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TODAY'S NEWS

VENTUREPITCH SWFL ANNOUNCES SEMI-FINALISTS

Organizers of VenturePitch SWFL have announced the 10 semi-finalists for its 2018 second quarter VenturePitch SWFL. From this pool, four Southwest Florida entrepreneurs will be selected to compete for up to \$50,000 in equity investments at a *Shark Tank*-style event from 5-8 p.m. on April 12 at Babcock Ranch. The semi-finalist companies, which span multiple industries, are: 1950 (Venice), which manufactures WarpWrapz goggles; Accugentix (Naples); AmbuTrak, LLC (Sebring); Envision Solutions, LLC



(Bonita Springs); HarpersLove (Naples); Jejo's Market (Sarasota); REvest Exchange (Naples); Stabilized Steps (Naples); The Nickel Ride, LLC (Fort Myers); and YES Home Network, LLC (Fort Myers). Presenting companies must be in the pre-revenue stage or within the first few months of producing revenues, in business less than two years, have a scalable business model, and have not already raised more than \$1 million. Early bird admission to the event is available at \$55 until March 23. Ticket prices will increase to \$75 after that date. Sponsorships are available. For more information, visit www.venturepitchswfl.com.



NAPLES NAMED HAPPIEST, HEALTHIEST CITY IN U.S., AGAIN

For the third consecutive year, Naples and nearby communities Marco Island and Immokalee hold the No. 1 spot in the [Gallup-Sharecare State of American Well-Being 2017 Community Rankings](#), released on March 13. The report measures how residents of 186 U.S. cities feel about their physical health, social ties, financial security, community and sense of purpose. Communities are uniquely positioned to promote well-being improvement by transforming policies and environment so that people move naturally, eat wisely, connect, and have the right outlook—all of which can lead to living longer, better. Not only is Naples-Immokalee-Marco Island the first community to rank No. 1 three years in a row, but it also is the first community to rank in the top two across all five elements of well-being. The Greater Naples area is actively engaged in the Blue Zones Project (<https://southwestflorida.bluezonesproject.com>) wellness initiative, with many area businesses, restaurants, and schools achieving Blue Zones Project approved status for maintaining healthy workplace initiatives, restaurant menus and more. For more information, visit www.ParadiseCoast.com.

NAPLES IDEAS PREVIEW EVENT SCHEDULED

Naples business executives and politicians will meet from 5-7 p.m. on March 20 at the Old Collier Golf Club in Naples to celebrate the launch of Naples Ideas, a multi-day event set to debut in early 2019 that aims to promote Naples as a global thought leadership capital. The invite-only celebration will feature a discussion between Gen. Martin E. Dempsey and moderator Christine Brennan of USA Today, and is designed to provide a preview of what can be expected from the full Naples Ideas event next year. Naples Ideas, created by Chicago-based [Intersport](#), is meant to promote Naples as a global thought leadership capital by convening leading visionaries and policy experts in dozens of fields for an exchange with an audience of learners and leaders. Naples Ideas will communicate those messages with millions of people via local, national and global media to benefit broader communities. To apply for credentials to the Naples Ideas preview event, send a request to Steve Flaherty at sflaherty@intersportnet.com with first and last name, affiliation, and email address.



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