

Norman Love has a sweet deal

Confectioner judges competition in Paris

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After announcing a new partnership with Chicago-based Fannie May Candies last week, world-renowned chocolatier Norman Love hopped a plane to Paris.

The Fort Myers native and owner of Norman Love Confections wasn't vacationing, but rather serving as the U.S. judge for the World Chocolate Masters Final, which took place in the City of Lights Oct. 19-21.

The competition featured master chocolatiers from five continents who created showpieces and pastries following the theme, "Cocoa, the gift of Quetzalcoatl."

At the end of the three-day event, Love helped crown Frank Haasnoot of the Netherlands, whose showpiece was entitled "Warrior," as the victor. Haasnoot shared in more than \$100,000 worth of prizes.

Love said there were "extremely talented contestants in this year's event ... which should bring new cutting-edge techniques that certainly will pave the road with inspiration and ideas for chocolatiers and pastry chefs worldwide."

Big Dro's eatery closed for now

Big Dro's Chicken N Waffles has closed its doors at 3606 Michigan Ave. in Fort Myers, but owner Richard Smith hopes to



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"Warrior" by Frank Haasnoot of the Netherlands was the winner at the World Chocolate Masters Final.

relocate and open a new restaurant soon.

"The rent was too high and I finally realized there was just not enough traffic coming through that part of town," Smith said. "We got a great response, we just need a better location; maybe 41 or Lehigh Acres."

You can find Big Dro's on Facebook to track the progress of the new store.

Halloween happenings

Whole Foods Market Naples is celebrating the season with a Super Natural Halloween Bash Friday. Enjoy free wine and beer samples, and live music at the store at 9101 Strada Place in the Mercato. Customers dressed in costumes will have a chance to win a \$100

Whole Foods gift card. Call 552-5100.

IHOP will be serving a free scary-face pancake to children 12 and under from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday. Parents can sign up for a Friday-morning wake-up call reminding them of the event at ihop.com.

Wear your best family-farm themed costume to Chipotle on Halloween night and enjoy a burrito, salad or order of tacos for \$2. Submit your costume at chipotle.com/boorito for a chance to win a \$2,500 grand prize. Visit the site for details.

Restaurants open

Cristof's on McGregor has opened at 10231 McGregor Blvd. at the intersection with Royal Palm Square Boulevard in Fort Myers. The restaurant is open 11 a.m.-9 p.m. Sunday to Wednesday and until 10 p.m. Thursday to Saturday. Call 791-8473.

The Dublin Ale House Pub is up and running at 1708 Cape Coral Parkway W. in the former Brigands. The restaurant and bar are open from 11 a.m. to midnight daily. Visit dublinalehousepub.com.

George and Wendy's Corner Grill will be open for Sunday brunch on Sanibel starting this week. From 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Sundays, customers can enjoy \$2 mimosas and bloody Marys along with omelets made to order and a waffle station. Visit georgeandwendyscornergrill.com.

— Submit dining news at dining@news-press.com.