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VOL. 28, NO. 38

SANIBEL & CAPTIVA ISLANDS, FLORIDA

MARCH 19, 2021

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## City Elects Mayor, Swears In New Council Members

by Wendy McMullen

**F**ormer Vice Mayor Holly Smith was unanimously voted mayor of Sanibel and Richard Johnson was voted to fill Smith's position as vice mayor at Tuesday's city council meeting.

Councilman Richard Johnson nominated Smith as mayor. There were no other nominations. Smith in turn nominated Johnson as vice mayor, who was elected by acclamation.

Smith was appointed to Sanibel City Council to serve an interim position for a vacant seat in December 2017 and then elected in March 2018 for a partial term and then re-elected in March 2019. She served as vice chairwoman of the Sanibel Planning Commission for two years and was a member of the commission from 2009 to 2017.

Smith currently serves as council's



**Sanibel City Council: back from left, John Henshaw, Mike Miller and Dr. Scott Crater; front, Vice Mayor Richard Johnson and Mayor Holly Smith**

photo by Wendy McMullen

liaison to the planning commission, the Contractor Review Board and the Sanibel Bike Club. She previously served

as the liaison to Community Housing Resources, Inc. and the Coast & Island Community Land Trust. She served

three terms as a member of the FISH (Food Programs, Island Based, Social Services and Helping Hands) Board of Directors.

Smith is the Sanibel representative for the Lee County Tourist Development Council, liaison and vice chair to the Lee County Horizon Council, as well as the Sanibel-Captiva Chamber Governmental Affairs Committee liaison. She also serves on the Municipal Administration Legislative Policy Committee for the Florida League of Cities (FLC). Smith has been appointed to the FLC Federal Action Strike Team, Florida Municipal Loan Council, and the FLC 2020-21 Advocacy Committee. She is also a member of the Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association of Southwest Florida.

Johnson was elected to Sanibel City Council in March 2019. He currently serves as city council's liaison to the Historical Preservation Committee, Historical Museum and Village, Inc., Recreation Financial Assistance Committee, General Employee Pension

continued on page 8

## Association To Benefit From Rare Shell Photo

by Kathy Kurtz Ferrari

**Y**ou've heard of the Sanibel Stoop – the position dedicated shell seekers assume to find tiny treasures on the beaches of Sanibel.

Now there's the Sanibel Smooch.

Shell expert Harlan Wittkopf had the rare opportunity to capture on film the inhabitants of two live alphabet cone shells emerging from their casings and appearing to kiss each other. The photo, taken on Sanibel about 10 years ago and never publicly released, shows the creatures' eyes and other body parts.

"They're really not kissing," said Wittkopf from his vacation home on Sanibel's east end, not far from where he took the photo. "I think one is hungry and reaching out to find some prey. That's what they do."

While that may sound amusing to some, word of the photo is astounding conchologists around the world, including those from National Geographic, the Smithsonian and other museums.

Wittkopf has dubbed his shell photo the Sanibel Smooch, and there's a lot of excitement behind the rare image.



**Sanibel Smooch** photo by Harlan Wittkopf

"First of all, to find a live alphabet cone, I mean, you better immediately go to the nearest gas station and buy a lottery ticket. You just don't find them live," said Wittkopf. "And then to find two of them live, and to extend like that. Well... nobody in the next 1,000 years is going to see this."

Wittkopf, a lawyer from Iowa who has been vacationing on Sanibel with his wife Jeanne and their family for nearly 50 years, is a "shell-ebriety." He has written several bestselling shell books, including *The Sanibel Kaleidoscope* written with S. Peter Dance and Amy Trip, now in its seventh edition.

During his annual stays in November and March, Wittkopf can often be spotted around the island wearing one of his



**From left, Teresa Riska-Hall, Harlan Wittkopf and Sarah Jacobson with the plaque Wittkopf presented to the Sanibel Community Association**

photo by Bob Petcher

signature shell shirts, and his gregarious personality also makes him hard to miss. In fact, he is sometimes stopped to sign autographs, or to take a photo on the beach.

"The paparazzi here is something else," he said with sincerity.

To say Wittkopf is passionate about sea shells is an understatement. He has an amazing ability to find and photograph

rare species, including his favorite, the alphabet cone. He has brought much attention to the elusive shell by deciphering obscure letters and numbers on various specimens and has published photos and literature – even a children's book – about the graphic-laden cone.

But his success takes much effort.

"This is my 48th year coming to

continued on page 19



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Lorna Littrell won the People's Choice award

photo by Lorna Littrell

## Virtual Shell Show A Huge Success

submitted by Joe Timko

The Sanibel Shell Club's 2021 Virtual Shell Show, held on March 5 and 6 on the Sanibel Shell Club YouTube channel, was a resounding success. The two-day event was sponsored by the Beaches of Fort Myers and Sanibel, who joined 58 other generous sponsors in financially supporting the show and the shell club.

The show has had over 8,000 views to date from most of the states in the U.S. plus Asia, Australia, the Caribbean, Europe and Canada. One viewer wrote, "I am putting on shorts and a tank top and flip flops to get the real feel of the 2021 Virtual Show."

The entire show and each of over 35 original videos are available for free on demand by visiting the Sanibel Shell Club YouTube channel.

The wildly popular shell photo contest sponsored by *Beachcombing Magazine* had seven categories plus Sanibel Stoop and Favorite Shell photos Entries

numbered 424 from 15 countries. Nearly 300 votes were cast for the People's Choice award for Best Photos of the Show. Lorna Littrell won the People's Choice grand prize award with her gastropod photo of a beautiful horse conch at sunset. Second place winner from the People with Shells category was Karen Blackford who submitted the gorgeous shot of shellers in a tide pool along Middle Gulf Drive on Sanibel. Third place was Amy Tripp's beautiful bivalve photo of a zig-zag scallop from Kice Island.

The club's timeless *Sanibel Beach by Beach* video was enhanced with aerial drone footage of the five public Sanibel beaches, donated by local professional photographer Nick Adams. This video provides information from parking and what shells may be found on the particular beach, to how the beach access itself appears both on the ground and in the air. The beautiful aerial footage was a big hit.

Videographer extraordinaire and Sanibel Shell Club member Joyce Matthys provided stunning videos including *Live Mollusks in their Shells*, *How to Clean Shells*, *A Shelling Challenge on the Beach*, and *Live Critters on Sanibel Beaches*.

Viewers were amazed to learn that



Amy Tripp won third place for her photo of a zig-zag scallop

photo by Amy Tripp



Karen Blackford won second place in the People with Shells category

photo by Karen Blackford

empty shells are home to beautiful, often brightly colored live creatures with eyes, feet that propel them, and various appetites for mating and eating. Watching the predator-prey interaction between mollusks, mollusks laying eggs and mollusks moving around the beach in search of food provoked comments like, "I had no idea that the shells we collect had live animals inside them" and "Who knew?"

Three special videos – *The History of the Sanibel Shell Show*, *Recollections of Past Shell Shows* (conversations with Richard and Mead Johnson, Chris Davison, Deb Gleason and Teresa Riska-Hall), and *Overview of a Normal Shell Show* are timeless videos to be watched again and again.

MaryBeth Greenplate of Sanibel shared

how she created a beach bungalow doll house with tiny fishing floats, art and a miniature shell room.

The Sanibel Shell Club was formed over 60 years ago for educational purposes, and 100 percent of shell show net proceeds are awarded in grants to promote molluscan and ocean health research. The grantees, Florida Gulf Coast University, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF), University of Florida, University of South Florida and Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum, each provided several educational videos for the show.

Huge thanks to the show's sponsors, videographers, photographers and viewers.

The 85th annual Sanibel Shell Show will be back in person at The Community House for a competitive, judged show on March 3, 4 and 5, 2022.\*

## Registration Open For After School Ocean Art

submitted by Nicole Finnicum

In March and April, Sanibel Sea School will offer multiple sessions of After School Ocean Art at the flagship campus on Sanibel. Nature-inspired art projects are popular with families, so each year an entire after school series is dedicated to ocean art.

Participants will have the opportunity to get creative with natural materials. Incorporating a beachwalk into each session, participants will collect materials, such as shells, coconuts and palm fronds.

Projects for the series include coconut comb jellies, painted sea life mosaics, and even Australian-inspired musical instruments.

"Our art classes are unique because students have the opportunity to work with interesting natural materials that are different from media they've used in school," said Shannon Stainken, education programs manager. "We just love seeing the creativity come through



Students will make comb jelly coconuts, inspired by the unique creatures that float in the Gulf of Mexico

photo provided

in their projects that is inspired by the natural environment."

After School Ocean Art will be offered Tuesdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on March 23 and 30, and April 6 and April 13. Each session is \$20 and registration is open at <https://www.sanibelseaschool.org/afterschool>.\*



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Sanibel Historical Museum And Village

## Looking Back: Julia Dickey

Julia Dickey arrived on Sanibel in 1906 with her husband John and their three sons. Thinking the distance from the bay to the beach on Sanibel was too far, they headed to Captiva, the narrower island. Julia was a concert pianist who had been trained in Europe and played for Franz Liszt. She established the first Captiva Sunday school by opening the Dickey house to all island children

The Sanibel Historical Museum and Village is located at 950 Dunlop Road, next to BIG ARTS. Hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Guided tours take place at 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. at no additional charge, depending on docent availability. There is handicap access to the buildings. Admission is \$10 for adults over 18, no charge



Julia Dickey photo courtesy Sanibel Historical Museum And Village

for members and children. Masks are required and safety precautions are in place. For more information, visit [www.sanibelmuseum.org](http://www.sanibelmuseum.org) or call 472-4648.✱

## Top 10 Books On The Island

1. *The Sanatorium* by Sarah Pearse
2. *The Midnight Library* by Matt Haig
3. *Float Plan* by Trish Doller
4. *Valentine* by Elizabeth Wetmore

5. *The Paris Library* by Janet Skeslien Charles
  6. *Parable of the Sower* by Octavia Butler
  7. *Perilous Proposal* by Jennifer Schiff
  8. *Bridgerton* by Julia Quinn
  9. *Tropic of Stupid* by Tim Dorsey
  10. *Firefly Lane* by Kristin Hannah
- Courtesy MacIntosh Books and Paper.✱

## Churches/Temples

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### HISTORIC CAPTIVA CHAPEL BY THE SEA

Rev. Larry Marshall. Outdoor services every Sunday at 11 a.m. Nov. 8, 2020 through April 25, 2021. Services posted on Chapel's Website for viewing. Weekly Bible Study on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. No in-person Easter service. Please watch our Easter service on our website or Facebook page. Masks are mandatory and social distancing will be in effect. [www.captivachapel.com](http://www.captivachapel.com), [www.facebook.com/Captiva-Chapel-By-The-Sea](https://www.facebook.com/Captiva-Chapel-By-The-Sea), 11580 Chapin Lane Captiva, 472-1646.

### CHAVURAT SHALOM

(Fellowship of Peace) Friday Shabbat services led by members at 6 p.m. Saturday morning Jewish current events at 11 a.m. Talks by members on topics of interest Thursdays at 11 a.m. Contact [ChavuratShalom@gmail.com](mailto:ChavuratShalom@gmail.com) to participate on Zoom.

### FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

Services at the Christian Science Church of Sanibel-Captiva have resumed as follows: Sunday service at 10:30 a.m., Wednesday meeting at 4:30 p.m. Reading room open on Friday, 10 a.m. to noon. 2950 West Gulf

Drive, 472-8684.

### SANIBEL COMMUNITY CHURCH

Contemporary Service at 9 a.m. and Traditional Service at 11 a.m. in the Main Sanctuary. Now offering a "Masks Only" service via live stream at 9 and 11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. View the Sunday Service online at [www.sanibelchurch.com](http://www.sanibelchurch.com), 1740 Periwinkle Way, 472-2684.

### SANIBEL CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Reverend Dr. John H. Danner, Sr. Pastor. The Rev. Deborah Kunkel, Associate Pastor. Livestream service at 11 a.m., [www.sanibelucc.org](http://www.sanibelucc.org), 2050 Periwinkle Way, 472-0497.

### ST. ISABEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Ed Martin, Pastor, Saturday Vigil Mass at 5 p.m., Sunday Mass at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m. Daily Mass Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 8:30 a.m. 3559 Sanibel-Captiva Road, 472-2763.

### ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Bill Van Oss, Rector. View Sunday service online, through Facebook or YouTube. Most services and meetings have transitioned to online formats. Visit website for information on Bible studies and other offerings. Drive Up Communion every Sunday, 9:15 to 10:15 a.m., [www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org](http://www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org), 2304 Periwinkle Way, 472-2173.

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF THE ISLANDS

Meets 5 p.m. on the third Sunday of each month from December through April at Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ. A potluck is held at a member's home on the third Sunday of each month. [ryi39@aol.com](mailto:ryi39@aol.com), 2050 Periwinkle Way, 433-4901.

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The Easter Bunny needs you to help clean up the beaches

photo provided

## Sign Up Now For CECI Spring Beach Cleanup

The Children's Education Center of the Islands (CECI) needs your help to clean the beach to ready for the Easter Bunny's springtime arrival.

The cleanup will be held on Saturday, March 27 from 7 to 11 a.m., beginning at the nonprofit preschool's 350 Casa Ybel Road location.

Community members and visitors are invited to pitch in and help raise money

to support CECI's mission of providing an affordable nature-based preschool education and care to the next generation of island stewards.

Participants may purchase a ticket or email [ceciteachers@gmail.com](mailto:ceciteachers@gmail.com) to join a team and garner pledged support while they comb the beach. For more information, visit the event website at [givebutter.com/cecibeachcleanup](http://givebutter.com/cecibeachcleanup) or text "cecibeachcleanup" to 202-858-1233.

Ticketed participants have the opportunity to win prizes. Families, groups and teams are encouraged to wear CECI gear or Easter-themed attire. Masks and distancing are required on CECI property.✱

## Tickets On Sale For Evening At The Museum

The Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum is gearing up for its 1st annual Martinis and Mollusks celebration, which will be held at the museum on Friday, March 26 from 6 to 9 p.m.

The evening fundraiser will include cocktails, individually-packaged appetizers, socially-distanced fellowship and a raffle.

Raffle tickets are available for \$20 each at the museum front desk, now through Saturday, April 17. Over \$5,000 in prizes are on display in the front lobby of the museum and include \$100 gift certificates to several island restaurants, a Dolphin & Wildlife Adventure Cruise for four from Captiva Cruises, 18 holes of golf for two at The Dunes Golf and Tennis Club, a handmade bangle bracelet from Congress Jewelers, a \$300 gift certificate from The Cedar Chest Fine Jewelry, and a private trip for eight aboard *Stars & Stripes* from Sanibel Marina.

During the event, guests can tour the museum, see the live giant Pacific octopus and rare shells in the Great Hall, and view the H2O Art Exhibition, on display through the end of April.

Guests will have an opportunity to meet the museum's new executive director. "Our team is looking forward to welcoming Sam Ankersen as he joins the museum on March 16th," said José H. Leal, PhD, Bailey-Matthews National Shell

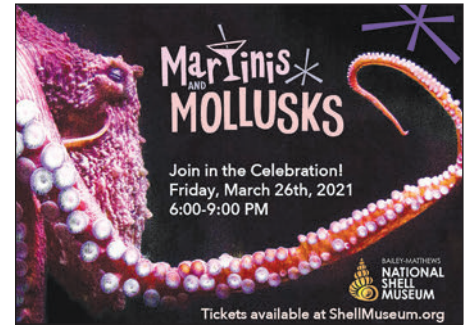


image provided

Museum interim director and curator. "The Martinis and Mollusks event will give us the opportunity to officially introduce Sam to our island community and hear him speak about his vision for the museum's bright future."

The museum continues to follow CDC protocols to help ensure the safety of its guests during their visit. There will be limited outdoor seating available during Martinis and Mollusks upon request, as well as a takeout option for those who prefer to support the museum from a distance. The commitment form for tickets and sponsorship packages are available online at [www.shellmuseum.org](http://www.shellmuseum.org).

Donations are always welcome. All donations help support the museum's work of caring for its animals, improving on its collection, and inspiring the next wave of ocean leaders through educational programming. Visit [www.shellmuseum.org/donate](http://www.shellmuseum.org/donate).

For more information on Martinis and Mollusks, contact Laura Shaffer at [info@shellmuseum.org](mailto:info@shellmuseum.org) or 395-2233.✱

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OBITUARY



NANCY JO ERICKSON CARLILE

Nancy Jo Erickson Carlile, 84, of Sanibel passed away February 28, 2021 at Life Care of Estero in Estero, Florida. Born August 19, 1936 in Gothenburg, Nebraska, she was the daughter of Daniel Cyrrus Erickson and Phoebe Elanor Stonebarger. Nancy concluded her story, the finer points of which she shared, as talented storytellers do, with enthusiasm and great detail into her ninth decade. She was born in

Nebraska in 1936, one of five siblings – four daughters and a son – to parents whose families came as immigrants into a new state. Nancy Jo was raised in Omaha and her senior yearbook outlines an active year in a racially integrated school – a year of pep squad, French club and yearbook editor. For every one of those activities, Nancy Jo had a story, or 12, often told with a hoot and a laugh she had to lean back to set free.

Trainloads of students made their way to points east off the plains – to colleges strung along the route, or home again for holidays, to summer jobs, or semesters away. The trains carried Nancy first to Park College and then on the Thoroughbred of the Monon line from Chicago down to Indiana University for the chapter when she met Jim Carlile and volunteered to help him with his youth work, an arrangement that allowed her to spend more time with him. They were together as summer camp counselors, then married as he moved to start his career with the Boys Clubs, first in Huntington, West Virginia where they welcomed their first child, Suzan, then to a new chapter in Memphis, Tennessee where son Thad was born.

When tragedy struck, Nancy and Jim opened their home and hearts to her sister's three children: Scoop, Breeze and Jeff. More kids meant new chapters and more stories to share. Great support came to her from her church family at Idlewild Presbyterian

where the children were kept busy in the youth and recreation ministries and where a number of congregation families became lifelong friends. Nancy, Jim and the children set root in the Central Gardens neighborhood of midtown Memphis and thrived in a community with neighbors and schools within walking distance even as that city struggled with civil rights and busing.

The children began to take wing and the home hinted at the coming silence of an empty nest; Nancy returned to college to pursue her PhD in education, drafting a dissertation she never defended which described the inherent bias in standardized testing; she had been swept up in a job on campus at the University of Memphis guiding athletes through the challenges of keeping academics a priority while traveling for Division I competition. Throughout this time, Nancy and Jim opened their home to students far from their own, whether an athlete with a blown knee or a grad student half a world from her family in Thailand, whether soldiers stuck at the USO for Thanksgiving, or international travelers affiliated with SERVAS, an international organization for peace.

When Nancy and Jim brought their professional lives to a close, they packed up a motor home and hit the road to see the places new to them, and to find the next spot to set root. They found it in 1997 on Sanibel Island, Florida. A few years later, once again on the road and exploring the

great west, they found a second, cooler summer spot in Thayne, Wyoming and set more roots there. Between the two places, Nancy's cast of characters grew, along with her treasure trove of stories. She regaled new friends in each locale with the escapades, inevitable setbacks, but mostly triumphs of the passing years.

Nancy's passions were varied, but her attention to each was focused: her family; golf – at one point a playing member at three clubs simultaneously; quilting, a hobby no doubt influenced by Jim's Aunt Bessie who was a prolific quilter who sent dozens over years to the home in Memphis; writing her own stories and reading those of others; sharing stories whether her own, or from others, whether in print or on screen; and friends.

It was Nancy's desire that those friends wishing to honor her memory do so with contributions to Idlewild Church, Boys and Girls Club of Memphis, or BIG ARTS of Sanibel.

Nancy leaves her five children: Scoop (Jane) of Houston, Texas; Breeze of Oakland, California; Suzan of Sanibel, Florida; Jeff of Oakland, California; and Thad of Memphis, Tennessee. She also leaves five grandchildren, many great friends, and countless stories in the hearts of those who knew her, for it is the stories that live on when roots become wings and angels fly.✧



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# City Of Sanibel Mourns Passing Of Employee

The City of Sanibel is mourning the passing of Streets Superintendent Lance Luna, who was hired in 1988. Luna's duties included supervising the efficiency, production, safety and work quality of city employees working on the streets and the shared use path systems of Sanibel. He was a critical member of the city's emergency planning, preparedness and response teams. He also supervised numerous contracted vendors such as those trimming the trees and vegetation along the streets and shared use paths of the community.



Lance Luna

Sanibel Director of Community Services Keith Williams, said, "Lance spent over half of his life serving the City of Sanibel and our residents. Through his entire time with the city, he was always 100 percent invested in his job. Lance was an extremely skilled operator, and he played a large role in Sanibel's recovery

efforts following both Hurricane Charley and Hurricane Irma. "Despite Lance's dedication and work ethic, what stood out even more was that Lance was extremely personable and always carried a positive disposition. Lance was highly respected by his coworkers and many sought his advice and knowledge on a regular basis. "As much as Lance excelled as a worker, he was still a better person and friend. He will be sorely missed by all of the staff at public works."

