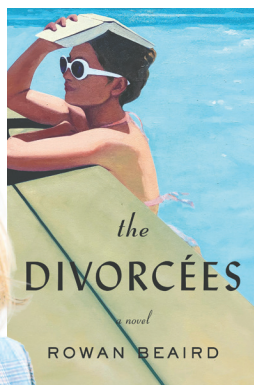


Arts & LIVING

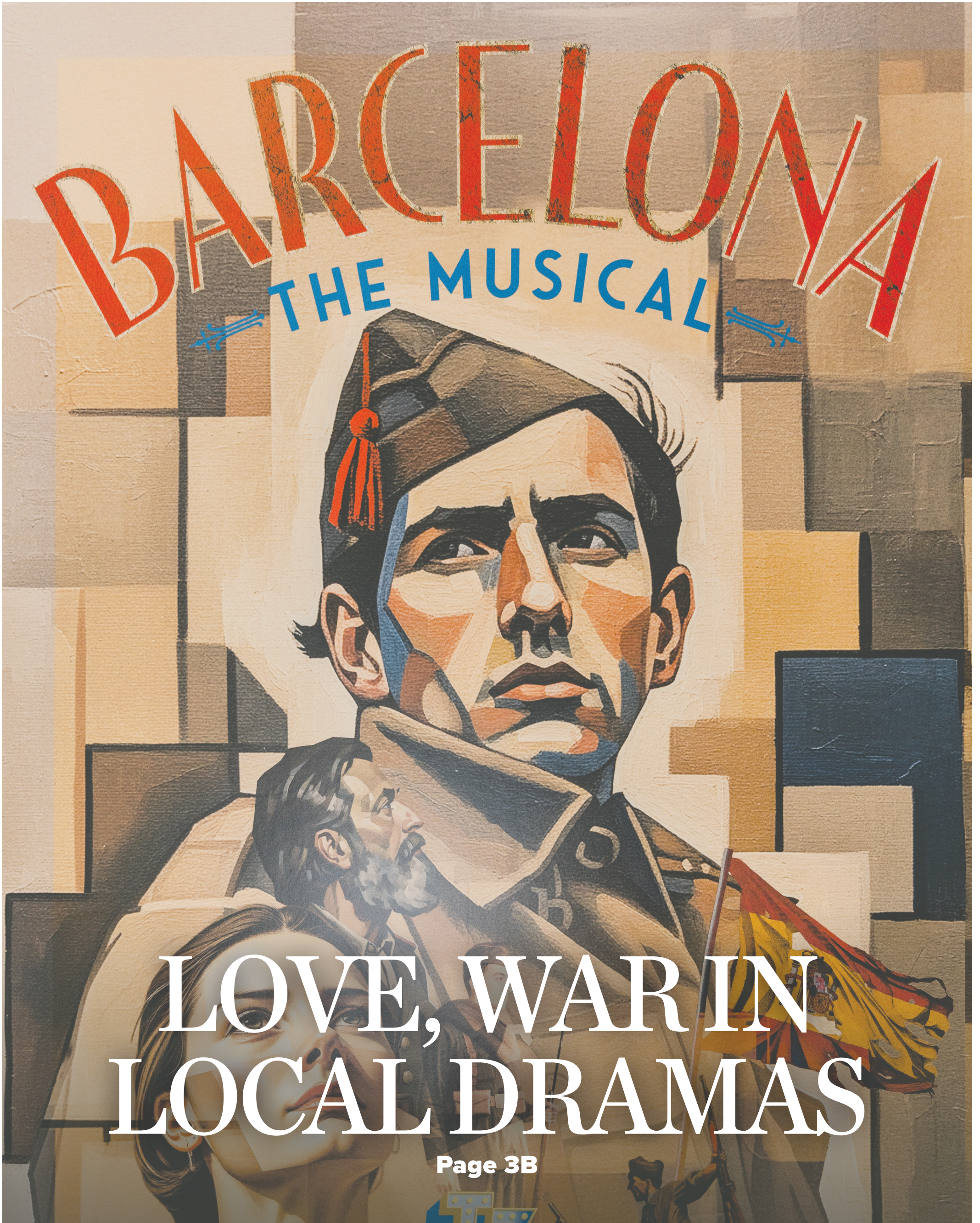


FINE ARTS | EVENTS | ACTIVITIES | SPORTS

6B | ROLICKING THRILLER

■ 'Divorcées' author brings historically set novel to Norris Center

The Naples Press



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Two local playwrights get a staging: music, history, laughs and a lot of turtles. Photo by Irene Pérez

FREE, FEE, SPREE

FREE

EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA 2026

12-3 p.m. April 5 at Paradise Coast Sports Complex, 3940 City Gate Blvd., Naples. Annual Easter egg hunt, bounce houses, face painting, food trucks and pictures available with the Easter Bunny are at this Great Wolf Lodge-sponsored event. Bring a basket if you can, but bring the kids and come.

