/8-inch wide and 1/2 inch in thick.

### Cone-top style

Cone-top cans, so named because of their funnel-like tops, entered the picture in September 1935, when the G. Heilemann Brewing Company of La Crosse, Wis., first marketed them. Schlitz was the first national brewer to

### Pull-tab style

The change that revolutionized the beer can came in March 1963, when the Pittsburgh Brewing Company introduced Iron City Beer in self-opening cans. You put your finger into the ring and yanked for some suds.

Schlitz took what it called the "Pop Top" national, and by 1965, some 75 percent of all cans produced had an easy-open device. Pull tabs were around for a little more than 10 years, when they began to be replaced by the stay tab.

### Stay-tab style

Pull tabs were convenient, but not environmentally