Luna was a graduate of Scott Community College in Bettendorf, Iowa, and the Lee Vo-Tech Public Works Academy. Specialty training completed by Luna while a city employee included numerous areas of FEMA Emergency Management, American Red Cross AED and First Aid Training. He was also a certified "driving coach" and successfully completed the City of Sanibel Vegetation Competency Course and Exam. Sanibel City Manager Judie Zimomra said: "Streets Superintendent Lance Luna earned his salary every day. At the time of his passing, he was one of the longest tenured employees in the history of the City of Sanibel. Much of the beautiful ambiance of Sanibel we all enjoy every day is the legacy of Superintendent Luna's life's work." Deepest sympathies to the Luna family are extended on behalf of all Sanibel City Hall employees and community members.✽

# Council Nervous About Mask Mandate Ban

by Wendy McMullen

Sanibel City Council members reacted with apprehension to rumors that Florida State Gov. Ron DeSantis may pass an executive order banning local municipalities from requiring masks. "It is certainly within his authority to do so," City Attorney John Agnew told councilman Mike Miller who introduced the subject. He added that further guidance will come through executive orders and that the city had sent a letter asking

the governor to continue to allow local governments to have face coverings in effect. Rumors that the mask ban may be passed were fueled by an executive order signed by Gov. DeSantis last week to waive all fines related to COVID-19. "That tool allowed us as a municipality to step in," said Vice Mayor Richard Johnson, alluding to the ability of local governments to pass mask mandates. "It's local voices making local choices, and we've had a great deal of success in providing for the safety of our residents. "It's useful for the business community to have that mandate in place while we open our businesses," Johnson added. Johnson is the owner of Bailey's General Store on Sanibel, where masks are mandated.✽

# Recreation Center Reopens Some Facilities

by Wendy McMullen

The Sanibel Recreation Center will open all four of its tennis courts and all six of its pickleball courts, city council members decided at Tuesday's meeting. It will also continue to keep its weight room open with current CDC protocols in place and offer tennis lessons beginning April 12. Registration for co-ed softball begins April 9, and the season starts on May 5. Recreation hours will continue as is until May 31, when the center will open Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. On Saturdays, it will be open from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. No classes are offered at present. Prior to COVID-19, the rec center offered classes ranging from yoga to spinning. "It's easy to turn something off, bringing it back on takes more time," said City Manager Judie Zimomra, adding that finding staff to return will be a challenge. Membership at the rec center dropped precipitately when the pandemic closed the facility. Now members consist mainly of people using the weight room and swimming pool. The recommendations made by the city manager are interim measures enabling facilities to open immediately at minimal cost to the city. New council members Mike Miller and John Henshaw expressed concern about the long-term plans for the facility, mentioning that membership was dropping even before the pandemic hit.

"We need a strategy for promotion of the facility," Miller said. "We need more members than before." Henshaw added, "We have to make sure the rec center is viable and expands."✽✽

# Vaccines Soon To Be Available For Vulnerable

by Wendy McMullen

Former Sanibel mayor Mick Denham and FISH of SanCap seem to be successful in getting vaccines for homebound islanders who can't be transported off island for vaccination. FISH, Denham and a coalition of other nonprofits, have been pushing for vaccines to be delivered on island for some time. Now they are told that it may be as soon as next week. "We're moving along," said FISH President Maggi Feiner, "We have been told that we will get 150 of the Johnson and Johnson vaccines within the week." She emphasized that it is appointment only and there is already a waitlist. It is not yet known where the vaccines will be given but Feiner said she has been working with The Community House on Sanibel. The 150 islanders to receive the vaccine have already been identified by FISH but there is hope that more may be delivered soon. "It's just the beginning, said Feiner. FISH is an island organization of neighbors help neighbors in need, providing everything from food to counseling.✽

# From page 1 New Mayor

Board, Municipal Officers Retirement Trust Fund Board and the Employee Dependent Scholarship Committee, Community Housing Resource Inc. (CHR), and CHR's Coast & Island Community Grant Trust. Johnson is liaison on Lee County Causeway matters and was appointed

to the Florida League of Cities (FLC) Transportation and Intergovernmental Relations Legislative Committee. He serves as the city's liaison to the Florida Municipal Insurance Trust. Johnson is the third generation owner of Bailey's General Store on Sanibel and the Island Store on Captiva. Mike Miller, John Henshaw and Dr. Scott Crater were sworn in as new council members at the beginning of the meeting.✽

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## OBITUARY



## HELANE HECHT SMITH

**H**elane Hecht Smith, 90, of New Rochelle, New York and Sanibel Island, Florida died peacefully at home on March 10, 2021, with her loving family embracing her. Helane was a lifelong learner, a Scrabble enthusiast and, above all, a committed wife, mother, sister, grandmother, aunt, cousin and friend.

Helane met Alan, her husband of nearly 67 years, when they both worked at NBC television in the 1950s. As Alan walked past, he saw Helane reading a book and laughing out loud. He was entranced and struck up a conversation. Soon after, Alan asked Helane out on a date. She finally agreed to go out with him after his third

request. They were married six months later. The next 67 years brought them a life of family, adventure, travel and laughter.

Soon after Helane and Alan got married, Helane stopped working in order to focus on raising their three children, Rick (Susan Kirshner), Debbie, and Sue (Wayne Zukin). As the kids began to make their own way into the world, at age 46, Helane found a new path and enrolled in law school. Upon graduating in 1980, she had a proud career as a trademark attorney at General Foods, then in her 60s, and began working as an associate at a law firm in New York City. Ultimately, she entered semi-retirement but still practiced law on her own. When one of her children asked if she was making any money in that status, she responded, "Oh no. I'm probably losing money. But it's so much fun that I can't give it up now."

Helane eventually did stop practicing law and traveled full-time with Alan. They ultimately settled on wintering on Sanibel Island, where they made a second home. Helane became a docent at the Sanibel Historical Museum and a member of Bat Yam Temple of the Islands, volunteered at BIG ARTS and took on birding and shell collecting with ardor.

In more recent years, Helane was known for emulating one of her heroes, Ruth Bader Ginsburg. She daily wore earrings emblazoned with RBG's image for good luck. To her thinking, RBG was sensible, wise and lived a long, productive and happy life. By keeping RBG close to her mind and body, Helane knew that she, too, would live long and well. And she did.

On March 6, Helane celebrated her

90th birthday by attending services at her synagogue, Kol Ami in White Plains, followed by an ice cream sundae Zoom birthday party with more than 30 close family members including her five grandchildren, Sarah and Dan Smith (Sarah Osborne), Isaac and Lily Zukin and Melanie Sendrovitz, and her beloved nephews and their families. Four days later, Helane died at home, peacefully,

gracefully, and on her own terms.

The funeral service for Helane was held by Zoom on March 11. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Helane's memory to Congregation Kol Ami ([www.nykolami.org](http://www.nykolami.org)), Bat Yam Temple of the Islands ([www.batyam.org](http://www.batyam.org)), The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society ([donate.LLS.org](http://donate.LLS.org)), or Memorial Sloane Kettering Cancer Center – Westchester Campus ([www.mskcc.org](http://www.mskcc.org)).✱

## Theological Studies Course

**T**he Rev. Dr. John H. Danner will give a Zoom presentation, titled *Sojourner Truth: The Voice of Courage*, on Wednesday, March 24 at 9:30 a.m. The talk will cover the life story of this important and vibrant woman who worked for the abolition of slavery and the advancement of women's rights.

Originally named Isabella, Sojourner Truth later took her provocative name as a symbol of her new freedom. She was a frequent speaker at gatherings across the country in the mid-19th century, at one point having a meeting with Abraham Lincoln.

Dr. Danner is senior pastor of Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ. He has a PhD in religious studies from Boston University, and is particularly interested in the history of religion.

The talk is presented as part of the Theological Studies program of Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ, and is open to the public. Zoom information and the link can be obtained



**Sojourner Truth** photo provided

by emailing the church office at [office@sanibelucc.org](mailto:office@sanibelucc.org).

Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ is located at 2050 Periwinkle Way. For more information, visit [www.sanibelucc.org](http://www.sanibelucc.org).✱

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- Richard Johnson, owner of Bailey's General Store, a business powered in part by solar energy
- Julia Herbst, Gulf Coast Regional Coordinator for Solar United Neighbors (SUN)

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A young paradisetree, native to Florida  
photos by Gerri Reaves

Plant Smart  
**Paradisetree**

by Gerri Reaves

Native paradisetree (*Simarouba glauca*) is an attractive evergreen tree notable for its pleasing form, low maintenance and wildlife friendliness. Native plant experts generally agree that this attractive tree should be planted more. Its natural habitat is mainly hammocks in southern coastal counties. It is a member of the quassia, or



Reddish stems and new leaves add to the tree's ornamental beauty

bitterbark, family, whose bark contains quasin, a bitter compound used to make a tonic. Thus, bitterwood is another common name for this tree. In fact, *Simarouba* is a Carib word meaning medicinal bark. Long-lived and many-branched, it makes a good shade tree, with a straight trunk, a height of up to 50 feet, a 30-foot spread and a rounded crown. The bark is light grayish brown. The alternate or opposite leaves are pinnate, meaning that they have a featherlike structure. They measure up to 16 inches long and have from nine to 211

oval leaflets. Each leaflet is two to four inches long and leathery in texture. In a breeze, the contrast between their dark green glossy surfaces and silvery or pale lime green undersides creates a pleasing effect. The word *glauca* in the scientific name comes from a Greek word meaning silvery. The showy reddish leaf stems and new leaves are especially pretty, as is the small ovoid fruit that in summer ripens from green to scarlet to purple. In spring, male and female flowers

appear on different trees. Four- or five-petaled cream-colored flowers bloom in terminal panicles as long as 18 inches. The raw fruit of about an inch long is reportedly edible but bland. However, birds and other wildlife consume it. In Central America, the oil in the seeds is used for cooking and making margarine. Caution: Seed residue is toxic. Give this tree a spot with full sun or partial shade, good drainage and rich sandy soil. It has moderate drought tolerance, few pest problems and high salt tolerance, although it will not tolerate salt inundation. Plant it where the seeds and fruit will not stain surfaces or the shallow mature roots will upheave pavement or be damaged by mowers or vehicles.

It often self-sows near the female tree, and the seedlings are easy transplanted. Sources: *500 Plants of South Florida* by Julia F. Morton; *Florida, My Eden* by Frederic B. Stresau; *Florida Plants for Wildlife* by Craig N. Huegel; *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants* by Rufino Osorio; *Growing Native* by Richard W. Workman; *Native Florida Plants* by Robert G. Haehle and Joan Brookwell; *Trees of Everglades National Park and the Florida Keys* by George B. Stevenson; *Wild Plants for Survival in South Florida* by Julia F. Morton; [www.fnps.org](http://www.fnps.org); <https://hort.ifas.ufl.edu>; [www.plantbook.org](http://www.plantbook.org); and [www.regionalconservation.org](http://www.regionalconservation.org). *Plant Smart explores the diverse flora of South Florida.\**

**Unitarian  
Universalists  
Sunday Service**

The Unitarian Universalists of the Islands will conduct an evening service on Zoom on Sunday, March 21 beginning at 5 p.m. The speaker will be Dr. Miriam Levering, who earned her PhD in the study of religion at Harvard University and taught at Bates College, Oberlin College and University

of Tennessee at Knoxville. Now retired, she is interested in Buddhism in East Asia and the West, especially in how Engaged Buddhists across the world are helping to find ways to solve personal problems and the problems of global societies. Dr. Levering's presentation will draw on the work of American Buddhist teacher Joanna Macy. Her topic will be The Promise of Active Hope. Joseph Brauer, music director, will play and sing during the service. Brauer is also music director of All Faiths Unitarian Congregation and Florida Repertory Theatre in Fort Myers.\*

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# Holocaust Remembrance Speakers Series

submitted by Cheryl Fulmer

Chavurat Shalom of Southwest Florida is approaching the first anniversary of its Thursday Speakers programming with a tip of its hat to Zoom that made it all possible. We are pleased to announce upcoming speakers of interest to Sanibel, Captiva, Fort Myers and beyond. Anyone interested in learning can access our programs. To request the opportunity to virtually join one or more of the programs by Zoom, send an email to [chavuratshalom@gmail.com](mailto:chavuratshalom@gmail.com).

In recognition of the 2021 U.S. Holocaust Remembrance Day or Yom HaShoah in Hebrew, also commemorated in Israel, a series of talks are scheduled by Chavurat Shalom of Southwest Florida covering multiple aspects of what occurred to the Jews in Europe during World War II.

A Holocaust Memorial Day or Holocaust Remembrance Day is an annual observance to commemorate the victims of the Holocaust, in particular, the genocide of six million European Jews by Nazi Germany. This special time was established by Congress in 1979 as the period for remembrance programs and ceremonies. Many countries, primarily in Europe, have designated national dates of commemoration tied to specific events in their country during the Holocaust. In 2005, the United Nations instituted an international observance, International Holocaust Remembrance Day, in January each year. Holocaust Remembrance Days often include features to combat hatred, antisemitism and other genocides.

The special programs Chavurat Shalom has organized are:

Thursday, April 1 at 11 a.m. – Manny Lindenbaum, a Kindertransport survivor, will remember what happened to his family in Germany and how he was separated from his parents and put on the transport

to England. In 1946, he emigrated to the United States and has been an active public speaker about his Holocaust experiences.

Wednesday evening, April 7 at 7 p.m. – A trio of child survivors: Irene Skolnick, originally from Poland; Rebecca Kon, originally from Belgium; and Renee Sugar, originally from Poland, now part of our Southwest Florida community, will share how they and their families survived. Each story is different.

Thursday, April 15 at 11 a.m. – University of Maine Professor Phillip Silver will discuss Music as Resistance in the Holocaust. Over the past decade, Silver has, in addition to his international performing career, carried out research on music and musicians caught up in the Holocaust. He is currently a professor of music at the School of Performing Arts at the University of Maine, teaching studio piano and music history. Most recently, he was appointed Visiting Professor in Jewish Studies at Colby College, Waterville, Maine, and a PhD thesis advisor at Bar Ilan University in Ramat Gan, Israel.

Thursday, April 22 at 11 a.m. – Robert Hilliard, a Sanibel resident, was an American soldier who witnessed the aftermath of the liberation in Europe. His letter urging action to care for displaced survivors made it to President Harry Truman and led to changes in military procedures. He will explain what he observed, what he did and what happened.

Chavurat Shalom means "Fellowship of Peace" and Chavurat Shalom of Southwest Florida is a welcoming, unaffiliated community created to gather for study and the celebration of our Jewish cultural heritage. Our group is community-led and meets by Zoom at this time. Our current activities include weekly Friday Shabbat services led by participants, weekly current events discussion on Saturday mornings, and a speaker and discussion every Thursday. Visit [www.chavuratshalomofsouthwestflorida.org](http://www.chavuratshalomofsouthwestflorida.org) for more information on future activities and programs that will enrich one's intellectual and spiritual life.✳

## Changes To Visitation Hours For Lee Health

Lee Health has made changes to its hospital visitation hours to protect the safety of patients and staff from the recent surge of COVID-19 cases in the community. Visitation hours are now 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

At the adult acute care hospital campuses, patients are allowed to designate up to two visitors upon admission, and both may visit at the same time. No visitors under age 12 are permitted. Exceptions will be made for compassionate care reasons.

All visitors are required to practice physical distancing, complete a health screening and thoroughly sanitize their hands with alcohol-based gel before visitation. Visitors are also required to bring their own mask or face covering, and wear it all times while in a Lee Health facility. Ventilated masks are not allowed as they

let expelled breath into the air.

Visitation to any COVID-19 units or patients requiring airborne precautions (in an isolated room because they are potentially infectious) will continue to be restricted to compassionate care. Compassionate care generally refers to end-of-life situations to give family members the opportunity to say goodbye to their loved ones, but can cover other areas depending on individual circumstances. Compassionate care visitation is at the discretion of hospital leadership.

In outpatient facilities, adult patients are allowed one visitor to accompany them to their appointments. For surgeries, a visitor can accompany a patient to registration and pre-op and then reunite with them in the recovery room.

Golisano Children's Hospital visitation hours will remain the same; two parent/guardians at the bedside 24 hours per day and one additional visitor over age 12 during normal visitation hours of 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.leehealth.org](http://www.leehealth.org).✳

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# Spectacular Sheephead Fishing Due To Cooler Waters In March



by Capt.  
Matt Mitchell

The month of March traditionally marks the best sheephead fishing we get to see all year, Cooler water temperatures from the last cold front made this a reality. We got to offer our clients some of the most wide open action on these striped porgies we have seen all winter. This big annual spawning push has them stacked up by the hundreds in places where I have just never seen so many of them.

Clear water channels inside the passes made spotting huge schools of these sheephead easy. Groups of nearly 100 fish sat in the fast-moving current hunkered down to the bottom. Once located, it was as simple as anchoring up and feeding them a chunk of shrimp on a jig head to get a bite every cast.

There were times when we were sitting near a big school of sheephead that I would start breaking up shrimp into little pieces. This little bit of chumming had these fish fired up and even coming up to the surface to eat. All I can compare this crazy sheephead action to is catching snapper offshore.

With many of our spring clients wanting to go home with a fresh fish dinner, this sheephead action has been the perfect set-up. These crustacean-eating fish have mild, firm, white meat and can be prepared countless ways. They are all delicious. Usually, within the first hour of most charters, we would catch enough keeper sheephead to cover a quality meal before moving on to target our usual snook, redfish and trout on live shiners.

While it's quite possible to fill a cooler full of sheephead, practicing moderation is so very important. These fish are spawning, and the future of there population is at stake. It's not about killing every legal fish caught... no matter how great this sheephead bite is.

Although Florida regulations allow for eight fish of 12 inches minimum per person, a better rule of thumb is to take only what you plan on eating for one meal. With very little meat on a 12-inch sheephead, I think a 14-inch minimum is a better call with two fish per person yielding a quality meal.

Capt. Matt Mitchell has been fishing local waters since he moved to Sanibel in 1980. He now lives in St. James City and works as a back country fishing guide. If you have comments or questions, email [captmattmitchell@aol.com](mailto:captmattmitchell@aol.com).\*



A sheephead dinner makes everyone happy

photo provided

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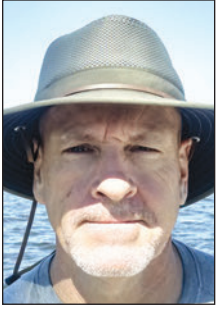
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## CROW Case Of The Week:

## Pileated Woodpecker



by Bob Petcher

The pileated woodpecker (*Dryocopus pileatus*) is the largest woodpecker in North America, with a black body, white stripes on its face and a red crest. In fact, the “pileated” part of its name comes from the Latin word *pileatus*, meaning “capped,” referring to the bird’s prominent red crest.

This forest bird has a distinctive bill, which is long and chisel-like. It is powerful in drilling rectangular-shaped holes in rotted wood to forage for carpenter ants and other insects. It also uses its bill to bore holes in trees for nest openings that offer crucial shelter to many other fliers like swifts, owls, ducks, bats and pine martens.

Pileated woodpeckers will often visit backyard bird feeders, especially for suet. Its distinguished call keeps other birds away while it is drilling away on trees. In flight, it can be mistaken for a crow due to its deep, rowing wingbeats.

At CROW, an adult pileated woodpecker was admitted after it was found in Fort Myers unable to walk or fly. Upon initial examination, the patient’s mentation was quiet, and there was notable muscle weakness in the right leg. Veterinarians suspected head or spinal trauma as the cause of injury. X-rays revealed some cause for concern in the legs and around the synsacrum, which is a part of the spine.

“We can assume this bird had mild symptoms related to head trauma, since it was quiet on intake and sustained blunt force trauma to its body,” said Dr. Robin Bast, CROW staff veterinarian. “The synsacrum



Patient #21-771 is strengthening its legs with help through physical therapy and on its own by climbing on rocks

photo by Becca Wehmeier

is the lower part of the spine that involves multiple fused vertebrae connected to the pelvic girdle. Below the synsacrum are a few non-fused vertebrae, the last of which is called the pygostyle, which the tail feathers are attached to.”

After admittance, the patient began physical therapy in an effort to stimulate and strengthen its legs.

“Since the leg was weak and the bird wasn’t using it well on its own, we put it through normal range of motion to help prevent muscle atrophy. This often involves a bicycle-type motion,” said Dr. Bast.

The patient appears to be reacting positively to the physical therapy and other care. It is standing better with more strength to its legs.