Free admission. playparadisecoast.com

FEE

IT'S A BRUNCH WEEKEND

Various restaurants throughout Collier County throw open their doors for special Easter brunches, and if you haven't made reservations yet, immediately is the time to do it. Offerings range from the traditional ham dinner or leg of lamb to seafood or a wide-open menu. And, perhaps, those hot cross buns you see every Easter week. There's a listing of our favorites online at naplespress.com or in the March 27 edition.

SPREE

A SPA FOR THE MIND

10 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 17 at The Perry Hotel, 12155 U.S. 41 N., Naples. Bring your notebook and hear empowerment basics from a panel of women with stories of triumph, identity and success at "Esperanza 2.0: From Hope to Reign." Experience inner healing and prayer sessions to refresh your spirit and mind, and enjoy a six-course meal. There are vendors, raffles, signature drinks and a special empowerment kit for attendees. Limited to 50 attendees. \$108.55 at eventbrite.com

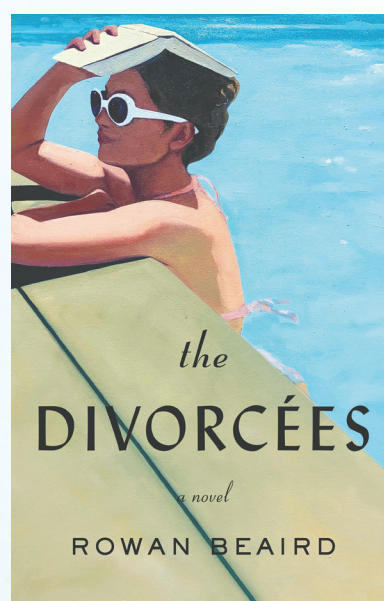
‘Divorcées’ author brings historically set novel to Norris Center



“*The Divorcées*, set at a 1950s divorce ranch in Reno, Nevada, was praised by *People* magazine as a “rollicking thriller.”

Special to The Naples Press

Chicago-based novelist Rowan Beird, author of *The Divorcées*, speaks for the final author event of the season for the Friends of the Library of Collier County on April 9.



The Divorcées has been called a “rollicking thriller.”

Photo Courtesy Collier Friends of the Library

The Divorcées, set at a 1950s divorce ranch in Reno, Nevada, was praised by *People* magazine as a “rollicking thriller.” Her second novel, *Tenderness*, will be released in July.

Proceeds help the nonprofit Friends group raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for Collier County’s public libraries. Seating for the Author Spotlight Series is general admission, and Beird’s talk will be followed by a Q-and-A and a book signing.

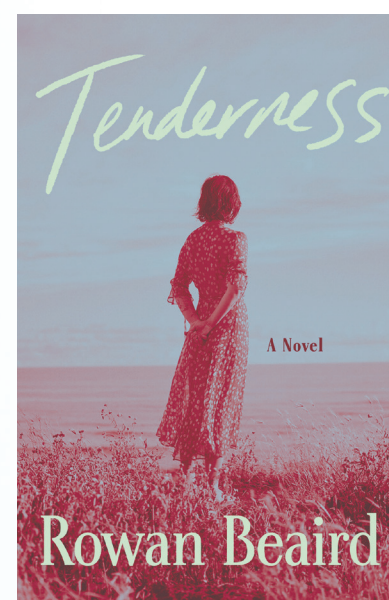
The Divorcées takes us back to the early 1950s, when one of the few ways a woman could actually escape an unhappy or abusive marriage was to establish temporary residence at a Reno “divorce ranch.” There, Beird’s heroine, Lois, spends her days riding horses and flirting with cowboys — until a new ranch resident opens her eyes to the possibilities of an independent life on her own terms.

Reviewers praised the novel’s “ageless themes” and the “poignant coming-of-age story,” while calling its plot twists “moody, sexy and mysterious.”

Beird’s second novel, *Tenderness*, is set in the 1970s at the wedding of a woman who has escaped from a notorious cult. It has been described by one early reviewer as an expert study in grief and vulnerability.

Her website is rowanbeird.com

Because the Author Spotlight Series doesn’t include a meal, it’s an opportunity to spend the day in Naples’ Fifth Avenue South district, enjoying lunch and shopping before or after the event. **NB**



Tenderness is Rowan Beird’s upcoming novel. Photo Courtesy Collier Friends of the Library

Friends’ talk

What: Friends of the Library’s Author Spotlight Series fundraiser lecture

Where: Norris Community Center, 755 Eighth Ave. S., Naples

When: 2 p.m. April 9

Tickets: \$55 for current members of the Friends; \$65 for nonmembers. Friends memberships begin at \$50/year and also provide exclusive access and discounts to other programs throughout the year. collierfriends.org or 239.262.8135

Rowan Beird puts her characters in historically real settings.

Photo by Faith Kelsey

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