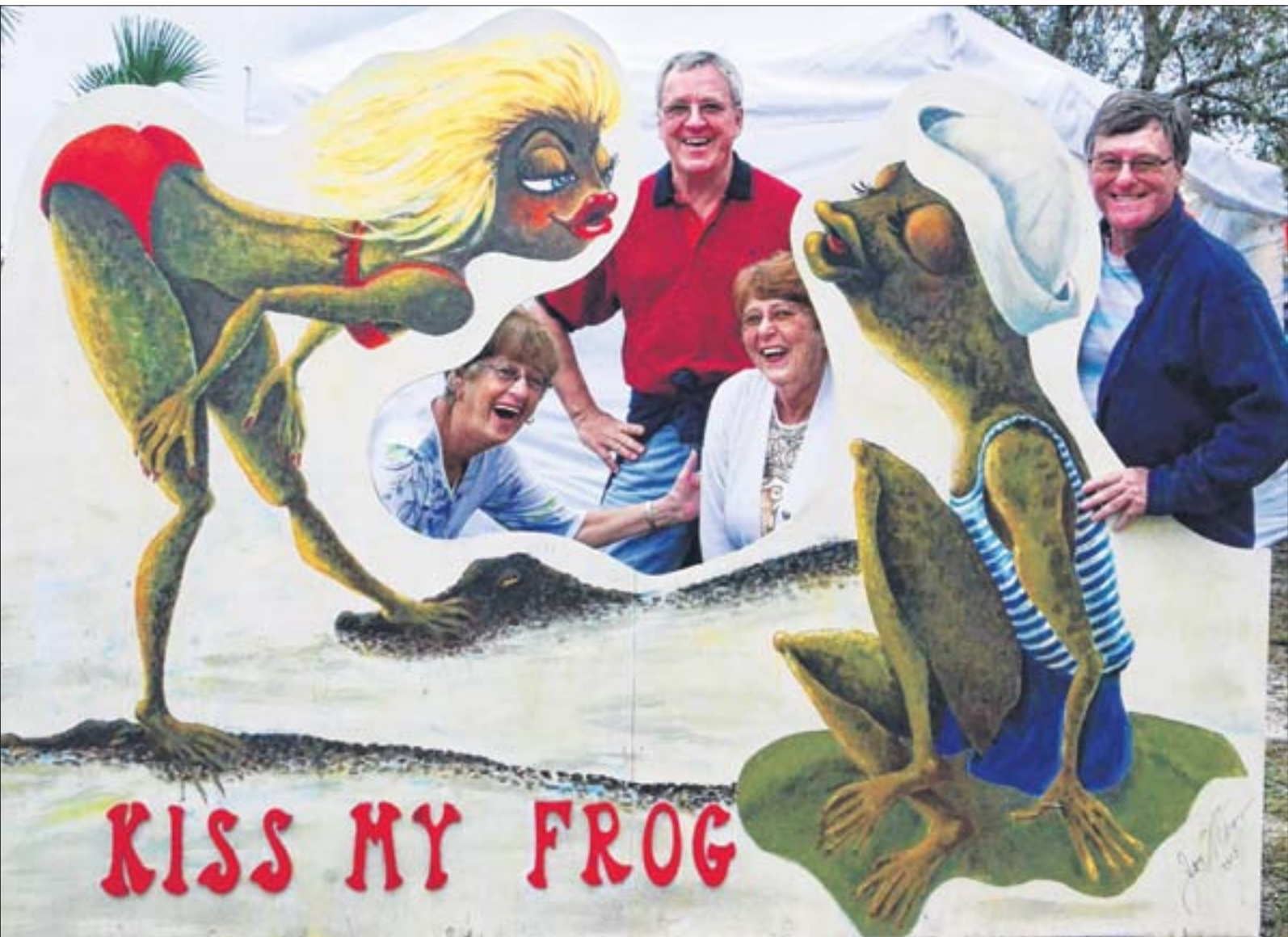


It's a froggy affair



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PHOTO BY KATHERINE JOLINE TUCKER
As the saying goes, sometimes you have to kiss a lot of frogs before you meet your Prince Charming. Diane & Claude Audet and Diane & Pierre Gibeau are get into the spirit at opening night of the 2015 Fellsmere Frog Leg Festival.

Polo back in play

BG Polo owner Bobby Genovese and John Walsh step in to save the season

By Candace Moore
The Newsweekly

Bobby Genovese, owner of BG Polo, signed an agreement last week with Polo Ground Homeowner's Association to host professional level polo matches - just in time to save the 2015 polo season. The games will begin Feb. 8 and run through April 19 at The Polo Grounds in Vero Beach. "I am very happy to be able to bring polo back to the community," said Genovese. "When media

headlines came out that polo was dead in Vero Beach, something needed to happen quickly. This is an incredible opportunity for us all and I guarantee it will be amazing." Preparations began the very next morning to ready the polo field for world-class matches. "We are extremely excited to have a deal signed with Bobby Genovese," said Polo Ground Homeowner's Association president Joseph Semprevivo. "BG Vero Beach Polo Club, with Bobby's

global recognition and expertise, will elevate the caliber of play here. Before the contract was even signed Bobby's corporate team was geared up and waiting on the sidelines. That's how impressed we are with his organization." **Unpleasant surprise** Last month Dolph Kahle of Vero Beach Polo Club, in a formal letter to the Polo Ground HOA, simply stated the club was terminating its lease for future polo matches, ef-



PHOTOS BY CANDACE MOORE

John Walsh's Team Shamrock and Peter Busch's Team Anheuser-Busch team battle it out on the Polo Grounds field in 2013.

fective immediately. "It was a major surprise dropped on us at the last minute," said Semprevivo. "We had to scramble to salvage polo at the 11th hour to get the full benefit of season play this year or wait until 2016." Patta Conboy, general

manager of BG Polo & Equestrian Vero Beach, knew something was up when the Kahles approached her a few times - as early as October - stating there could be an opportunity for BG Polo to continue the tradition begun 15 years ago.

"We were consumed with our own business, which was growing rapidly since Bobby purchased the equestrian facility in July. If there was an opportunity, we wanted to know what it was," said

See POLO, 7



PHOTOS BY KATHERINE JOLINE TUCKER

The Vero Beach High School Performing Arts Center's anniversary show will be held Jan. 27 and will feature highlights from many of the venue's productions from the past 10 years.

House that talent built

VBHS Performing Arts Center celebrating 10 years of providing a proper place for artists to excel

By Katherine Joline Tucker
The Newsweekly

The Jan. 27 performance at Vero Beach High School's Performing Arts Center is meant to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the high-tech auditorium that plays host to everything from operas to Aerial Antics. But the true honorees of

the evening will be the students whose talent led to the community-wide effort to build the facility. "The kids are the reason we have it," said James Sammons, Performing Arts Department chairman at VBHS. When Sammons began working for the school in 1980, there was a small auditorium with seats, a stage and not much else.

"As we developed the program, which at that time was band, chorus and drama, we were very limited in the kind of music and plays we could do. "Those of us teaching here at the time - as we began to see we had the numbers and the (student's) ability, we realized we were being inhibited."

See TALENT, 6

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