“This bird continues to make gradual improvements, it is bearing weight on the affected leg and starting to use it to climb logs,” said Dr. Bast. “We are hopeful that with more time, it will return to normal function.”

The pileated woodpecker has remained in the intensive care unit since its intake on March 4. While it may not be digressing health-wise, it is being handled in a guarded approach and making tiny steps forward in its rehabilitation.

“The woodpecker continues to receive supportive care in the ICU and is being closely monitored,” said Dr. Bast. “(It is) still making slow progress.”

“We are hopeful that given more time, this bird will make a full recovery. If maintaining weight and climbing well, we will move it to an outdoor rehab enclosure to gain further strength in preparation for release.”

CROW (Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife, Inc.) is a non-profit wildlife hospital providing veterinary care for native and migratory wildlife from our local area. The hospital accepts patients seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mail donations to P.O. Box 150, Sanibel, FL 33957. Call 472-3644 or visit [www.crowclinic.org](http://www.crowclinic.org).

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**Bobcat** photo provided

# CROW Speaker To Discuss Habitat Preservation

The Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) weekly Virtual Speaker Series presented by LCEC continues on Tuesday, March 23 with the topic Bobcat Spatial Ecology on Everglades Tree Islands by Katherine Buckman, MS, graduate student of Florida Atlantic University.

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) engages in collaborative projects to monitor wildlife in its natural habitat. Buckman will discuss a recent research study that is funded by the

U.S. Geological Survey in partnership with Florida Atlantic University using data collected from 2005 to 2019 via game cameras. The area of focus for her study is on improving the understanding of mammalian use of tree islands in the Everglades, specifically by bobcats. The presentation will provide insight into how terrestrial mammals respond to changing water levels and why these critical habitat areas should be preserved.

Programs begin at 4 p.m. and are approximately one hour in length. The talks will be presented using Zoom and are limited to 100 participants, so advance registration is required. Admission per device is \$10 plus applicable taxes and fees. To register, visit [www.crowclinic.org](http://www.crowclinic.org) or CROW's Facebook page under the Events tab.✴

# New Video On Historical Village Website

The Sanibel Historical Museum and Village Twilight Talk on Taking a Bite Out of Sanibel: The Mosquito Story, featuring Andrea Miller and Eric Jackson of the Lee County Mosquito Control District, is full of history, information and advice on dealing with one of Sanibel's frequent, and not much appreciated, guests. To watch the video, go to [www.sanibelmuseum.org](http://www.sanibelmuseum.org), click on News, then Twilight Talks (or go right to <https://sanibelmuseum.org/twilight-talks/>).

This event was held in compliance with CDC guidelines, with masks and social distancing required. "Our Twilight Talks are being held outdoors on the village grounds with audience members socially distanced and wearing masks," said Emilie Alfino, executive director. "About 40 people were able to attend in person, and we hope many more will watch the video on our website."

Coming soon is a video of the village's volunteer update about the *Algiers*, including information that has not been shared before.

The Sanibel Historical Village is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday. The village is located at 950 Dunlop Road (next to BIG ARTS). Admission is \$10 for adults age 18 and older; no charge for those under



**Eric Jackson and Andrea Miller** photo provided

18 and members. Due to the pandemic, docent-guided tours are available by reservation only for groups of no less than six and no more than 10 and are based upon docent availability. All CDC guidelines are being followed, with masks required and social distancing in practice. There is handicap access at the village. For information, call 472-4648 during business hours or visit [www.sanibelmuseum.org](http://www.sanibelmuseum.org).✴

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Shell Of The Week

# The Chestnut Mussel



by José H. Leal, PhD, Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum Science Director and Curator

Mussels are not only good seafood, but they also come in a large number of different species. The Chestnut Mussel, *Lioberus castanea* (Say, 1822) is a relatively small species that rarely reaches beyond 25 mm (one inch). Its shell is elongate, inflated, with the brown outer layer, the *periostracum*, that is so characteristic of the mussel family Mytilidae. There is a distinct, sharp line separating the posterior end (lighter color) from the anterior end (darker color). The inner surface of the shell, consisting of mother-of-pearl, or *nacre*, is bluish-iridescent. Read more about mollusks and their shells at [www.shellmuseum.org/shell-guide](http://www.shellmuseum.org/shell-guide) and [www.shellmuseum.org/blog](http://www.shellmuseum.org/blog).

The Bailey-Matthews National Shell is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. Safety measures have been put in place, and staff and visitors are required to wear face masks.



Chestnut Mussel, *Lioberus castanea*, from Sanibel

José H Leal

photo by José H. Leal

Your gift helps ensure that our staff and animals remain healthy. To make a secure donation, visit [www.shellmuseum.org](http://www.shellmuseum.org).

The Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum is located at 3075 Sanibel-Captiva Road. For more information, call 395-2233.✧

Email your editorial copy to: [press@islandsunnews.com](mailto:press@islandsunnews.com)

## American Legion Post 123

American Legion Post 123 is serving homemade chicken pot pie from noon to 8 p.m. this Sunday, March 21.



Barbecued ribs and chicken are on the menu for next Sunday, March 28.

On Tuesdays, tacos are served all day. Steak sandwiches and cheesesteak are served on Fridays. There are daily specials as well as half-pound burgers. Food is served from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday specials are served from noon to 8 p.m.

The third Thursday of the month is Open Mic Night from 6 to 9 p.m.

The 8-Ball Pool League plays at 5 p.m. on Monday nights. Come out and watch the action.

If you have a flag that needs to be retired, you can drop it off at Post 123.

American Legion member eligibility dates are November 11, 1918 through present. All veterans are welcome.

Post 123 is a non-smoking facility with an outside area available for smokers. It is located at mile marker 3 on Sanibel-Captiva Road, open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 9 p.m. For more information, call 472-9979.✧

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**Harlan Wittkopf holds a sample of his favorite shell, the alphabet cone**  
photo by Kathy Kurtz Ferrari

From page 1

## Rare Shell Photo

Sanibel and I have never in all those years missed a low tide while I'm here," he said with enthusiasm. "It's 3 o'clock in the morning sometimes, 5 o'clock. Jeannie has almost called the police to look for me if I haven't come back when I'm out there for hours. I love it. I'd rather do this than going to the Supreme Court or anything."

He is a mainstay at the author's table at the Sanibel Shell Festival, having participated in the last 24 shows in a row. Although part of this year's 84th annual event was held virtually on March 5 and 6 due to COVID-19, organizers felt the show must go on. And Wittkopf made sure he didn't miss it.

The Shell Festival is one of the biggest fundraisers for the Sanibel Community Association. According to the organization's director of marketing and events, Sarah Jacobson, proceeds for this year's show were down 90 percent.

"Normally, we have over 3,000 people attending the show over three days," Jacobson said a few days after this

year's festival. "This year, only about 800 people came through. It was a big blow."

With that in mind, Wittkopf felt it was time to debut the coveted photo.

"This picture is my all time favorite. It has never been used... I was going to use it for next year, on my 25th and the show's 85th. I might have to say my goodbyes because of my age," he said, although he is only in his 70s. "Everybody kept saying, 'You've got to stay alive.' I said, 'Why? You don't want lawyers to die? Usually lawyers my age have been shot already.'"

At this year's show, he presented the association with a plaque awarding them the rights to use the photo in any way for promotion or financial gain, adding they deserved the Sanibel Smooch for their efforts in hosting the show during the pandemic.

"I just want to make sure it benefits Sanibel," he said.

Jacobson said the association is thrilled with the honor, knowing how many other organizations would be interested in the photo.

"It's more than generous," Jacobson said. "The fact that he chose us out of everybody really says a lot about our relationship and longstanding friendship together."

"Our plan is to do something spectacular with it for the 85th annual, since that will be a big year for us and we'll premier it then."

Although it may seem as if Wittkopf has found shelling's Holy Grail of sorts, he will surely be back out there again when the tide recedes.

"I love sea shells," he admitted. "The neatest thing about it - I've had a very successful legal career, but it's much more rewarding. As a lawyer, one of the two people you're involved with is going to be mad as hell. But I have never in my life met anyone who was mad at a sea shell. And that is the truth."

*Kathy Kurtz Ferrari is a journalist who splits her time between Captiva and the Boston area. If you have any questions or comments, email Kathy.islandsunnews@gmail.com.✪*

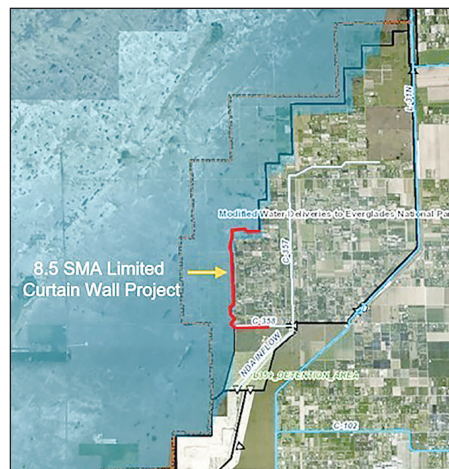
## Wall Approved For Everglades Restoration Goals

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board recently approved the construction of a 2.3-mile long curtain wall along the 8.5 Square Mile Area (Las Palmas Community) in unincorporated Miami-Dade County.

The underground wall will help prevent seepage of water away from Everglades National Park, support ongoing Everglades restoration goals and support the increase of the flow of water south.

The 2.3-mile long, 26-inch wide curtain wall, in conjunction with other projects SFWMD has completed, will also help keep the water in the park to support restoration goals.

Subject to future years' funding and approval from the SFWMD governing



**A current map of the 2.3-mile long curtain wall that was approved by the South Florida Water Management District**

image provided

board, the district may expand the wall after the completion of the 2.3-mile long wall. Construction is expected to take 12 to 16 months.✪



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# Rule Changes For High-Risk Invasive Reptiles

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has approved staff recommendations to create new rules to address the importation, breeding and possession of high-risk invasive reptiles.

The approved rule changes to Chapter 68-5, FAC specifically address Burmese pythons, Argentine black and white tegus, green iguanas and 13 other high-risk nonnative snakes and lizards that pose a threat to Florida's ecology, economy and human health and safety.

Commissioners also approved the staff recommendation to create a technical assistance group, which will include representatives from the pet industry, environmental groups and other affected parties, to help develop a comprehensive regulatory approach to managing nonnative species in Florida.

The commissioners also approved an amendment to extend the timeframe for animal owners to come into compliance with outdoor caging requirements.

"These animals are creating enormous issues for our state," said FWC Chairman Rodney Barreto. "I have always been proud that Florida is looked at as a leader. Let's take a bold stance. We have to put our foot down. The time has come, and we hope other states will follow."

"I'm very sensitive to the people in



Green iguana

the pet trade and enthusiasts. But this action is a result of the invasive species that continue to get into the wild," said FWC Commissioner Robert Spottswood. "We have so many of these species now: pythons, tegus, iguanas. These animals are doing lots of damage, and we are incumbent to do something."

"Addressing invasive species, such as the ones listed in this rule package, is extremely important for the preservation of our native species and the health and safety of our residents and visitors," said Eric Sutton, executive director of the FWC. "Staff does not come to these recommendations lightly, but we know

photo by Andy Wraithmell

this action is necessary."

The new rules move these 16 high-risk nonnative reptiles to Florida's Prohibited List and include reporting requirements for permittees, biosecurity requirements to limit escape of these high-risk species and additional language to clarify limited exceptions for some entities currently in possession of green iguanas and tegus for commercial use or as pets. The rule will allow for current tegu and green iguana pet owners to keep their pets with a no-cost permit.

Once rules take effect, pet owners and other entities in possession of these species will have 90 days to come

into compliance except on caging requirements where they will have 180 days to improve outdoor enclosures to bring them into compliance with the new caging rules. The breeding of tegus and iguanas for commercial sale can continue until June 30, 2024, at which time it will be prohibited.

The FWC hosted online stakeholder workshops to present proposed rule changes and collect public comment on the draft rules. FWC staff considered this feedback to help improve the final rule language.

The FWC has received extensive feedback on the draft rules including substantial support from a variety of conservation organizations.

"The people of South Florida depend on the South Florida Water Management District to effectively manage our water resources and provide flood protection," said Drew Bartlett, executive director of the South Florida Water Management District. "High-risk invasive species pose a significant risk to water management infrastructure and negatively impact the restoration of America's Everglades. We appreciate FWC taking action to protect native Florida wildlife and minimize impacts to water management infrastructure."

"The Nature Conservancy supports proposed rule changes to address the threat of nonnative species and looks forward to working with the FWC toward solutions that could further protect Florida's environment, human health and

continued on page 22

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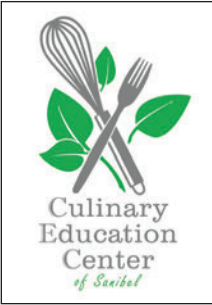


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The Community House

Lentils



by Resident Chef Jarred Harris

The lentil is a plant, grown for its lens-shaped seeds. These edible seeds have been a part of the human diet for 8,000 years, or before pottery was used. The plant originated in the Middle East and was one of the first crops domesticated in the world. Lentils have been found in Egyptian tombs dating as far back as 2,400 BC.

Lentils have some of the highest levels of protein in the plant world. In fact, only soybeans and hemp have more. Because of this fact, and due to their high iron content, lentils play a very important role in the diets of countries with large vegetarian populations, such as India.

For centuries, lentils were considered to be “the poor man’s meat.” In Catholic countries, people who couldn’t afford fish would eat lentils during Lent instead.

There are many different varieties and

colors of lentils including, yellow, black, orange, red, brown and green. They are sold in many forms, with or without the skins, whole or split. The most common types of lentils used in the United States are green and brown. These varieties are popular because they are best at retaining their shape after cooking and they do not need to be soaked in water prior to cooking.

Lentils are an excellent source of dietary fiber and are also rich in vitamins B9, B1, B5 and B6 and minerals such as phosphorus, iron and zinc. Lentils are used in India for the treatment of intestinal disorders, ulcers and slow-healing sores.

Here is a simple recipe to try:

**Vegetable Meatballs**

Ingredients

- 1 tbsp. vegetable oil
- 1 onion (grated)
- 1 carrot (grated)
- 5 mushrooms (finely chopped)
- 1 cup vegetable broth
- 1/3 cup dry red lentils
- 3 tbsp. peanuts (chopped fine)
- 2 tbsp. cashews (chopped fine)
- 1 tbsp. soy sauce
- 1 tbsp. lemon juice
- 2 sprigs of fresh thyme (leaves removed)
- 2 sprigs of fresh rosemary (leaves removed)
- 1 pinch ground cayenne pepper
- 1 1/2 tsp. mixed spice or pumpkin pie spice
- 1 egg (beaten)
- 1 1/3 cups whole oats

Method

Pre-heat oven to 375F.

Heat the vegetable oil in a saucepan over medium heat and add the onions. Cook until the onions are translucent.

Add the carrots and mushrooms then continue cooking 5 minutes. Then add the rosemary, thyme and mixed spice.

Stir in the broth, lentils, nuts, soy sauce and lemon juice. Bring to a boil, reduce heat to low and simmer 10 minutes. Stir in oats, cover and simmer

20 minutes or until all liquid is absorbed.

Remove from heat and stir in the egg.

Scoop the mixture onto a well-oiled pan and bake until firm.

Resident Chef Jarred Harris heads the Culinary Education Center at The Community House on Sanibel. For volunteer opportunities or questions, contact him at [kitchen@sanibelcommunityhouse.net](mailto:kitchen@sanibelcommunityhouse.net) or call 472-2155.\*

From page 20

Invasive Reptiles

safety, and economy,” said Greg Knecht, deputy director of the Florida Chapter of the Nature Conservancy.

“Breeding invasive exotic species in Florida is like playing with matches in a tinder box. With such hospitable winters, a few escapes can become populations, and then taxpayers and private landowners are on the hook for millions annually in eradication and management costs. Audubon supports these proposed rules as common sense protections for our environment and economy,” said Julie Wraithmell, vice president and executive director of Audubon Florida.

“The Everglades Coalition strongly supports the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s proposed draft rules related to high-risk, nonnative invasive reptiles, which would add the highest risk invasive reptiles to the list of prohibited nonnative species,” said Mark

Perry and Marisa Carrozzo, co-chairs of the Everglades Coalition.

More than 500 nonnative species have been reported in Florida. Eighty percent of these have been introduced via the live animal trade with at least 139 established in Florida, meaning they are reproducing in the wild. Since most nonnative fish and wildlife find their way into Florida’s habitats through escape or release from the live animal trade, it is important to prevent high-risk nonnative wildlife from becoming introduced or further established in Florida’s environment through regulatory action.

The FWC uses regulation of high-risk nonnative fish and wildlife in conjunction with a variety of other management strategies to minimize adverse impacts of invasive species and to prevent the introduction of additional species into the wild.

For more information, including details on the no-cost permits, visit [www.myfwc.com/nonnatives](http://www.myfwc.com/nonnatives).\*

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## Tourism Director Optimistic About Summer Season

**T**amara Pigott, executive director of the Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau (VCB), looks to the summer of 2021 with optimism, she told members at the March 10 virtual business meeting of the Sanibel & Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce.



Tamara Pigott

"I'm very bullish on the summer of 2021," she said. "We are going to have a bang-up summer. We don't know what we are going to do with all the people who will be coming," she said. "We are expecting that much demand. It's going to be like season this summer; fingers crossed, that's how I'm looking at it."

She, along with VCB Director of Marketing Brian Ososky, reviewed the county tourism agency's efforts,

especially as they relate to reacting to the pandemic. The county has shifted seasonal spending in 2021 to a winter focus. This year's weighted winter spending comprises 26.9 percent of the annual advertising and promotions budget, compared to 14.7 percent in 2020. Summer season spending will thereby decrease slightly, from 39.2 percent last year to 30.4 percent in 2021.

Pigott said that decrease does not worry her, however, because of how visitor markets have shifted and public relations efforts have paid off, including a cover shot of Sanibel Island on April's *Southern Living* issue on "The South's Best."

The VCB targets some new summer drive and fly markets based on research indicating tourism trends. Jacksonville, Florida; Charlotte, North Carolina; Raleigh, North Carolina; and Nashville, Tennessee, for example, have strengthened as drive markets with the COVID-19 situation.

"Don't forget to market locally," Ososky advised. "People love to vacation in their own backyard, and that's especially true during the pandemic."

New target fly markets include Dallas/Fort Worth, Texas; Dayton,

Ohio; Baltimore, Maryland, Fort Wayne, Indiana; Grand Rapids, Michigan; Green Bay, Wisconsin; Lexington, Kentucky.; Louisville, Kentucky.; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Providence, Rhode Island; South Bend, Indiana; and Toledo, Ohio.

Statistics also show a strengthening of visitor numbers from the Northwest, southern California and Denver, thanks to new airline flights.

The VCB pivoted to meet pandemic demands and trends with the introduction of podcasts, a new consumer website on the horizon, 360-degree tours for "visitor-facing businesses," and its new Sun Saver Passport. Looking ahead to fall and to 2022, the team is already planning for the Island Hopper Songwriters Festival and the return of international and group travel.

"We have a plan for both ways for Island Hopper," said Pigott. "We don't know what that's going to look like, in all fairness. We have to see where consumers are at that point. Visitors drive how we manage things; what they're comfortable and uncomfortable with drives that."

She predicts that leisure travel will rule the industry again in 2022, depending upon how international

travel recovers. "We're looking for more normalized trends. We're certainly proud of you as a community," she told chamber members. "You are one of the highlights of the area, and we are grateful for the conservation ethic you bring to the destination."

"Thanks for everything you do for us and our community," said John Lai, chamber president and chief executive officer. "We appreciate your enthusiasm, optimism and tremendous efforts."

In his chamber announcements, Lai talked about what the chamber is doing to push its legislative priorities during the current session, including hosting U.S. Rep. Byron Donalds next month to impress upon him the importance of fighting for Everglades restoration. He also introduced the chamber's new visitor center manager, Aaron Walton, who grew up on Sanibel, and announced the next virtual business meeting.

It will take place at noon on Wednesday, April 14. Jesse Lavender, director of Lee County Parks & Recreation, will speak about the forthcoming causeway improvement project. For more information, contact Lai at 472-2348 or [john@sanibel-captiva.org](mailto:john@sanibel-captiva.org).

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### Chocolate Dipped Strawberries

10-15 Florida strawberries

10 ounces melting chocolate

Various toppings such as cookie crumbs, powdered peanut butter, sprinkles

Prepare berries by rinsing and drying thoroughly. Chocolate will not stick to berries with excess moisture on them. Place onto a parchment-lined sheet pan and set aside.

Prepare a double boiler to melt the chocolate by filling a small pot 1/4 full of tap water. Bring to a boil then reduce to a simmer and place a heat safe bowl (usually indicated on the bottom of the bowl) on top of the pot. The bowl should fit snug over top but do not allow the bowl to touch the water, as it can burn the chocolate. Using a double boiler



Chocolate Dipped Strawberries

photo courtesy Fresh From Florida

gently melts the chocolate by steam rather than direct heat. Place the chocolate in the bowl and stir every minute or two. Depending on the level of heat this can take up to 10 minutes. When melted and smooth, carefully lift the bowl from the pot using hot pads to handle the bowl. Steam will escape when lifting the bowl and has the potential to burn, use caution at this step!

Pour the chocolate into a container deep enough to fully submerge the berries. Using the green leaves as a holding spot, dip the berry into the chocolate and allow excess to drip off. Place onto the parchment-lined sheet pan. If you are using toppings now is the time to apply them, the chocolate will dry very quickly at this stage. Continue process until all berries are coated. Store in air-tight container, in the refrigerator, for 2-3 days.✪

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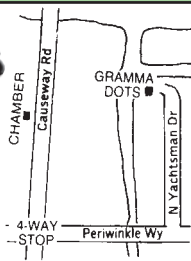
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Painting by Jim Storer

## Art League Member Exhibit At Sanibel Library

submitted by Renée Chastant

Paintings by local artist Jim Storer are on display at Sanibel Public Library through March and April in a new exhibit sponsored by Sanibel Captiva Art League. The exhibit features 20 paintings which appear throughout the building, thanks to the support and the efforts of Margaret Mohundo and her library staff.

Before retiring to Sanibel in 2009, Storer attended medical school at Louisiana State University. He practiced pediatric neonatology before recertifying in dermatology. His medical and teaching duties kept him busy for many years until, finally, he made time to take an art class. After initially working in watercolor, Storer switched to acrylics and has remained with the latter

image provided

medium ever since. He said he paints approximately five hours daily, calling his art "an addiction." He said, "I love painting and I strive to convey a sense of peace and tranquility in my work."

This is the art league's much-anticipated debut after a long hiatus due to the pandemic. "We have really missed exhibiting at the library," said Anita Force Marshall, league president, "and we can't wait to show off our new masterpieces in the coming months. It's a great beginning for the exciting new venue the library offers us."

The award-winning Sanibel Public Library has long welcomed Sanibel Captiva Art League shows. The league is open to beginners and professionals in a diversity of mediums. Activities include plein air events, monthly meetings, and demonstrations and shows. For more information, visit [www.sancapart.org](http://www.sancapart.org).

Sanibel Public Library is located at 770 Dunlop Road and exhibits can be viewed during regular library hours. Visit [www.sanlib.org](http://www.sanlib.org) or call 472-2483.✱

## Bailey's Hosting Virtual Wine Tasting

Bailey's General Store will be hosting a virtual wine tasting on Wednesday, March 31 featuring two rare wines from Marchesi Antinori in Italy. Franco Zamboli, Florida manager of Antinori, will be joining wine steward Calli Johnson to talk about the wines.

Antinori Guado Al Tasso Cont'Ugo Merlot is produced entirely as a new interpretation of the Bolgheri territory. This wine has deep complex notes and will be paired with Sicilian grilled swordfish kabobs with charred grape tomatoes and roasted peppers and onions.

The Antinori Conte Della Vipera

Sauvignon Blanc is produced from a careful selection of Sauvignon Blanc and Sémillon. This wine will be paired with Chef Karl's signature grilled chicken spiedies, cocktail naan bread, and chimichurri.

"While these single varietals of wine are often found in other areas of the world, it is uncommon for an Italian producer to bottle a single varietal like these," said Johnson. "The winery is extremely proud of these particular wines."

Those wishing to participate can purchase a tasting package at least 48 hours ahead of time and pick up the wines with food pairings on the day of the event after noon at Bailey's General Store, located at the corner of Periwinkle Way and Tarpon Bay Road, open daily from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. Delivery services are available. Visit <https://baileys-sanibel.com>.✱



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Sarah Jacobson of The Community House with homemade pickles and chutneys created by Resident Chef Jarred Harris photo provided

# Community House Arts And Crafts Fair Sunday

The Community House on Sanibel is hosting an arts and crafts fair on Sunday, March 21 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Vendors had to go through a selection process to participate and the number of sellers has been limited for the safety of shoppers. There will be an eclectic array of original art in various mediums, shell and

other crafts, culinary items, birdhouses, jewelry, baked goods, greeting cards, cartoons and other handmade items. All sellers will be situated indoors at The Community House and safety protocols will be strictly followed. Masks will be required, temperatures will be scanned and ingress/egress routes will be limited. The number of visitors will be monitored to enable social distancing. The Community House is located at 2173 Periwinkle Way. For more information, visit [www.sanibelcommunityhouse.net](http://www.sanibelcommunityhouse.net) or call 472-2155.\*

# Poetry Corner

by Clay C. Ewell

## LOST

In that quiet moment when wind gently moves the dark water  
And palm fronds slowly dance under the moon light.  
When all else seems to pause and rest  
Before the dawn sets the eastern sky aglow with promise.

It is then that my thoughts find you, your face, your smile  
The joy that I imagine would have been, but never will be.  
I remember a frantic time when I knew so little  
And my youthful heart could bear no ragged edges  
Nor listen to words demanding a sensibility come of years not yet lived.

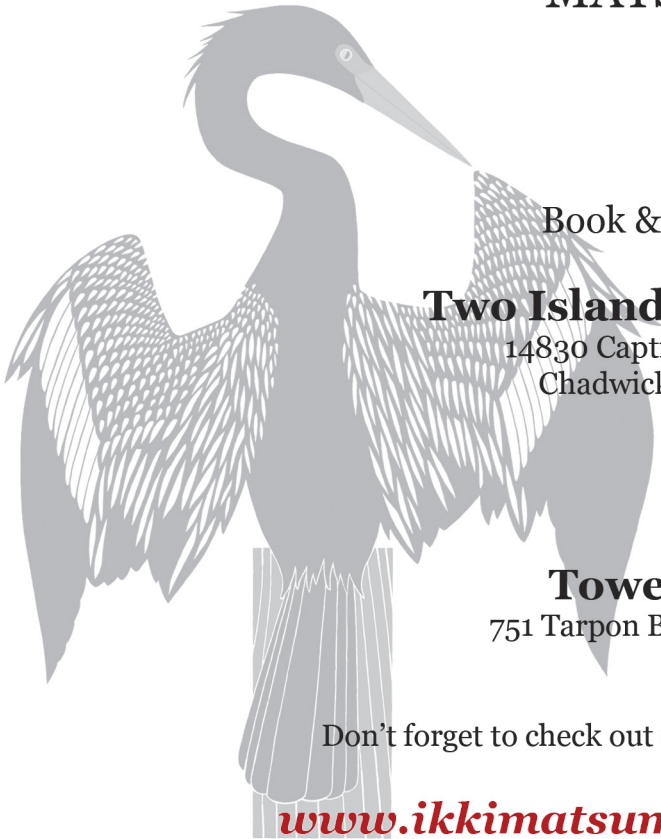
That restlessness that stirs the mind and twitching muscle  
To seek a favoring wind and set sail for distant shores  
Toward some misty horizon awash in visions of glory,  
Heralded by the haunting sweetness of siren's song.

It was then that a certainty wrought in the shallow heat  
Of innocence swept you up and sent you away  
Leaving behind an absence, a missing note of a melody  
Another world you might have created

Clay C. Ewell resides on Captiva with his wife and four-legged family. Self-employed as a consultant in the construction industry for 35 years, he flirts with retirement while enjoying time with Rita and pursuing his interests in reading, writing and cycling. Your comments and contributions to this feature are welcome at [press@islandnews.com](mailto:press@islandnews.com).\*

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## BIG ARTS Monday Night Film Series

*Corpus Christi*

by Di Saggau

The BIG ARTS Monday Night Movie for March 22 is a film from Poland, *Corpus Christi*. Inspired by true events, it's about a young man, Daniel, who leaves a correctional center at age 20 after serving time for unnamed crimes. He has a spiritual epiphany while behind bars, and rather than report for duty at a small-town sawmill when he is released, he walks into the Catholic church and tells a young woman that he's a priest. Soon he's donning a clerical collar and takes over the parish when the aging vicar becomes ill.

Watching Daniel fake his way through his meeting with the elder priest, you tend to root for him. He means well, but he's encouraging people to trust him, a privilege he hasn't earned. Daniel thinks he's doing the right thing and his passion and charisma inspire the community. However, his unconventional sermons and priestly behavior raise suspicions among some of the townsfolk. The film runs 122 minutes. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online or at the box office. There will be no discussion following the film.

Visitors are required to wear masks and are asked to be mindful of social distancing. Only 50 percent of the



image provided

seats in Christensen Performance Hall are being sold. The air filtration system has been enhanced, all surfaces are wiped down between use, a professional sanitizing fogger is being used after each gathering and there are hand sanitizing stations throughout the ground floor.

BIG ARTS is located at 900 Dunlop Road on Sanibel. For more information, call 395-0900 or visit [www.bigarts.org](http://www.bigarts.org).\*

## BIG ARTS Corner

## Workshops And Seminars

BIG ARTS is offering the following workshops and seminars:

"Are You Stuck?" Open Paint & Critique with Jan Atkielski – Friday, March 19, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Member \$79; nonmember \$99.

Opera, DVD and Discussion: Giacomo Puccini, *Gianni Schicchi* with Thomas Cimarusti – Friday March 19, 1 to 3 p.m. Member \$40; nonmember \$50.

Drawing Intermediate with Douglas David – Saturday, March 20, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Member \$125; nonmember \$156.

Paint Palms in Oil with Douglas David – Monday and Tuesday, March 22 and 23, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Member \$140; nonmember \$175.

Painting Hydrangeas in Oil with Douglas David – Tuesday, March 23, 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Member \$140; nonmember \$175.

Music and Film: *Immortal Beloved* (Beethoven) with Thomas Cimarusti – Tuesday, March 23, 9:30 to 11:30 p.m. Member \$40; nonmember \$50.

10...10...10 & You: 2-day Abstract Painting Workshop with Genie Kell, Friday and Saturday, March 26 and 27, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Member \$239; nonmember \$299.

How Three (3) Pandemics Changed Our World with James Rudin



– Tuesdays, April 6 to 20, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Member \$80; nonmember \$100.

Glass Fusing with Petra Kaiser – Wednesdays, April 7 to 28, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Member \$99; nonmember \$124.

Glass Fusing with Petra Kaiser – Wednesdays, April 8 to 29, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Member \$99; nonmember \$124.

The Perennial Philosophy: Catching a Glimpse of Truth and Beauty in Each Religion and Every Branch of Science with Ran Niehoff – Thursdays, April 8 to 22, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Member \$80; nonmember \$100.

Opera, DVD and Discussion: Ruggiero Leoncavallo, *Pagliacci* with Thomas Cimarusti – Friday, April 23, 1 to 4 p.m. Member \$40; nonmember \$50.

All students and instructors must wear a mask and social distance. All rooms are sanitized between classes and class sizes are limited.

Pre-registration is required for all classes and workshops. For more information, call 395-0900 or stop by BIG ARTS, located at 900 Dunlop Road on Sanibel. For complete course descriptions, workshop and class schedules, visit [www.bigarts.org](http://www.bigarts.org) or email [info@bigarts.org](mailto:info@bigarts.org).\*



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Book Review

A Perilous Proposal



by Di Saggau  
Jennifer Schiff has just released the seventh book in her Sanibel Island Mystery series. *A Perilous Proposal* is indeed an appropriate title. It finds Guin, island reporter and heroine of all her books, in a very precarious position. Her pal Birdy is back on the scene, and he has quite the proposal for Guin. He asks her to marry him in a mock wedding in order to save him from harm. He says it's a matter of life or death. This isn't exactly what Guin wants, but Birdy is insistent and finally she agrees. After all, it won't be a real wedding. Or will it?

Birdy asks her not to tell anyone that the wedding won't be real, but Guin lets a few close friends know. She definitely tells her detective friend Bill O'Loughlin, who doesn't receive the news favorably. Early on, Guin also finds out that Birdy is the famous mystery writer Wren Finchley, whom she was sent to interview. Birdy is full of surprises.

A cadre of questionable characters surround Birdy including his agent Bettina and a mysterious Russian couple named Boris and Natasha. Now there's a familiar duo. Not everyone is pleased with the

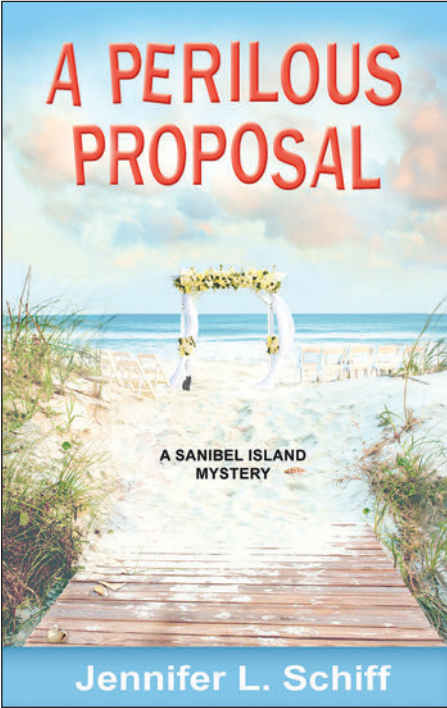


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wedding, especially a few of the ladies. Someone is out to do harm to Guin, and she is on the search to find out who and why.

Schiff has a great command of dialogue. You feel as if you are actually there listening to the conversations of the many characters. And, as she scoots around the area, we get to visit so many familiar spots, restaurants, bars and other locations that we all know.

The big day is Valentine's Day. Guin

wants a small wedding, but Bettina has other plans. Birdy won't tell her who will be his best man and neither will I. *A Perilous Proposal* is a fun read. I look forward to book No. 8, which is already in the works.

MacIntosh Books on Sanibel will be hosting a virtual book talk about *A Perilous Proposal* on Thursday, April 1 at 5 p.m. If interested, you can contact MacIntosh for details. They also have signed copies of her books.\*

School Smart



by Shelley M. Greggs, NCSP

**Dear Shelley,**  
My fourth grade daughter has struggled all school year with focusing on her schoolwork. It's frustrating for both of us. She can do the work, it's not hard for her, she just

has a difficult time staying on task. How can I help her?

Kathy K, Fort Myers

Kathy,

Many kids struggle with focusing and need help learning strategies to help themselves. Here are some suggested strategies for you and your daughter:

Sometimes it helps to jump right into projects – Often the longer you wait to start a task, the harder it is to focus on it. This goes for projects at school and

around the house. That doesn't mean your child has to do everything at once, though. To make it easier to get started, try breaking the task into chunks. The important thing is to not put off getting started with the first chunk, then complete it and move to the next. You may have to help her divide the project wisely.

Set a timer – When kids know there's a limit to how long they have to stay focused on a task, it can be easier to hang in there a little longer. When your child sits down to do homework or another not much fun task, set a timer for how long your child needs to work before taking a quick snack or a play break. You can increase the amount of time little by little as your child gets better at focusing.

Limit directions to one or two at a time – Don't overload your child with too many directions at once. When kids struggle with focus, it can be difficult for them to listen to, remember and follow through on directions. For example, at homework time, tell your child to check the assignment notebook and get out the right materials to do that day's work. When that's complete, then give two more directions and continue only giving a few directions at a time. You will gradually be able to increase the number of directions you give as your child sees success and his self-confidence increases.

Be open to what works – Some people need total quiet to focus and others do better with noise. That's why it's important to ask kids what works best for them. Maybe your child wants to listen to music while doing homework or stand up while reading. Give it a try and see how it goes.

You may want to set up a reward policy for work completion with your child – Start small. Let her track how well she completes her homework for one week. Have her record her progress daily. You might want to use three categories for this like "OK, Good and Great." If she earns three "Great" ratings in a week, she can earn a reward. Rewards should also be manageable and could include things like extra screen time, a special lunch with mom or dad, a pass on a chore. Make a list with her of 10 rewards that would be motivating and gradually increase the goal for success if rewards seem to work. Not all kids respond to rewards but it's probably worth a try.

Struggling with focus or any other skill can take a toll on a child's self-esteem – Praise your child's hard work to improve focus. Point out even small improvements, and let your child know that focus skills can get better.

Remember to talk about your child's strengths as well, not just challenges – Make sure that you and your child have discussed these strengths, and then you can ask them how they used their strengths on a particular assignment or activity. Talking about positives helps them stay motivated when things get tough.

Shelley Greggs is former faculty at Florida SouthWestern State College, where she taught psychology and education courses. She is also a nationally certified school psychologist and consultant for School Consultation Services, a private educational consulting company. Questions for publication may be addressed to smgreggs@gmail.com or at www.schoolconsultationservices.com.\*

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## FISH Of SanCap Provides Food Backpacks

**F**ISH of SanCap battles food insecurity from all angles with various meal programs including its food pantry, Meals-by-FISH hot meal delivery and backpack program, which provides weekly food for school-age children. The FISH Backpack Program is designed to battle childhood hunger by providing nutritious weekend food and snacks for children throughout the year, including summer and school breaks.

"Last year, we began to see a large increase in requests to participate in the backpack program due to the additional strain the COVID crisis put on food insecure families," said Alicia Tighe Orgera, executive director. "Those that rely on meals provided by their children's schools – it's an extra two meals per day, per child – really struggled with the extra expense." In 2020, FISH distributed 1,974 food backpacks to children, an increase of 70 percent over 2019. FISH continues to see increased participation through the first quarter of 2021.

"The Kiwanis Club of Sanibel and Captiva has been incredible in providing FISH with emergency funding for our kids backpack program. Thanks to Kiwanis, since last spring, we have been providing almost twice as much food in the backpacks as well as providing ingredients and recipe cards for a meal that families can cook together that is fresh, healthy and kid-friendly," said Tighe Orgera.

FISH continues to proactively modify programs, including food backpacks, to meet the changing needs of vulnerable clients. "Many of our clients still have not returned to full 'season' work hours, where they make the bulk of their annual



**Volunteers pack backpacks with nutritious meals and snacks** photo provided

income. Typically, our meal programs are intended to be supplemental to household groceries, but we've realized that, due to COVID and the economic strains it has placed on many that use FISH services, these programs may be the vast majority of food brought into the home," said Tighe Orgera.

The FISH Backpack Program gives participating students non-perishable, nutritious foods on a weekly basis. Parents can pick up the food bags at the FISH Walk-In Center, located at 2430-B Periwinkle Way, Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3:45 p.m. The program is offered at no cost to participants. All backpacks contain protein, fruits and vegetables, snacks, breakfast cereal, soup and/or a pasta meal, milk, juice and occasionally a sweet treat. FISH also includes organic and vegetarian choices.

For more information about the programs and services offered by FISH, contact Maria Espinoza at 472-4775 or visit [www.fishofsanacap.org](http://www.fishofsanacap.org).

## FISH Launches Senior Needs Assessment

**B**eginning in early April, 3,000 households across Sanibel and Captiva will be receiving a request by mail from FISH of SanCap to complete a survey addressing an array of topics related to living on the islands as a household age 55 or over. Funded by the Charitable Foundation of the Islands (CFI) and facilitated by Polco, the Community Assessment Survey for Older Adults (CASOA) is a national benchmark survey that will allow FISH to have a clearer understanding of the needs currently being met and gaps in services to the aging population of Sanibel and Captiva. The CASOA survey has been conducted in communities across the country and will allow for comparison of results from the islands to those in other communities.

"FISH is focused on the growth and development of our senior services and this is a huge step to gathering statistically significant data to guide

our decision making in concert with the information we collect internally," said Alicia Tighe Orgera, executive director of FISH. "We're so grateful for not only the financial support but the fundamental interest CFI has in learning more about how our community can better serve our seniors."

The households receiving the survey by mail have been chosen at random and will have the opportunity to complete and return a paper version of the survey or use a web link to complete the survey online. Later in the process, the community as a whole will have the opportunity to participate in the survey online at an address that will be shared publicly in the coming weeks.

"Our hope is that we'll receive significant participation to create a really meaningful set of data about our 55-plus islanders," said Orgera. "This is something we're leading, but it will be information we will make publicly available so that stakeholders on Sanibel and Captiva can make informed decisions on issues or topics that they make relating to this demographic."

For more information, call 472-4775 or visit [www.fishofsanacap.org](http://www.fishofsanacap.org).



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BIG ARTS Ethics In Film Series

4 Months,  
3 Weeks  
And 2 Days



by Ron Green

On Wednesday March 24 at 12:30 p.m., BIG ARTS will show 4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days (2007), the third film in this year's BIG ARTS Ethics In Film Series. The film

runs one hour and 53 minutes, and will be shown in the BIG ARTS Christensen Performance Hall. After the movie, I will lead a discussion in the theater.

Director Cristian Mungiu's drama 4 Months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days unfolds in Romania in 1987. It is the waning days of the brutal Ceausescu communist regime; birth control is illegal and abortion is a crime punishable by death. The university student Gabita (played by Laura Vasiliu) is pregnant and turns to her friend and roommate, Otilia (Anamaria Marinca) for help in organizing an illegal abortion. Circumstances force the two women to use an outlaw male abortionist, Bebe (Vlad Ivanov). The film's cinematic and emotional bleakness offers a penetrating critique of the twilight years



image provided

of oppressive dictatorship. The film won the Palme d'Or at the 2007 Cannes Film Festival. In 2016, it was ranked No. 15 on the BBC's list of 100 Greatest Films of the 21st Century.

Although the film deals very graphically with abortion (be advised!), the moral questions the film raises by Gabita's desperate act lie elsewhere. To what extent do political and sexual oppression go together? What role do men play in the drama that unfolds? And how can

the oppression of women foster their redemptive solidarity?  
The remaining film in the series is Arrival, which will be shown on Wednesday, March 31. It will be announced in the Island Sun next week.  
Tickets are \$10 and available in advance or on the day of the film at the

BIG ARTS box office, located at 900 Dunlop Road on Sanibel. For more information, call 395-0900 or visit [www.bigarts.org](http://www.bigarts.org).  
Ronald M. Green is a Sanibel resident and professor emeritus for the study of ethics and human values at Dartmouth College.✧

Comedian And  
Family Raising  
Funds For Hope

Actor and comedian Kevin Nealon has supported Hope Hospice's mission for more than two decades – from participating in the 1999 Hope Gulf Walk on Captiva, to appearing at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre in Fort Myers for a sold-out, stand-up performance in 2018, to competing on ABC's Family Feud for his charity of choice last year and winning \$25,000 for Hope.

Now, Los Angeles-based Nealon enlisted the help of his siblings Kim and Chris Nealon in Fort Myers and Mike Nealon in Atlanta to create a heartfelt video with a twofold purpose: to share their appreciation for the organization that provided comfort and care for the family's grandmother, mother and father over the last 20 years, and to encourage others to support Hope Hospice as part of the More Hope campaign.

"I've supported Hope for over 20 years because I've seen firsthand the comfort and peace Hope provides to people who are seriously ill – and also to their families," said Kevin Nealon. "I give 'More Hope' because Hope's team truly honors the lives of those in their care."

Kim Nealon said, "There comes a time when you have to realize you can't do it by yourself, and you need help. And so it was Hope Hospice to the rescue."

Hope Healthcare President and CEO Samira K. Beckwith said it's important that the Nealon family is sharing their



Kevin Nealon and his mother Kathleen Nealon at his 2018 stand-up fundraiser for Hope Hospice photo provided

Hope experience with others.  
"It really helps other people know that it's OK to talk about these issues. It also lets people know that everybody needs help, and it's OK to reach out," said Beckwith. "But to provide all the compassionate comfort that people in our care deserve, Hope relies on support from our community. We are able to fulfill our mission thanks to amazing donors, like Kevin, who give so generously and share the importance of hospice care."

The video is available for viewing at [www.morehope.org](http://www.morehope.org).  
"Hope provides the dignity that everyone deserves, so I invite others to give more hope so that everyone in Southwest Florida who needs comfort and care can find that support," said Nealon.  
For more information, visit [www.hopehcs.org](http://www.hopehcs.org).✧

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Jean Le Boeuf, News-Press

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## FGCU Chamber Ensembles To Play On Sanibel

The Chamber Music Ensembles from Florida Gulf Coast University's (FGCU) Bower School of Music will perform at Sundial Beach Resort & Spa on two Tuesdays, March 23 and 30. The concerts, hosted by the Sanibel Music Festival Emerging Artist Series and sponsored by Gene and Lee Seidler, will be held on the resort's third floor open-air terrace and adjacent ballroom at 11 a.m. both days.

"The students are excited to be part of this new initiative by the Sanibel Music Festival," said Dr. Kyle Szabo, head of strings studies and orchestra director at FGCU. "Attendees at our concerts can expect an energetic performance in beautiful surroundings."

The venue will allow socially-distanced seating and easy access. All safety protocols will be observed and a virtual attendance option will be offered.

Register at [www.sanibelmusicfestival.org](http://www.sanibelmusicfestival.org) for complimentary, socially-distanced seating or to receive an invitation with a link to watch live performances online. Concertgoers can also register by calling 344-7025 or writing to Sanibel Music Festival, PO Box 1623, Sanibel, FL 33957. Freewill donations are welcome online, by mail or at the concerts. All donations support the Bower School of Music. Walk-ins are welcome as space



The FGCU Bower School of Music Chamber Strings

permits.

The program features composers from Bach to present day. On March 23, the Bower String Quartet will perform Haydn's *Sunrise Quartet, Mvt. 1*, Dvorak's *American Quartet, Mvt. 1* and two compositions from Olafur Arnalds' *The Chopin Project*. The Chamber Strings follow with Bach's *Brandenburg Concerto No. 3* and Mendelssohn's *String Octet in E-flat Major, Mvt. 1*. On March 30, the Symphony Strings will perform the *Britten Simple Symphony, Mvts. 1 and 4*, followed by Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons Recomposed* by Max Richter.

"Part of the festival's mission is to support the careers of emerging artists

through performance opportunities," said Jana Stone, Sanibel Music Festival president. "The Emerging Artist Series is being piloted in 2021 as a platform to encourage young talent."

Sanibel Music Festival's evening concert series at Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ, featuring professional touring ensembles, has been postponed until 2022 due to the pandemic.

"In March 2022, evening performances will return," said Nina Orrell, festival vice president. "The 2022 season will celebrate our 35th anniversary with an outstanding program including the multiple award-winning Emerson String Quartet, honored with nine Grammys."

photo provided

Dr. Krzysztof Biernacki, director of the Bower School of Music and the Arts, is an award-winning professor, international performer and opera stage director. "I'm delighted the partnership with Sanibel Music Festival provides the opportunity to showcase student talent in the community," said Biernacki. "Under Dr. Kyle Szabo's leadership, the orchestra has grown significantly and is more than ready to be part of the regional music arena."

For more information about Bower School of Music and the Arts, visit [www.fgcu.edu/cas/bsma](http://www.fgcu.edu/cas/bsma). For more information about Sanibel Music Festival, visit [www.sanibelmusicfestival.org](http://www.sanibelmusicfestival.org).

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## Tickets Selling Quickly For Virtual Game Show

The “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS) on Sanibel has reinvented its annual Go Wild for “Ding” fundraiser. This year, it is a rendition of the favorite TV game show, *Jeopardy*, but titled Go Wild for Jeopar-Ding. Tickets are still available for the original virtual program, scheduled for Wednesday, March 31 at 6 p.m.

Hostess and artist-in-residence Rachel Pierce will be joined by three local celebrities to compete in categories about the JN “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge, “Ding” Darling himself, wildlife and other related topics.

According to April Boehnen, DDWS development officer and event organizer, “Participants are already organizing outdoor watch parties to play along with family and friends.”

Celebrity contestants are: Downtown Diva, actress and director Stephanie Davis;



**DDWS pre-recorded Jeopar-Ding in a professional studio; from left, Rachel Pierce, Sierra Hoisington, April Boehnen, Greg Torres, Stephanie Davis and Richard Johnson**

co-host of the *Nature Guys* podcast Greg Torres; and owner of Bailey’s General Store and Sanibel City Councilman

Richard Johnson.  
Individual tickets start at \$25.  
Special prices are available for couples,

school-class participation sponsorship, and Alex Trebek Tribute and VIP packages.

continued on page 12B



**Fishing or sightseeing aboard the Ally Cat is one of the auction items** photos provided

## Kiwanis Online Auction Benefits Youth Education

submitted by Tom Sharbaugh

For the past year, the pandemic has put a stop to many of the islands’ major social gatherings. That includes the Sanibel-Captiva Kiwanis Club’s annual Spaghetti Dinner, normally a fixture on the February calendar and an event that

raises funds for the Kiwanis Foundation Scholarship Fund. To address this situation, the club has come to the rescue with a new event that promises to be both fun and safe – the Kiwanis Online Silent Auction.

Kiwanians invite residents and visitors to visit the auction website to explore some unusual items and exciting experiences, many of which will be perfect to enjoy as the COVID-19 restrictions ease and guests start arriving looking for things to do. Auction listings include resort and hotel stays, golf outings, sporting goods, fishing and sightseeing trips, artwork, custom



**A vintage 1969 Honda 350 Scrambler is sure to bring competitive bidding**

chef-prepared dinners, a private wine tasting dinner party, home services, legal consultation, and even a rare collector’s item; a vintage 1969 Honda 350 motorcycle in pristine condition. There’s guaranteed to be something that tickles your fancy. Or organize your friends to share a special dinner or outing.

The online auction can be found at [www.32auctions.com/sancapkiwanisauction](http://www.32auctions.com/sancapkiwanisauction). The auction site is open for browsing and bidding begins on

Friday, March 19. The auction will be open for nine days, until Sunday, March 28 at 6 p.m., at which time winning bids will be determined. Bidders are encouraged to check back often as the auction progresses to see how their bids are holding up.

All proceeds from the auction will benefit the Kiwanis Foundation, which provides scholarships to island students (residents and those whose parents work on the islands) and grants to local youth programs.

continued on page 10B

# Water Analyst Hired Through Local Partnership

To further a commitment to regional water quality and Everglades restoration through a unified front, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) and the Conservancy of Southwest Florida partnered to hire a hydrological modeler.

“We better fulfill our west coast mission by pooling our resources and streamlining our efforts,” said SCCF CEO Ryan Orgera, PhD. “Doing so, we were able to hire a highly qualified data analyst who will move us more efficiently towards water quality solutions.”

Paul Julian, PhD, began working as a hydrological modeler for SCCF and the Conservancy of Southwest Florida on March 16. The goal of this partnership is to address an important need for modeling expertise and data analysis in Southwest Florida. Work products will be shared between the nonprofits, who have led conservation efforts in Lee and Collier counties for more than five decades.

For the past 10 years, Julian worked as the Everglades technical lead for the Florida Department of Environment Protection (FDEP). In that role, he gained an understanding of the dynamic Greater Everglades Ecosystem by performing water quality compliance calculations, supporting federal and state restoration planning efforts, developing water quality



Paul Julian photo provided

nutrient models, and mining and analysis of environmental data. “We are very pleased to be able to bring someone of Paul’s caliber to our combined team, and to be working even closer with our partners at SCCF to advance science-based water quality solutions for our region,” said Conservancy CEO and President Rob Moher. “Paul’s deep experience as one of the lead technical experts on Everglades restoration, combined with his passion for conservation, will strengthen our shared efforts to protect water resources.”

Julian has an master of science degree in environmental science from Florida Gulf

Coast University, and a PhD in soil and water science from University of Florida, which he earned while employed with FDEP. He is infatuated by wetlands and on his website, [www.swamphingeology.org](http://www.swamphingeology.org), he describes how his love of science and the unique ecosystems of South Florida overlap.

In his new role as hydrological modeler, he will use mechanistic and empirical models to synthesize environmental data and evaluate the effects of Everglades restoration projects, Army Corps of Engineers water management operations, impacts of regional and local development, sea-level rise and other drivers on the hydrologic, water quality and ecological integrity of Southwest Florida’s watersheds, including but not limited to the Caloosahatchee and Lake Okeechobee.

“I’m really excited to join SCCF and the Conservancy and to provide data-driven solutions to improving and understanding regional water quality and ecosystem function,” said Julian. “As part of this data-driven perspective, my goal is to synthesize existing data and, if needed, identify areas where more data is needed to aid in landscape and ecosystem level assessments to inform restoration activities and policy directives.”

Working under the direction of SCCF Environmental Policy Director James Evans and Marisa Carrozzo, Everglades and water policy manager with the Conservancy, one of Julian’s initial projects will be focused on the development of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual

(LOSOM). LOSOM will take the place of the current Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule, providing guidance to the Army Corps of Engineers on freshwater releases from Lake Okeechobee. It is scheduled to be completed in 2022, coinciding with the completion of Herbert Hoover Dike rehabilitation.

“We are very excited to have Paul join our combined team. He brings a great deal of technical expertise and experience, and fills an important need for our organizations,” said Evans. “His modeling expertise will help guide the development of the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual – a critical tool for addressing the damaging discharges from Lake Okeechobee and helping restore our coastal ecosystems.”

From a Greater Everglades perspective, Carrozzo sees great value in having Julian contribute to advocacy efforts after having spent time within the state regulatory agency and working on joint federal and state restoration projects.

“Everglades projects and the water quality restoration framework in Florida are integral to our region’s future sustainability and quality of life,” said Carrozzo. “Paul’s broad experience in evaluating restoration projects and water quality data will be invaluable for our cross-organizational team to advance our collective ecosystem priorities across Southwest Florida and the Greater Everglades.”

Learn more about SCCF’s work at [www.sccf.org](http://www.sccf.org) and the Conservancy of Southwest Florida’s work at [www.conservancy.org](http://www.conservancy.org).

## Wisdom.

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Every piece of property on the islands has its own nuances, and for a real estate agent trying to market and sell a listing, much work is involved to attract the right buyer. But once in a while, a remarkable listing comes to an agent which brings not only financial reward but an excitement all its own.

The Burns Family Team, an affiliate of Sotheby's International Realty, was the listing agent to help the Jensen family with the February 17 sale of Jensen's Twin Palm Cottages and Marina on Captiva. The iconic site sold for \$11 million to Royal Shell, a real estate arm of conglomerate Roberts Development Corporation. An article in the March 5 issue of the *Island Sun* detailed the history of the property and the Jensen family.

"It makes this business fun when you get to represent some really interesting, unique listings, because Captiva is full of eclectic properties," said Jeff Burns of the Burns Family Team. "Every listing is a little different. It makes this job easy and fun to go to work every day."

The property, which consists of old Florida style rental cottages and a busy marina on Pine Island Sound, is designated as historic by Lee County, which limits what can be done to structures on the land.



With such a unique property, it is worth a look at how the Burns Team marketed the listing to find a buyer who would appreciate its historic significance.

“As far as our family’s history, it’s one of our biggest listings in all of our careers and lives, and one of the most interesting, too,” Burns said, noting his family started in the real estate business over 30 years ago.

“And the Jensen family was so great to work with. When they chose to list with us, it was a big honor and we were really thrilled. They know everybody on the island, so out of knowing all these people, to select our family and our team was something we were really proud of.”

The Jensen site had been on the market for about four years, and was originally listed for \$19.85 million. Being so unique, the question was: What would someone pay for a piece of venerable paradise?

"You're dealing with a very, very iconic piece of property and you want to try to market it as best as you possibly can, but also it's a big life change and you want to be cognizant of that, too.

"It needed a specialized buyer, and I think the buyer that ended up getting it was the best fit for it."

Royal Shell owns vacation and real estate sales, commercial space and shopping centers on the islands, as well

as Port Sanibel Marina in Fort Myers. The addition of Jensen's complements the company's portfolio.

According to statements from Royal Shell after the sale, they intend to run Jensen's the way it always has operated.

"I know a lot of people on Captiva were really concerned about that changing, not being the Jensen's that they've known," Burns explained.

"I feel like Royal Shell is going to be a good owner of that property. I think it just fits seamlessly in with their existing operation. They had the experience and the structure to hopefully not skip a beat and hopefully it will continue for years to come."

“Without Jeff Burns, this deal would never have closed,” said Pat Jensen in a message from her home in Seattle. She and her brothers John and Jimmy continue to own and operate Jensen’s on the Gulf, seven rental units on the beach side of Captiva. The family put that property on the market shortly after the marina sold. It is listed with the Burns Team for \$5.995 million.

“As much as working for the Jensens and with them, I just enjoyed the time spent with them,” Burns added. “Getting to know them over the years, hearing their stories, you get to know the history of the property. It wasn’t just a listing and sale, you got to know the history of it and it almost became personalized.”

*Kathy Kurtz Ferrari is a journalist who splits her time between Captiva and the Boston area. If you have any questions or comments, email [Kathy.islandsunnews@gmail.com](mailto:Kathy.islandsunnews@gmail.com). ✨*

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# Island Real Estate is On Fire

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For sale	58	826,294	47	2,474,021	33	914,546
	10	1,841,750	16	4,008,374	3	5,131,666
Under contract	58	886,578	80	1,392,648	21	588,931
	14	1,177,285	15	2,888,933	0	N/A
Closed year-to-date	55	773,643	69	1,337,138	19	647,473
	13	875,538	11	3,434,263	0	N/A
Sold in 2020	192	733,876	288	951,487	23	606,233
	47	821,713	27	2,923,148	4	2,537,500

In groupings above, 1st line in each group provides Sanibel statistics, 2nd line Captiva. This representation is based on data supplied by the Sanibel & Captiva Islands Association of Realtors® Multiple Listing Service on 3/11/2021. Neither this Realtor® nor the Association guarantees or is responsible for its accuracy.



**Just Listed**  
**Mariner Pointe #112**  
**760 Sextant Dr**  
Overlooking east-end canal systems opening to San Carlos Bay. 2nd floor corner 2 bedroom at end of boating peninsula, adjacent to Sanibel Marina. Amazing views of boats

passing, dolphins jumping, & pelicans diving. Glass-enclosed balcony expands living space, while open front deck has canal to sunset views. Many community amenities offered including boat dockage, kayak/canoe launch, private fishing pier, deeded beach access, pools, & more. \$699,000 furnished



**Beachfront**  
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**2311 West Gulf Dr**  
Roomy 2nd floor center unit, overlooking pool to gulf & handy to elevator. Easy-care plank-style tile floors with separate den (3rd sleeping area), beachside master suite, &

charming guest room. Small community of just 14 owners in recently-renovated building. Private owners closet at ground-level for beach equipment plus open parking with plenty of guest parking too. Enrolled in seasonal rental program with future rental bookings to convey. \$1,099,000 furnished



remodeled baths. Decorator furnished & enrolled for years in seasonal rental program with many repeats. Resort-style amenities with on-site office, beachside chairs provided, clubhouse with activities, beachside pool & hot tub, tennis/pickleball, BBQs, WiFi, & more. \$1,199,000 turnkey with reservations



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# What's The Market Going To Do?



Tom Uhler

submitted by Tom Uhler  
People often ask me questions like, "What did the stock market do today?" or "How's the market going to react to the vaccine (or the election, or the whatever)?"

Here's what they really meant: "What is the stock market going to do over the short term or as a reaction to some event?" The answer is always, "I have no idea."  
When I started in financial services over 40 years ago, the market was mostly large, U.S.-based corporations that everyone knew by name. Even if you weren't an investor, you knew who Ford, Bethlehem Steel and Woolworth were. Now, only Ford of those three remains as a top corporation suitable for listing on the Dow Jones Industrial Average of 30 stocks.  
The U.S. no longer dominates the world's stock markets like it did. With globalization of commerce, the explosion in midsize and smaller corporations, and advances in technology, understanding

what corporate stock values are likely to do in the short term becomes ever more difficult.  
So, what's an investor saving for retirement or navigating retirement to do? Stop thinking about the short term! With our 24/7 news cycle telling us minute-to-minute what's happening – or worse yet, what they think will happen – we're inundated with information. But to the intelligent long-term investor, which you should be if you're thinking about retirement and leaving a legacy, the short term is unimportant because no one can predict the daily movements of the stock markets.  
What is likely certain is what happens over the long term.  
Periodically, things happen (like pandemics and elections) that make people think short term. They call their stockbrokers and say, "Get me out!" And the brokers do what they're told.  
Here's the first problem with this: you must be right – that is, the markets have to go down, or you've missed out. And the second is that you have to guess correctly on when to get back in. Getting this right is extremely difficult. I've never seen someone get it right more than once.  
So, what should you do if you want to own stocks and enjoy the increased value over the long term? Simple. Think long-term.  
Tom Uhler is a principal with Uhler and Vertich Financial Planners, a locally owned comprehensive financial advisory firm.✴

# Rotary Happenings

submitted by Cindy Carter

Floridians may get teased about the average age of our population being slightly older than that of other states, however, our locals and snowbirds are still extremely active and have a true love of learning. The FGCU Academy certainly fits that need.  
John Guerra, director of the FGCU Academy, a lifelong learning academy, shared information about the programs and trips that the academy provides as well as some information about FGCU, our local university. FGCU is home to 15,000 students on an 800-acre campus. It was founded in 1991 and offers 63 undergraduate degrees, 25 masters degrees and three doctoral degrees.  
The FGCU Academy was founded in 2001 for adults, seniors and retirees under the premise that learning should never cease. It encourages learning for the joy of learning with friends, neighbors and peers. The academy offers lectures, short courses, day trips, computer classes, film series, discussion and debate groups, life enrichment and travel programs. All the programs are



John Guerra photo provided  
open to everyone with in person and online. There were more than 12,000 participants last year and classes are usually 90 to 120 minutes with no exams, grades or homework.  
Learning is a lifelong journey. For more information about the FGCU Academy, go to [www.fgcu.edu/](http://www.fgcu.edu/) academy.  
The Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club is holding hybrid meetings on Zoom and in person at The Dunes. To attend a meeting in person (limit 20), email Bill Harkey at [william.harkey@gmail.com](mailto:william.harkey@gmail.com) by Wednesday. Zoom meetings are held on Fridays. Log on as early as 7 a.m., meeting begins at 7:30 a.m.✴



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**\$3,699,000**

**SANDALFOOT UNIT 3C1**



PENDING  
This stunning 2BR/2BA unit has an open floor plan and boasts excellent rental income! As a walk-out ground floor unit, access to the beach, pool area and tennis court is convenient and easy! The unit has been renovated, including the kitchen with custom cabinetry, granite countertops and stainless appliances. Both bathrooms are updated and the unit provides a stackable washer/dryer.  
**\$639,900**

**SANDPIPER BEACH UNIT 303**



SOLD  
Beautifully remodeled 2 BR/2 BA corner unit with Gulf and pool views. Kitchen has newer appliances and large island/breakfast bar. Beautifully furnished with 'Island style' decor. The unit is fully outfitted for rental including bicycles, beach chairs and flat screen TVs in all rooms. Large exterior storage room and assigned parking under building. Sandpiper Beach is a 27-unit complex on 13 acres along the Gulf of Mexico. **\$825,000**

**Locations In Sanibel and Captiva**  
2400 Palm Ridge Rd.  
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11508 Andy Rosse Ln.  
Captiva, FL 33924



## CAPTIVA ISLAND NEW PRICE



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**\$11,995,000**      **MLS 220019253**  
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## SANIBEL BEACHFRONT



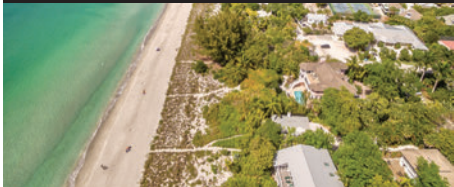
**3767 W. GULF DR., SANIBEL**  
 • Newer Construction, Gorgeous Interior  
 • Wine Room, Elevator, Game Rooms  
**\$7,995,000**      **MLS 219071271**  
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**1523 PERIWINKLE WAY, SANIBEL**  
 • 200+ Sanibel River & Periwinkle Frontage  
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## CAPTIVA ISLAND



**15146 WILES DR., CAPTIVA**  
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 • Vacation Home & Great Rental Potential  
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**2445 W. GULF DR. #C3, SANIBEL**  
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## GULF RIDGE UNDER CONTRACT



**1837 BUCKTHORN LN., SANIBEL**  
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## CAPTIVA GULF TO BAY



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 • Gorgeous Sunrise to Sunset Views  
**\$8,950,000**      **MLS 220050171**  
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## CAPTIVA BEACHFRONT



**11559 LAIKA LN., CAPTIVA**  
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## CAPTIVA VILLAGE



**14980 BINDER DR., CAPTIVA**  
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 • 4 BR, 4 BA, New Contemporary-Beach  
**\$2,550,000**      **MLS 221003093**  
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## BEACHVIEW ESTATES UNDER CONTRACT



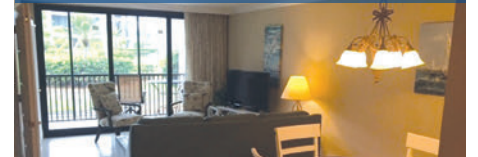
**1259 PAR VIEW DR., SANIBEL**  
 • Extraordinary Home, Oversized Lot  
 • 3 BR, 4 BA, Stunning Pool & Terrace  
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## SUNDIAL OF SANIBEL



**1501 MIDDLE GULF DR. #G204, SANIBEL**  
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 • 2 Bedrooms, 2 Full Bathrooms  
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## SUNDIAL OF SANIBEL UNDER CONTRACT



**1501 MIDDLE GULF DR. #F108, SANIBEL**  
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 • Beautifully Maintained Property  
**\$435,000**      **MLS 220009087**  
 Brian Murty 239.565.1272

## Lions Club Taking Applications For Scholarships

The Sanibel Captiva Lions Club offers Francis Bailey Scholarships each year to post-secondary students who either live or work on the islands, or whose parents do. These scholarships can be used for study at any accredited college or technical school. The requirements for the scholarships and instructions for completing the application form are available online at [www.sanibelcaptivalions.org](http://www.sanibelcaptivalions.org). Click on the Scholarships tab at the top, which will bring up the Scholarship splash page. There are links to download the instructions and scholarship form. The deadline for the application submission is April 1. If you have any questions or for more information, contact the Lions Club through the contact link on the website.

The endowment for the scholarships was started with a donation from Francis Bailey, one of the founders the club, and has been supported by various fundraisers and donations over the years. The Lions Club welcomes anyone interested in donating to the Lions Scholarship Fund to contact the club for more information.

The Sanibel Captiva Lions Club has been serving the Sanibel and Captiva communities for over 50 years. While the Lions Club is most known for its efforts to eliminate preventable blindness, the club serves citizens of the islands and greater Southwest Florida in a variety of ways. The local club is part of Lions Club International, the largest service organization in the world with over 1.4 million members in chapters in over 200 countries.

Sanibel Captiva Lions Club holds regular dinner meetings on the first and third Wednesday of the month during the year. Visiting Lions or other interested parties are welcome to attend.

For more information on the club, contact Lion Steven Schulz, membership chair, at P.O. Box 391, Sanibel, FL 33957, call 233-6261 or visit [www.sanibelcaptivalionsclub.org](http://www.sanibelcaptivalionsclub.org).

## FSW Accepting Scholarship Applications

The Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) 2021-22 scholarship application process has opened for new and current FSW students.

Along with federal and state scholarships and grants, FSW also offers institutional and presidential scholarships available only to eligible FSW students. Through the assistance of these scholarships, 70 percent of FSW students are able to graduate debt free.

"While we have many scholarships, our class of presidential scholarships is administered by the admissions office, and these scholarships are structured to award students for four consecutive fall and spring semesters," said Amber McCown, director of FSW admissions. "The highest award amount is \$10,000, which means students who receive that award would receive \$2,500 per semester, which more than covers the cost of attendance for a two-year program. We also have shorter-term scholarships for students who have prior college credit to encourage degree completion."

To be considered for FSW institutional and presidential scholarships, students must apply to FSW and receive a student ID number; complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each academic year; provide any documents required for verification to the FSW financial aid office; and submit a completed FSW scholarship application each academic year.

The first round of scholarships will be awarded on Friday, March 26 and will continue until all scholarships have been awarded. To view the full list of available scholarships or for information on how to apply, visit [www.fsw.edu/financialaid/scholarships](http://www.fsw.edu/financialaid/scholarships).

## ISLAND SUN BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

### VIP Realty Group



The Bell Team, from left, Sherrill Sims, Holly Peeples, Karen Bell and John Bates

The top producers for February at VIP Realty Group were: Karen Bell and the Bell Team, top sales; Lynda and Kit Traverso, top listings; and Janka Varmuza, top producer.



Lynda and Kit Traverso

### RE/MAX of the Islands



Steve Fisher



Maxine Fisher

The top sales and top listings associates for February at RE/MAX of the Islands were Steve and Maxine Fisher.

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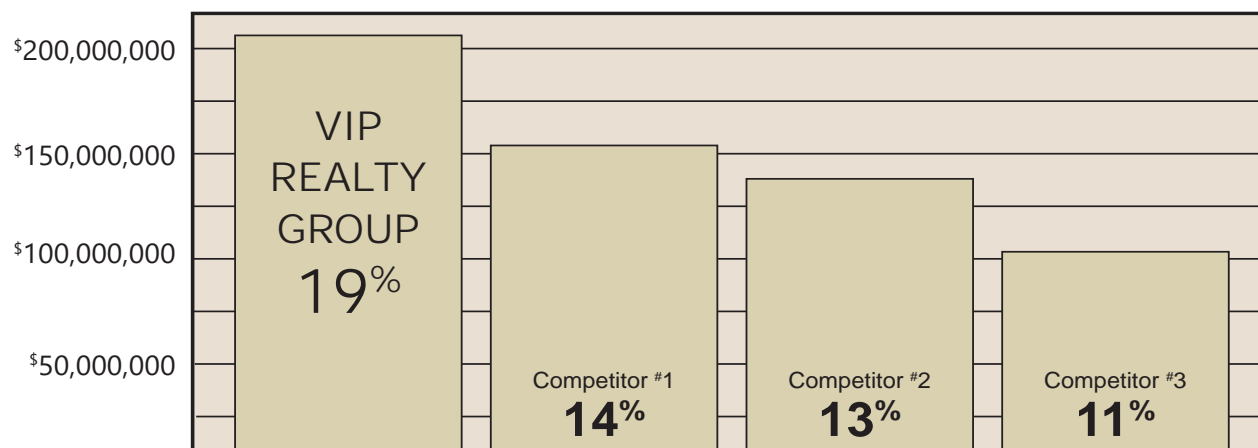
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Superior Interiors

# Designing A Game Room That All Will Love



by Linda Coin

**D**o you have a spare room that you want to transform into a unique and frequently used space? A game room would be ideal, as it would serve as a safe and fun-gathering area

where family and guests of all ages can relax and spend time together. While you may have decorated common living spaces before, such as the kitchen, dining room and bedroom, game rooms are unique.

Before you begin thinking about the ideal furniture and accessories for your room, have a clear vision of the layout or plan for placement. Create a list of the products you hope to include in your space and determine which may need to be edited based on the availability of the square footage. Remember that most standard game tables require at least three feet of open space around them and many need as much as five feet. Without this extra room, the area will feel confined and uncomfortable. Ask those who will be using the game room which games they enjoy most to narrow down your options.

It's also important to choose a layout that's effective for entertaining. For example, if your space is on the smaller side and you have limited seating, consider setting up one TV near your sofas and chairs and another by the game tables or bar so that everyone has an optimal view.

To make the furniture and decor

selection process easier, decide on a theme. This will also create a fun and social vibe that goes hand in hand with the typical game room environment. Possible themes might include sports, western, 50s, tropical tiki, or cozy lodge. Once you've decided on one, that will dictate what type of furnishings you need, whether this means contemporary, traditional, or eclectic.

In addition to establishing a fun and playful environment, you'll also want to prioritize comfort. Think cushioned, upholstered sofas and accent chairs. Perhaps a sectional sofa for ample seating and a recliner for guests interested in sitting back with their feet up as they tune into the big game. If you're interested in setting up a home theater, there is a wide selection of theater seating options available. These feature everything from plush comfort to cup holders to making your viewing experience one of a kind. A large and cozy area rug that complements your existing color scheme will add warmth and a splash of color to the space as well.

Lighting is key to a stylish and safe game room. Sufficient lighting ensures every game table is well lit, so players don't have to strain their eyes before every move. Rows of pendant lighting or an elegant chandelier might work above each table. For seating areas that are designed for watching TV and conversation, add a stylish table or floor lamp.

As you arrange your furnishings and accessories, ensure that there is enough space left for traffic flow. If you're expecting to host your family gatherings and parties in your game room, it may also be ideal to invest in furniture that doubles as seating. Look for ottomans and stools that can be used as coffee tables, nesting tables and spots for people to sit, join the conversation and share in the fun.

*Linda Coin is an interior designer on Sanibel/Captiva Islands and can be reached at [linda@coindecden.com](mailto:linda@coindecden.com).*✴

## Insurance Firm Supports CHR

**H**eidrick & Co. Insurance is a sponsor for Manatee Madness, the annual fundraiser to benefit Community Housing and Resources (CHR). Heidrick & Company's manatee is called "As the World Turns, So Do We." This unique work of art was created by local artist Brian Weaver. It is on display outside the office, located at 1648 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel.

Chris Heidrick, founder and president of insurance company said, "We are committed to helping Melissa Rice and her team for their exemplary work to sustain diversity and inclusion within our community and are proud of their efforts to safely move forward during this pandemic. The businesses and residents of Sanibel are truly fortunate to have an organization dedicated to providing affordable housing for families and individuals who work on, and who serve our beautiful sanctuary island."

"Heidrick & Co. Insurance is helping to change lives, right here on Sanibel. We depend on support from our local businesses who employ many of our great CHR residents," said CHR Executive Director Melissa Rice. "The outpouring of generosity that our organization receives is one great example of what makes this island community so strong and valued by its residents, business owners and visitors



From left, Holli Martin, "As the World Turns, So Do We," Paul Gulbrandsen and MJ Hays photo provided

alike."

"I love to see the local businesses unite and assist CHR," said Manatee Madness co-chair Laura DeBruce. "We are grateful to everyone on the committee who has helped to demonstrate what community means to them. We are appreciative of the support from the City of Sanibel, as well as from our neighbors and our friends.

For more information on CHR's Manatee Madness, visit [www.sanibelchr.org/mm2021](http://www.sanibelchr.org/mm2021).✴

From page 1

## Kiwanis Auction

Sanibel-Captiva Kiwanis Club President Bill Hay said, "We're disappointed that the club was not able to host the spaghetti dinner this year, but this auction event should be fun, something new, and it will help us continue our support for island kids."

Kiwanis thanks the major sponsors who have made the online auction

possible, and many other island businesses that lend their support. Major sponsors include: Cielo, Sanibel Captiva Community Bank, Bank of the Islands, Bailey's General Store, The Sanibel Captiva Trust Company, Sanibel Captiva Beach Resorts, The Sanctuary Golf Club, Archer Hotels, Sundial Beach Resort & Spa, Billy's Rentals, Carefree Birding, Barefoot Charley's Painting Company, Island Sun and The River Weekly News, and Congress Jewelers.✴

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# Golden Apple Teacher Award Recipients

The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools recently surprised six recipients with the prestigious Golden Apple Teacher Award. Golden Apple sponsors, selection committee and foundation board members took part in shining the spotlight on the outstanding performance from these teachers in the education system.

“Once again, the six recipients of the prestigious Golden Apple Award are representatives of all the outstanding educators we have in the School District of Lee County. I can think of no more important profession than teaching. The impact of the teaching profession is felt throughout the entire community and deserves to be applauded,” said Marshall T. Bower, esq, president and CEO of The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools.

The 2021 Golden Apple teacher recipients are:

- Jamie Ayres – Cape Coral High School
- Nathan Buehler – Mirror Lakes



Jamie Ayres



Nathan Buehler

Elementary School  
Joseph Camputaro – The Sanibel School  
Melissa Holland – Tanglewood Elementary School  
Marylin Prysi – Villas Elementary School  
Bryan Williams – Mariner High School  
The Golden Apple Recipients are chosen after going through an extensive selection process that began in September with a community-wide invitation to nominate teachers from the School District of Lee County. The six finalists were selected after completing a three-step process, which included a blind comprehensive application, observations in their classrooms on their teaching style and skill, and personal



Joseph Camputaro



Melissa Holland



Marylin Prysi



Bryan Williams

interviews with the Golden Apple Selection Committee. The Golden Apple Teacher Recognition Program was the first major project funded and developed by The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, Inc.

Recipients of the Golden Apple Teacher Award will be honored at a black-tie affair held at Caloosa Sound Convention Center & Amphitheater in downtown Fort Myers on Friday, June 18 at 5:30 p.m.\*

## ISLAND SUN BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS



Trevor Nette



McMurray & Members

### Royal Shell Real Estate

The top producers for February at the Royal Shell Real Estate Sanibel-Captiva office were: McMurray & Members, top listing and top sales producers team; and Trevor Nette, top listing and top sales producer individual/partners.\*



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From page 1

## Game Show

Ticket purchases are tax deductible; proceeds benefit conservation education efforts at the refuge.

For more information and a link to purchase tickets online, visit [www.gowildfording.com](http://www.gowildfording.com). To become a sponsor or for assistance, contact April Boehnen at [aprilb@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:aprilb@dingdarlingsociety.org) or 472-1100 ext. 256.

The following community sponsors are making Jeopard-Ding possible – Call of the Wild: Wendy and John Kindig, Doug and Sherry Gentry, Wayne and Linda Boyd; Champion: Todd and Barbara Bluedorn, Bill and Diane Valerian, John and Kathy McCabe, Bill and Laurie Harkey; Guardian: Ron E. and Josephine Smith, Sonya Keene and John Moy, Tree West,

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As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, DDWS works to support the JN “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge mission of conservation, wildlife and habitat protection, research and public education through charitable donations and refuge nature shop profits.

To support DDWS and the refuge with a tax-deductible gift, visit [www.dingdarlingsociety.org](http://www.dingdarlingsociety.org) or contact Birgie Miller at 472-1100 or [director@dingdarlingsociety.org](mailto:director@dingdarlingsociety.org)

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**Where:** [www.32auctions.com/SanCapKiwanisAuction](http://www.32auctions.com/SanCapKiwanisAuction)

**When:** Open for browsing. Bidding begins Friday, March 19 and runs until Sunday, March 28 (6 p.m.)

## Auction Items (Partial List)

- Fishing or Sightseeing cruise on the “Ally Cat” with Captain Billy Kirkland.
- Two nights stay at any ARCHER luxury boutique hotel in the U.S.
- A \$500 gift certificate to Congress Jewelers.
- A framed original Grateful Dead Backstage Pass.
- Guided birding tour conducted by Carefree Birding.
- Elegant Cielo dinner for six, plus a bottle of wine.
- A whimsical “Sanibel Mermaid” art piece by artist Myra Roberts.
- Golf outing for four at The Sanctuary Golf Club.
- A PING Sigma2 Fetch Putter with PPG60 Pistol Grip.
- Catered Dinner for Four plus wine from Sanibel Catering Company.
- Relaxing three nights stay at ‘Tween Waters Island Resort with \$100 dining credit.
- A vintage 1969 Honda 350 Scrambler motorcycle.
- A full page ad in the Island Sun and River Weekly News.
- An ultimate beach adventure... two nights at the Sundial Beach Resort.
- Golf foursome at Shell Point Golf Club.
- A fun wine-tasting party for 8 plus orientation to wines, combined with a chef-designed culinary experience.
- One hour legal consultation with attorney Gus Simmons.
- A whole-house power-washing from Barefoot Charley’s Painting Company.
- Crystal bowl with engraving by artist Luc Century.
- Private tour of Luc Century’s engraving studio (for 4) plus lunch at Doc Ford’s
- A group outing at Lee County Sheriff’s Office Gun Range.

**Proceeds benefit Kiwanis Scholarships and Local Youth Programs**

Will Power

Are Beneficiary Trusts Too Restrictive?



by Craig R. Hersch, Florida Bar Board Certified Wills, Trusts & Estates Attorney; CPA

To protect loved ones’ inheritances from predators, creditors, divorcing spouses and even from estate taxes in their children’s estates, I commonly advise my clients to embed continuing testamentary beneficiary trusts into their estate plan. Testamentary means after death – the trusts are written into the client’s revocable trust, but they aren’t active until the client’s death. This is different than an outright distribution that is free and clear of the client’s trust.

A typical beneficiary’s trust might name the client’s child to act as her own trustee. That child is free to invest her inheritance in whatever she wants. She can sprinkle the income or principal earned by the assets to herself or to her own children or even grandchildren yearly. She may also decide who she wants to inherit the trust assets after her death. Sounds a lot like an outright distribution, but it’s not. It has a protective shield around it.

Even though attorneys can draft a beneficiary’s trust to provide significant control, I still hear many objections to the idea:

- “I don’t want to rule from the grave!”
- “I want my children to do with their inheritance as they please.”
- “I just want to keep things simple.”
- “I heard that income taxes will be higher if their inheritance is held in an ongoing trust.”

I Don’t Want to Rule from The Grave

This objection is valid if you direct your estate planning attorney to draft a restrictive trust. In some cases, restricting access to the trust assets is appropriate. When you have a beneficiary who will blow their inheritance in short order, have drug, alcohol, gambling, or other addictive problems, or receive government aid such as Medicaid, then you probably desire more restrictive provisions governing the inheritance. In all three examples, you’ll name a third-party trustee (advisor, family member, bank or trust company) and specifically direct the trustee how to hold and distribute the funds.

For beneficiaries receiving Medicaid or other need-based assistance, the terms of the inheritance should be mindful of the severe income and asset limitations that beneficiary has before they risk losing benefits.

I Want My Children to Do with Their Inheritance as They Please

This objection can be overcome with a beneficiary’s trust. There is nothing to restrict

you from naming the beneficiary as her own trustee for their inherited share of your estate. To protect the inheritance, the trust must contain certain provisions, but that doesn’t necessarily thwart your beneficiaries from having freedom of choice.

A few years ago, a deceased client’s son, who was a practicing physician, called me to complain about his inherited beneficiary’s trust.

“I have a beef with how you drafted this trust,” he began. “My attorney told me that I can’t withdraw the money to buy a vacation condominium in Vail because the withdrawal wouldn’t qualify as necessary for my health, education, maintenance and support.”

“That’s true,” I pointed out. “But you can still purchase the condominium using trust income and assets.”

“How?” He asked, calming down a bit. “Have the trust own the condominium,” I answered. “That way it’s exempt from estate taxes when you die, it’s also outside the reach of a divorcing spouse and safe if you get sued for malpractice or for a business deal gone bad.”

He thought for a moment, “I understand what you’re saying, but my wife expects to be on this deed. If I tell her that it’s protected from divorce, that won’t go over well. We’ve enjoyed a solid 20-year marriage.”

“Well, you can borrow the money from your trust, and record a mortgage. That protects the equity up to the borrowed amount. Since you’re a practicing physician, it makes sense not so much from a divorce standpoint, as you point out, but from an asset protection standpoint.”

He was enlightened for the advice and thanked me.

I Want to Keep Things Simple

Turning to this objection, it’s true that a beneficiary’s trust appears more complicated than a simple outright distribution. Also, a beneficiary’s trust, once established, will file a Form 1041 federal income tax return and require an annual accounting, although the latter requirement can be avoided under Florida law through a designated representative.

Those are minor inconveniences compared with fighting a divorcing spouse or a judgment creditor who attempts to satisfy their claims by attacking the inheritance or keeping the IRS away from a child’s estate. Significant estate tax savings are possible when your beneficiaries already have significant assets of their own before they inherit from you.

I Heard That Income Taxes Will Be Higher if Their Inheritance is Held in an Ongoing Trust

Finally, let’s review an income tax issue. Receipt of taxable rental income, dividends or interest requires someone to pay the income tax. That someone is usually the beneficiary who receives the income. Yet if the income is not distributed, but is instead accumulated inside a beneficiary’s trust, then the trust is the taxpayer.

When would a trust accumulate income rather than distributing it? Common examples are for beneficiaries on government aid, minor beneficiaries who shouldn’t have too much income, or those beneficiaries shielding the income from a divorcing spouse or creditors.

Federal income tax law imposes compressed brackets on trusts as taxpayers. In other words, a married couple won’t pay taxes at the highest marginal rate until they have approximately \$622,000 of income. Trusts pay the highest marginal rate when they have only \$13,000 of income.

The tax law penalizes trusts that accumulate taxable income. There are several work arounds. The first is to simply distribute the income if it won’t otherwise lead to adverse consequences. Another is for the trustee to invest in growth assets, which pay a lower capital gains rate. A third strategy is to distribute to other trust permissible beneficiaries; for example, your grandchildren rather than your child. Yet a fourth is to include provisions in the body of the trust that treat the income as distributed even if it is not.

The power to protect the inheritance you leave your loved ones dies with you. Your revocable trust won’t protect you from your creditors, predators or divorcing spouses. Your children, likewise, can’t easily create their own protective trust.

The trust you create for them can. If you have questions about if these strategies are right for you and your loved ones, then have a family conference with your estate planning attorney. Let your children hear the advantages and disadvantages, and decide together.

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### How’s The Market? Ask Ann

Got patience? Waiting for a “good deal” to come on to the market? Trying your best to stay under \$750,000? I have the solution... We have the only near beach lot listed under \$275,000. The lot is located at 3013 Poinciana Circle and priced at \$259,900. We work with a local, experienced custom builder who is able to deliver a 3/2 Island Style new home “turn key” in a \$425,000 \$450,000 price range on your lot. You end up with a new roof, new wind rated windows, new kitchen and baths, new plumbing and appliances. “Timing is everything.” If this offering interests you, call or email me now.

Thinking of selling? Get the benefit of a 4.5% listing commission. Put \$9,000 to \$12,000 in your pocket.

**15 Closed Sales Going Back One Week: 2 Homes, 11 Condos & 2 Lots**

355 Cowry Ct. Vacant Land - <b>\$225,000</b>	671 E. Gulf Dr. Sandalfoot 3C3 - <b>\$698,000</b>
1825 Long Point Ln. Vacant Land - <b>\$362,000</b>	2721 W. Gulf Dr. Kings Crown 110 - <b>\$765,000</b>
805 E. Gulf Dr. 2E Sanibel Arms - <b>\$370,000</b>	2445 W. Gulf Dr. Pointe Santo D-35 - <b>\$775,000</b>
760 Sextant Dr. 1043 Mariner Pointe - <b>\$472,500</b>	1919 Olde Middle Gulf Dr. Sandpiper Beach 205 - <b>\$780,000</b>
1027 Sand Castle Rd. - <b>\$475,000</b>	2445 W. Gulf Dr. Pointe Santo A-31 - <b>\$917,000</b>
845 E. Gulf Dr. Sanibel Moorings 441 - <b>\$555,000</b>	1306 Eagle Run Dr. - <b>\$1,475,000</b>
827 E. Gulf Dr. Sanibel Arms West H6 - <b>\$562,000</b>	3215 W. Gulf Dr. Somerset at the Reef E201 - <b>\$1,850,000</b>
2445 W. Gulf Dr. Pointe Santo B5 - <b>\$670,000</b>	

**Call or email me with any questions. Stay safe & have a successful year!**

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From left, Jeff Muddell, Al Hanser and Carolyn Rogers of The Sanibel Captiva Trust Company, Annie Campbell of BIG ARTS and Craig Holston of The Sanibel Captiva Trust Company  
photo provided

## Trust Company Sponsors BIG ARTS Benefit

The Sanibel Captiva Trust Company is supporting BIG ARTS as the organization's exclusive corporate presenting sponsor of the 2021 gala benefit that was held recently on the BIG ARTS campus. Patrons were able to attend both virtually and in person at 50 percent capacity in Christensen Hall to hear renowned singer Sheléa live.

Al Hanser, founder and chairman of the trust company said, "We were honored to sponsor this year's major fundraiser and commend the BIG ARTS

team and Sheléa for bringing together this live performance and long-awaited gathering. Our long-standing partnership with BIG ARTS contributes to the growth of arts and education for the islands and Southwest Florida."

Throughout the pandemic, BIG ARTS staff has worked tirelessly to create a safe and comfortable environment for both virtual and in person programs. Entertaining and educational opportunities are ongoing.

"So many seasonal visitors and residents look forward to attending events as part of their winter activities," said Steve Greenstein, executive vice president at The Sanibel Captiva Trust Company and BIG ARTS board member. "We're delighted we could provide this event for the community."✪✪

## Begin Your Preparations For Hurricane Season

The City of Sanibel hurricane reentry pass easily identifies people who are authorized to return after an evacuation. The reentry pass program is about safety and security, and getting a pass requires only a short application and specific documentation. The passes are issued all year long. Do not wait until a storm threatens to apply. Visit [www.mysanibel.com/emergency-management](http://www.mysanibel.com/emergency-management).

The city is still using the purple (residential) and tan (commercial) 2016 passes in 2021. People already issued those passes do not need to apply.

Make a family emergency plan by completing the pre-formatted plan on the county website at [www.leeeoc.com](http://www.leeeoc.com).

The alertLee emergency notification system replaced CodeRed in July 2019. Both the city and county use this popular tool to send targeted emergency alerts. You can receive alerts on multiple devices in your home and/or on your cell phones. To continue receiving alerts, you must sign up for alertLee. Go to the city website at [www.mysanibel.com](http://www.mysanibel.com) (in

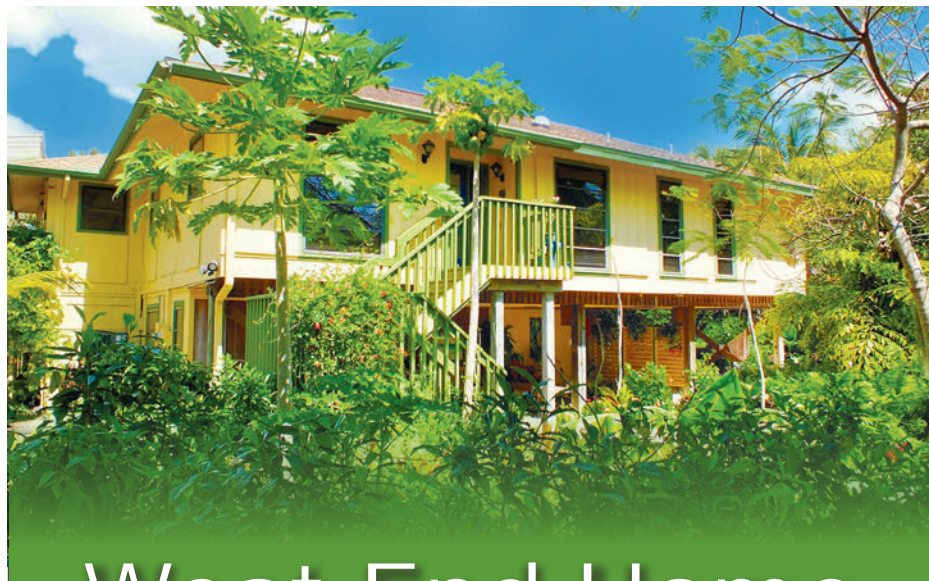
the Quick Links on the right side).

There is a special needs program to provide shelter from a tropical storm or hurricane for those who live in a home and/or area that is not safe from storm surge or wind, and who have no other safe place to go. It also provides transportation to a shelter for those who do not have a way to get there. The program is available to Lee County residents at no cost, but you must pre-register every year. Application processing stops when the county enters the five-day forecast cone of a storm, so submit your application early. Sanibel and Captiva residents should contact FISH of SanCap at 472-4775, or register with the county at [www.leeeoc.com](http://www.leeeoc.com).

The *All Hazards Guide* provides additional information and tips. It is a great resource for a variety of topics like preparations, shelters and contacts. The guide is available on the county website at [www.leeeoc.com](http://www.leeeoc.com).

The Federal Emergency Management Agency lists the entire City of Sanibel as a Special Flood Hazard Area. Floods kill almost 200 people a year in the U.S. and 50 percent of those are vehicle related.

Visit [www.mysanibel.com/emergency-management](http://www.mysanibel.com/emergency-management) for more information.✪✪



## West End Home for Sale

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SANIBEL

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CAPTIVA

**14865 Captiva Drive**  
Burns Family 239.464.2984  
\$1,699,000



SANIBEL

**1560 Royal Poinciana Drive**  
Burns Family 239.464.2984  
\$899,000



CAPTIVA

**15155 Wiles Drive**  
Burns Family 239.464.2984  
\$1,975,000



CAPTIVA

**14865 Mango Court**  
Burns Family 239.464.2984  
\$1,195,000



GULF BEACH

**527 East Gulf Drive #107**  
Burns Family 239.464.2984  
\$879,000



CAPTIVA

**15300 Captiva Drive**  
Burns Family 239.464.2984  
\$5,995,000



USEPPA ISLAND

**310 Useppa Island**  
Brian McColgan 239.410.7850  
\$2,500,000



GULF HARBOUR YACHT AND COUNTRY CLUB

**11371 Compass Point Drive**  
Russ Crutchfield 239.560.2742  
\$1,800,000



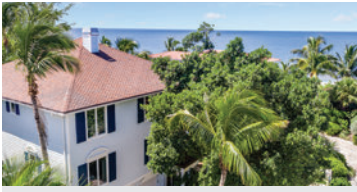
LOGGERHEAD CAY

**979 East Gulf Drive #523**  
Burns Family 239.464.2984  
\$945,000



SANIBEL

**2985 Island Inn Road**  
Burns Family 239.464.2984  
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CAPTIVA

**11549 Wightman Lane**  
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CAPTIVA

**16813 Captiva Drive**  
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SANIBEL

**2964 Wulfert Road**  
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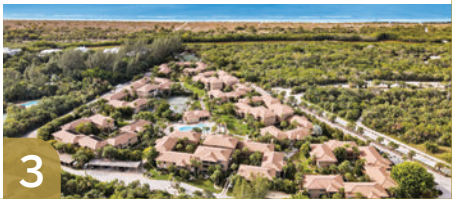
# BURNS *family* TEAM



1



2



3

## 1. MAGAZINE READY HOME IN THE SANCTUARY - SANIBEL

- 5 BR/ 5.1 BA property situated on the bay & intercoastal waterway and framed in by the Sanctuary's signature 4th hole.
- Boasting 11,000sqft, the interior finishes include luxurious accent wall of glass, walk-in wine cellar, marble inspired Cambria counters, statement light fixtures & over a million dollars in updates.
- **\$2,998,000 EURO 2,658,932**

## 2. ON THE WILES SIDE - CAPTIVA

- 3BR/ 2BA home just completed a total remodel with attention to every detail
- Fabulous pool oasis with tropical flora and steps to beach access
- **\$1,975,000 EURO 1,813,860**

## 3. BLIND PASS CONDO - SANIBEL

- 2 BR/2 BA bright ground floor condo in community just steps to world famous Bowman's Beach
- Community offers: large heated pool, BBQ grills, tennis, on-site office, and more!
- **\$485,000 EURO 396,021**

## 4. REMODELED IN VICTORIA COVE EAST END - SANIBEL

- 4 BR +den/ 4 bath home on Sanibel's East end, steps to the beach with private boat dock & 16k lift.
- Gorgeously remodeled, large porches, private pool & spa, top floor master with sundeck and Gulf views
- **\$2,250,000 EURO 1,891,630**

## 5. NEAR BEACH HOME OFF WEST GULF DRIVE - SANIBEL

- Fully furnished 3 BR/ 2 BA home (Currently configured as a 2 BR)
- Recently remodeled with coastal finishes, impact resistant windows
- **\$649,500 EURO 547,486**

## 6. ON A WHIM - CAPTIVA

- 2 BR/ 2BA cottage located steps to the Bay in the Captiva Village
- Newly painted, wood plank tile floors, multiple lanais, and colorful décor
- **\$1,195,000 EURO 1,059,848**

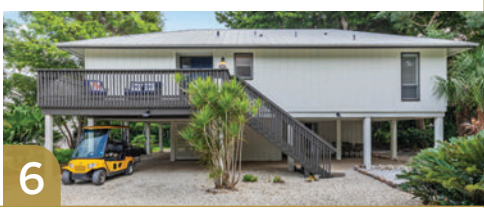
## NEW PRICE



4



5



6



7



8



9

## 7. 4 BEDROOM HOME ON INTERSECTING CANAL - SANIBEL

- 4 BR/3 BA home with boatdock, lift, and private pool
- Large kitchen, private elevator, multiple lanai's including rooftop deck with Bay views
- **\$1,995,000 EURO 1,652,050**

## 8. GULF VIEWS AT GULF BEACH - SANIBEL

- 2 BR/2 BA rarely available Gulf front corner unit on Sanibel's East End
- Community offers: pool, beach access & deeded dock with canal access for kayak & paddle board launching
- **\$879,000 EURO 798,325**

## 9. DIRECT ACCESS CANAL HOME WITH PRIVATE DOCK

- 3 BR/ 2 BA ground level home on corner lot in Water Shadows community
- Remodeled home with garage and private pool overlooking canal
- **\$899,000 EURO 740,301**

## 10. GULF VIEWS AT LOGGERHEAD CAY - SANIBEL

- Enjoy your 2 BR/ 2BA condo with vaulted ceilings, situated 1 back from the Gulf with incredible views from the corner lanai
- Pet friendly community offers large pool, tennis, shuffleboard, and weekly rentals-great for families & investors
- **\$945,000 EURO 777,541**

## 11. HAPPY DAZE - CAPTIVA

- 4 BR + den/ 4 BA home situated amidst tropical vegetation just steps to the Captiva Village area
- Wood floors, open kitchen, soaring ceilings, fireplace, large lanai overlooking private pool & spa
- **\$1,699,000 EURO 1,398,507**

## 12. GORGEOUS BAY VIEWS IN PUNTA RASSA - FORT MYERS

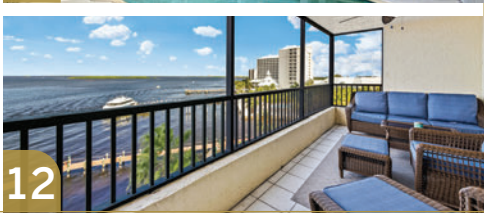
- 2 BR/2 BA remodeled corner condo near the Sanibel causeway
- Comm amenities: fishing pier, tennis, pool, shuffleboard, and more
- **\$575,000 EURO 492,463**



10



11



12

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Frankly Speaking



by Howard Prager

Before diving into March Madness, let's dive into the madness of March. During the Mets-Cardinals game in Port Lucie last Sunday, Mets infielder Luis Guillorme

worked an incredible 22-pitch count for a walk in the fifth inning. Guillorme accomplished the feat against hard-throwing righty Jordan Hicks, who threw 10 99-plus mph pitches during his at-bat. This is reported to be the most pitches in an at-bat in a spring training game since 1988 when pitch count records started being collected. If this was the regular season, he'd own the record. The longest official plate appearance in Major League Baseball belongs to Giants first baseman Brandon Belt at 21 pitches in 2018.

So much for distractions from the true March Madness, and never has that been better named. Because of the pandemic, four teams are "in the wings" to come into the tournament from major conferences should a team need to exit. However, the NCAA says that has to happen by last Tuesday night. Good luck with that, as we have seen COVID-19 has no timetable. Already Virginia and Kansas are travelling to Indy shorthanded and had to withdraw from their own conference tournaments because of positive tests. Most of Virginia's team is in quarantine due to contract tracing and won't even practice until Thursday. So how is this going to work out and how and why would they bow out by Tuesday night? Let's hope the timeline changes as you are reading this. The four bubble teams who would step in are St. Louis, Colorado State, Ole Miss and Louisville,

all who were on the cusp. The teams that would benefit the most if the Cavs and Jayhawks pull out are Gonzaga (already the pre-tournament favorite) and Iowa, the top two seeds in the West Regional.

For the first time since 1995, Duke is not in the NCAA Tournament. Duke had already bowed out of the ACC Tournament hours before a quarterfinal game against Florida State due to its first positive COVID-19 test, coming at the worst possible time. This ended the third longest streak in men's college basketball. "This season was a challenge for every team across the country and as we have seen over and over," coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "This global pandemic is very cruel and is not yet over. As many safeguards as we implemented, no one is immune to this terrible virus."

It's not a big change to the NCAA Tournament format this year, but it certainly is an adjustment, reported CBS Sports. "It's the first time we'll have to wait until Thursday for NCAA Tournament games to start following Selection Sunday, and it's the first time all of the games will be held primarily in one city, with Indianapolis logistically being the most sensible option because of its myriad venues: Bankers Life Fieldhouse, Hinkle Fieldhouse, Indiana Farmers Coliseum and Lucas Oil Stadium along with Mackey Arena, Purdue's home court in West Lafayette and Assembly Hall, IU's home in Bloomington." The women's tournament will be played in and around San Antonio and Austin, Texas, with the championship taking place at the Alamodome. I'll be following No. 7 Northwestern women, who play No. 10 UCF on Monday.

Our good news story features a transfer player from No. 6 BYU, Gideon George. Gideon was a soccer fan, not a basketball player and grew up in Minna, Nigeria. Gideon was tall and lanky - he'd eventually grow to 6-foot-6 and 190 pounds - with long

arms and broad shoulders, but he didn't know the first thing about basketball and soon quit. Through a U.S. charity called Timeout 4 Africa, a nonprofit that provides school supplies and athletic gear to those in need, several pairs of shoes found their way to a local coach named Harry Ayere, who offered them to George for free. There was just one catch: He wanted Gideon to play basketball in exchange for the shoes. After a few months in the gym, Gideon began to realize where basketball might take him.

Then came Brandon Goble, director for JuCo Advocate, an organization that connects international basketball prospects with schools in the United States, and he agreed to give Gideon George a look. "We could just tell right away that he's just got something different in him," Goble said. He sent a few videos of Gideon playing to a friend, Luke Adams, who was in his first season as coach at New Mexico Junior College (NMJC). Adams told Goble that if Gideon could get a visa, he'd have a spot on the team.

At NMJC, Gideon saw a pair of sneakers in the garbage. They would have cost his parents a month's salary. "Can I have these?" he asked. In the following weeks, Gideon went from locker to locker asking for spare shoes, explaining that the shoes he wore as

a kid were often torn, with holes in the soles, and he was among the lucky ones. In Nigeria, the lack of proper footwear is among the leading causes of disease, with bacteria spread through open wounds on the feet. Before long, Gideon had a pile to send, hoping to give back the way that he started his journey, with a free pair of sneakers. He has made it his mission to give others the same chance. "I'm grateful," Gideon said, "and I wanted to be able to touch the lives of people like me back in Africa." NMJC's athletic director heard about this and helped by offering free tickets to fans who donated a pair of shoes. Dozens showed up for the game, sneakers in hand. "I don't know if there's a person on Earth who doesn't like Gideon," Adams said. "You can just see his heart." He has sent over 400 pairs of sneakers and slippers, hiking boots and dress shoes, from New Mexico and now from BYU where he's a junior transfer and playing in his first NCAA tournament... while continuing to collect and send shoes back to Africa. What a heart.

Howard Prager is the son-in-law of longtime columnist Ed Frank. Prager is a sports enthusiast from the Chicago area who also writes and blogs about leadership. Email comments or questions to [press@islandsunnews.com](mailto:press@islandsunnews.com).✴

Captiva Community Panel Report

The Captiva Community Panel is collecting petitions to ask Lee County to form a Municipal Services Taxing Unit (MSTU), which will fund efforts to eradicate the iguanas that have proliferated on Captiva. If you support this drive, the panel needs your petition by Saturday, March 27.

If you support forming this unit, which will cost the average island property \$52.68 in taxes the first year, review the information online and complete your petition (one per Captiva parcel you own) and return the original signed petition to Captiva

Community Panel, P.O. Box 72, Captiva, FL 33924-0072. To form the unit, petitions must be received from 50 percent-plus-one of Captiva property owners, and they have to be submitted to the county before April 1.

To find out more about the unit, go to <https://captivacommunitypanel.com/panel-info/invasives-mstu/>. If you have any questions, email the panel at [captivacommunitypanel@gmail.com](mailto:captivacommunitypanel@gmail.com).

Upcoming meetings:  
Monday, April 12 - The Captiva Erosion Prevention District will meet via Zoom beginning at 1 p.m. (details at [www.mycepd.com](http://www.mycepd.com)).

Tuesday, April 13 - The Captiva Community Panel will meet at 9 a.m. via Zoom. Email [captivacommunitypanel@gmail.com](mailto:captivacommunitypanel@gmail.com) for the link and password.✴

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SPORTS QUIZ

1. The Territorial Cup is a trophy awarded in the college football rivalry series between what two teams?
2. What nickname did Stevie Wonder bestow on Philadelphia 76ers legend Darryl Dawkins?
3. What endurance race did drivers Hurley Haywood and Scott Pruett each win a record five times?
4. Craven Cottage stadium in London is the home ground of what English Premier League football club?
5. Figure skating legend Sonja Henie hailed from what country?
6. What infamous corporation held naming rights to the Houston Astros' stadium from 2000-02?
7. What team selected Purdue running back Mike Alstott in the second round of the 1996 NFL Draft?

ANSWERS

1. The Arizona Wildcats and the Arizona State Sun Devils. 2. Chocolate Thunder. 3. 24 Hours of Daytona. 4. Fulham F.C. 5. Norway. 6. Enron. 7. The Tampa Bay Buccaneers.



Mike Miller addresses the club

photo provided

# Sanibel Bike Club Meets For Potluck Dinner

The Sanibel Bike Club held its monthly potluck dinner at The Dunes Golf and Tennis Club on March 8. There were approximately 30 members who gathered in the private open-air pavilion for a meal and social time. The evening ended with short presentations from club president

Jim Cryder and newly elected city councilman and club secretary Mike Miller. For more information on the Sanibel Bike Club, visit [www.sanibelbicycleclub.org](http://www.sanibelbicycleclub.org). The club holds weekly rides either on Wednesdays at 11 a.m. or Saturdays at 7:30 a.m., both leaving from The Community House on Sanibel. Off island rides are held once a month to various nearby locations. The April off island ride will be a Withlacoochee Trail ride out of Inverness. All levels of riders are welcome.✧

# Trust Company Supports Kiwanis



From left, Kiwanians Tom Sharbaugh and Pete Bender, Kiwanian and trust company founder and chairman Al Hanser, Kiwanian Bill Hay, and Darrin Grotrian and Gary Dyer of the trust company

photo provided

The Sanibel Captiva Trust Company is a sponsor of the Sanibel-Captiva Kiwanis Club's 2021 fundraiser benefitting scholarships and local youth programs. "To accommodate current circumstances under COVID, local Kiwanians developed a new idea this year in the form of an online auction," said Al Hanser, founder and chairman of the trust company, "and we are delighted to

continue our many years of partnership to assist local youth." The auction has a wide array of quality items on which to bid, from resort stays and restaurants to golf packages and a vintage motorcycle. The auction will be active for several days: Friday, March 19 through Sunday, March 28 at 6 p.m. Log in to [www.32auctions.com/SanCapKiwanisAuction](http://www.32auctions.com/SanCapKiwanisAuction).✧



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## Health First

# Eight Ways To Keep Your Brain Fit



by Julie Rosenberg, MD

**M**ental decline is one of the most feared consequences of aging. The good news – cognitive impairment is not inevitable. The aging process itself is generally

not a cause of cognitive decline. Those individuals who develop severe cognitive impairment typically have underlying neurological impairment, a brain injury or an organic brain disorder. For those who are undergoing the normal aging process, here are eight strategies you can use to help maintain cognitive fitness.

1) Keep learning – Participating in educational activities helps you to develop neuroplasticity, the ability of the brain to adapt to changes in one's environment by forming new neural connections over time. In other words, challenging your brain with "mental exercise" activates processes that help maintain individual brain cells and stimulate communication among them. Read, take classes or tackle word puzzles. Play Chess or Bridge – both games require working memory and reasoning skills. Consider trying a new craft or hobby, such

as drawing or painting.

2) Eat a good diet – Good nutrition helps both your mind and your body. Research has shown that individuals who eat a Mediterranean-style diet that emphasizes fruits, vegetables, fish and plant sources of protein, nuts and unsaturated oils such as olive oil, are less likely to develop cognitive impairment and dementia.

3) Exercise – Research indicates that regular physical activity (at least 30 minutes per day) helps prevent cognitive decline and Alzheimer's disease. These benefits may be the result of increased blood flow to your brain during exercise. Studies have also shown that exercise can increase the size of the hippocampus, the part of the brain responsible for memory, which naturally shrinks as you age. So, check out a dance class, take a walk, go for a bike ride, garden – moving your body will help your brain!

4) Protect your head – Traumatic brain injuries, even without loss of consciousness, may have serious and long-lasting effects and can increase your risk of cognitive impairment. Falls are the most common cause of traumatic brain injury in older individuals. Don't take chances (This applies to everyone). Avoid household hazards, such as obstacles (shoes, clothing) on the floor, loose rugs, slippery floors, or poor lighting. Wear a helmet if you engage in any type of contact sport and when you are bicycling.

5) Limit alcohol – Excessive alcohol intake over time is a major risk factor for dementia. If you choose to drink, limit alcohol to one drink per day. Drinking alcohol in moderation has not been

conclusively linked to an increased risk for dementia. In fact, research has shown that drinking wine or beer in moderate amounts has no negative effect on brain function later in life.

6) Don't smoke – Smoking cigarettes is associated with serious health risks, such as cancer, cardiovascular disease and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. People who smoke are also at higher risk of developing dementia and at much higher risk (up to 79 percent) for Alzheimer's disease. Some researchers have suggested that smoking raises the risk of Alzheimer's disease by increasing oxidative stress on the brain. Smoking is also a major risk factor for cerebral vascular injury, including atherosclerosis, aneurysm and stroke, which can increase the risk of dementia and cognitive impairment.

7) Get enough sleep – Aging well means prioritizing sleep. Most adults need at least seven hours of sleep per night for proper cognitive and behavioral function. Sleep is important for brain function. During sleep, your brain reorganizes and recharges itself, and removes toxic byproducts which have accumulated throughout the day. Evidence is building that sleep disturbances may contribute to cognitive decline and may also increase the risk of Alzheimer's disease by increasing amyloid burden. More research is needed to better clarify the mechanisms linking sleep disturbance and risk for Alzheimer's disease.

8) Build social networks – Research shows that people who regularly engage in meaningful social interactions maintain better brain health at all ages. Social interactions facilitate the development of support systems. Meaningful human interactions and strong social ties have been associated with a lower risk of dementia and longer life expectancy.

In conclusion, cognitive decline impairs quality of life and threatens independence. In this article, I've discussed eight lifestyle interventions that will help to keep your brain fit. Challenging your brain and embracing a healthy lifestyle will help to support long-term cognitive function.

Julie Rosenberg, MD, is a global healthcare leader, medical consultant

and the author of two books, *Beyond the Mat* and *Be True*. For more information, visit her website at [www.drjulierosenberg.com](http://www.drjulierosenberg.com). For consulting and speaking requests, email inquiries to [info@drjulierosenberg.com](mailto:info@drjulierosenberg.com).✱

## Virtual Teacher Hiring Event

**T**he School District of Lee County will host its virtual Talent Connection Event from April 26 to 30 to hire certified teachers for the 2021-22 academic year.

With a growing enrollment of more than 95,000 students and 120 schools, the district will conduct virtual interviews to connect talented, high-energy educators with instructional vacancies for the upcoming school year. Positions are available across the district with a focus on high-demand positions like English, elementary education, science, math and special education.

During the event, candidates will have an opportunity to meet with district representatives via pre-scheduled virtual interviews held daily. Qualified candidates are invited to apply online at [www.leeschools.net/careers](http://www.leeschools.net/careers) for the position titled Pool – Talent Connection Event (Job ID 20210305) by April 12.

The district's efforts to put "The Right Talent in the Right Place" means that new teachers will receive the support and necessary resources that will enable them to succeed upon entering the field of education. The School District of Lee County offers a competitive and comprehensive compensation plan for its employees with a starting salary of \$47,300. Additional benefits and earning opportunities are also available via advanced degree supplement, summer school, athletic coaching and other programs. Upon hire, a personal benefits selection process will be made available to eligible employees.

To learn more about available career opportunities, visit [www.leeschools.net/careers/hiring\\_now](http://www.leeschools.net/careers/hiring_now).✱

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## Major Sponsor For Kiwanis Auction



From left, Kiwanian Pete Bender, Cielo General Manager Marcus Preece and Kiwanian Tom Sharbaugh photo provided

Cielo is heading up the list of sponsors for the Kiwanis Club of Sanibel-Captiva online auction, which will raise funds for the Kiwanis Scholarship Fund and other grants the club provides to local youth recreation and education programs. The auction, usually part of the Kiwanis Spaghetti Dinner, will be held as a free-standing

online event this year due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Those interested in reviewing and placing bids on the lineup of auction items can visit [www.32auctions.com/SanCapKiwanisAuction](http://www.32auctions.com/SanCapKiwanisAuction). Bidding for the auction opens on Friday, March 19 and closes on Sunday, March 28 at 6 p.m.\*

## Virtual Auction To Benefit Breast Cancer Research

Play for PINK is more than a golf tournament. It also includes a virtual auction with items such as Coach purses, Captain Mike's Fun Run to Useppa, a boat trip to Tarpon Lodge, golf outings at local clubs, an oil painting of Sanibel seashells, a gift basket with everything you need for a day on the links, a four-hour kayak fishing trip, to name just a few of the items offered. The virtual auction will take place online from Wednesday, March 24 to Saturday, March 27.

Many local businesses such as Whims, The Sanctuary Golf Club, MudBugs Cajun Kitchen, Captiva Cruises, Priscilla's, Blackwood Tennis, Her Sports Closet, Sanibel Day Spa, MacIntosh Books & Paper, Blue Giraffe, Cape Nails, Fort Myers Olive Oil and Balsamics and Sanibel Sea School have donated items and/or gift certificates. Other items up for bid include stays at South Seas Island Resort, the Inns of Sanibel, West Wind Inn and Sundial Beach Resort & Spa.

On Saturday, March 20 at noon, the preview for the virtual auction begins. To view the auction items, visit <https://www.charityauctionstoday.com/auctions/DunesPlayForPink-21215>.

Anyone may sign in to the website to see all of the items that committee members have been collecting from local businesses and retailers, friends and club members. The website will go live for



This gift basket from Coco y Cabana is one of over 40 items that will be up for auction photo provided

bidding at noon on Wednesday, March 24 and will remain open and active until 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 27.

Winning bidders may pick their items at The Dunes Golf & Tennis Club, 949 Sand Castle Road, on Monday, March 29. Additional instructions for pick up will be posted on the auction website.

All of the auction proceeds go to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation thanks to the support of event sponsors: The Sanibel Captiva Trust Company, Sanibel Captiva Community Bank and Pfeifer Realty Group. All Play for PINK functions are underwritten by the Estee Lauder Companies.\*

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Beautifulife:  
Lessons



by Kay Casperson

My youngest daughter, who is now 14, recently went to a gathering with her friends at an indoor trampoline park. Unfortunately, she bounced wrong, fell, and landed on her ankle, which is now

fractured, and her leg is in a cast. The worst part about all of that is that this is now her spring break. Also, her cheerleading tryouts for high school next year are at the end of this month. She is bummed about it but knows this too shall pass, and it is what it is. Her takeaway lesson from this is that she probably should not have been doing what they call the trampoline park's wipeout section. This park area is most likely where you can, as they say, "wipeout" and land wrong, especially right before cheer tryouts and spring break, when all her friends want to be at the beach. As her Mom, I, of course, reminded her about making good decisions, good choices and understanding the consequences when you don't. Life lessons are something we learn over our lifetime; in fact, we never stop learning them. There will always be something thrown our way now and then that

requires us to choose wisely and live with the outcome. From our own health and wellbeing to the care and decisions we make for our loved ones. From the actions we take when a crisis hits to where and how we choose to live our lives. From who we choose to love to who we choose to keep as acquaintances. All of these things and many more are choices we make all the time, and they are not always easy ones to make. With everything we do and go through in our lives, there is a lesson to be learned. It may not be apparent right away as to what that lesson is, but I assure you that there is one. We all just went through an incredibly unpredicted experience this past year. It was a crazy year for sure, between the pandemic and politics. I hope my children don't ever have to go through this kind of year again in their lifetimes. But, if they do, they will be just fine as we have done our best to prepare them for the future. The lessons we can take away from the past year are most likely too many to list here. They range from staying healthy and fit to trusting your heart and focusing on the truth. Yes, life's lessons are essential as they keep us moving forward to our best and most beautiful life. I encourage you to find the lesson in everything that you have gone through, past and present. Know that all of these things can and will push you to a new level of gratitude, humility, forgiveness, strength and wisdom. My affirmation for you this week is:

"I am opening my heart to my life lessons and know that I am a better human because of them." Kay Casperson is a beauty and lifestyle expert, founder and CEO of Beautifulife by Kay Casperson. She owns resort spas on Sanibel and Captiva islands and manufactures beauty and lifestyle products sold across the country. To stay inspired, visit [www.kaycasperson.com](http://www.kaycasperson.com) or follow on social media @kaycasperson.✧

dearRPharmacist  
What To Do For Chronically Itchy Skin



by Suzy Cohen, RPh  
Dear Readers: The average person is estimated to scratch an itch on their body about a hundred times a day, and that is considered pretty

normal. But what if you have a chronic itch? The scratching could be non-stop, and you could scratch yourself to the point of bleeding. I can help you today. Itching is one of those symptoms that will drive you mad unless you get to the root cause and treat it. This can be the most difficult part. Unfortunately, digging deep isn't what happens at first when you show up at the doctor's office with an itchy rash. You will have to go to the pharmacy to pick up a steroid like a Medrol Dose pack, and some Benadryl. If you're among the lucky, the itchy sensation will clear up with those. But what if it doesn't? The misery of chronic itchy sensations, and an accompanying painful rash could baffle you and your practitioners for weeks, sometimes months and years. Today, I'll cover a few conditions that cause itch, along with my suggestions for treatment. Please ask your doctor about what's right for you. Tinea Versicolor – This common fungal infection results in discolored patches of skin that are lighter or darker than surrounding skin. Since this is

caused by a fungus, you will need to eliminate refined sugar in your diet because that feeds fungus. You could rub some coconut oil on the area, since that is an easily accessible natural anti-fungal. If it's all over, you could take a shower and use a selenium sulfide body wash (like Selsun Blue) or buy a soap containing zinc pyrithione. Hot Tub Folliculitis – This is sometimes also called Pool Folliculitis, and the rash can cause itchy, red and tender bumps that contain pus. You can get this from a swimming pool or whirlpool that looks like it has perfectly, clean water because the causative bacteria *Pseudomonas aeruginosa* will survive in water that's been chlorinated. Treatments usually include silver-containing creams or gels. Some people try compresses with distilled vinegar. In serious cases, an antibiotic will be prescribed. Progesterone Dermatitis – This is an immune-driven condition that causes itchiness in a recurring fashion due to the rise in progesterone with every menstrual cycle. Managing hormones and suppressing the immune response may help this. Neuropathic Itch – This type of itch is a difficult one to diagnose because there is no presentation of a rash or bump, or scaly skin or anything. It's your word basically, and nothing to show for it. You can change your shampoo, soap, laundry detergent, bedding and clothing, and the itch will stay with you. One of the most promising treatments for neuropathic itch are the JAK inhibitor drugs. One in particular is Xelgan (tofacitinib). I researched like crazy to find a natural JAK inhibitor, and it appears that thymoquinone might be helpful. Black seed oil supplements are rich in that compound. In closing, I will refer you to the work of Dr. Brian S. Kim who can be found on twitter as @itchdoctor. Dr. Kim has done pioneering research on the topic of itch. If you're interested in the longer version of my article, which includes more causes for chronic itch, I can email it to you if you're part of my online community. Just sign up for my newsletter at [www.suzycohen.com](http://www.suzycohen.com). This information is not intended to treat, cure or diagnose your condition. Suzy Cohen is the author of The 24-Hour Pharmacist and is a registered pharmacist. To contact her, visit [www.SuzyCohen.com](http://www.SuzyCohen.com).✧

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## Doctor and Dietician

Muffin Recipe  
For A Healthier  
Breakfast Bite

by Ross Hauser, MD  
and Marion Hauser, MS, RD

We are always looking for something different, yet quick, to eat for breakfast. We found this recipe on a plant-based eating blog: [www.veganak.com](http://www.veganak.com). Making muffins like this is a great way to incorporate more vegetables into your daily eating plan.

These muffins are packed with nutrients and flavor. This is a vegan recipe so you will see that we used applesauce instead of eggs. Applesauce provides the same texture and brings a unique taste to baked goods.

Ceylon cinnamon (and cinnamon Cassia) is a spice used in many cultures in both sweet and savory dishes. It has many health benefits including promising use as an insulin stabilizer, antioxidant and immune system stimulator. Interestingly enough, cinnamic acid contained in cinnamon also has anti-inflammatory properties and helps blood flow through the body, reducing the stress on the heart. Recently we read a study on the beneficial effects of Ceylon cinnamon for neurologic conditions such as Alzheimer's disease and the prevention of its onset.

So, give these nutrient-packed tasty muffins a try. Feel free to add your own

tweaks. Hope you enjoy them as much as we do!

## Ingredients:

2 cups all-purpose flour (we use Bob's Red Mill Gluten-free, all-purpose flour)

3/4 cup brown sugar, packed (we reduced this in half. Can also substitute Erythritol)

1 1/2 tsp. baking soda

1 1/2 tsp. baking powder

3 tsp. cinnamon (we like Ceylon cinnamon for its health benefits)

3/4 tsp sea salt

2 cups grated organic carrots

1 cup grated zucchini or grated apple (or half and half)

1/2 cup shredded unsweetened coconut

1/2 cup mixed seeds, sunflower, and pumpkin (or pecans or walnuts)

Zest of one large orange

1 cup unsweetened apple sauce

1/2 cup oil (grapeseed, coconut, or avocado)

3 tsp vanilla extract

1/3 to 1/2 cup dried cranberries, cherries, or raisins (optional)

Directions: Preheat oven to 425° and grease a 12-cup muffin tin. Press a clean kitchen towel into the zucchini to remove excess liquid. In a large mixing bowl, mix together flour, sugar, baking soda, baking powder, cinnamon and salt. Add grated carrots, zucchini, coconut, seeds and orange zest. Make a well in the center and add oil, applesauce and vanilla. Mix but do not overmix. Evenly divide into 12 muffin cups. Bake for 5 minutes at 425° then reduce heat to 350°. Continue to bake for 20 to 22 minutes or until toothpick comes out clean. Remove and cool.

These are delicious right out of the oven with some butter, vegan butter, nut butter, or just plain. Bon appetite!

*This information is not intended to treat, cure or diagnose your condition. Ross Hauser, MD, and Marion Hauser, MS, RD, established Caring Medical in 1991. Caring Medical Florida and the Hauser Neck Center are located in Fort Myers. They can be reached at [info@caringmedical.com](mailto:info@caringmedical.com).\**

Plasma Donors  
Needed To Help  
Refill Supply

Lee Health is in need of convalescent plasma donations to help refill supply levels. Under an emergency use authorization (EUA), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration has made investigational convalescent plasma available for the treatment of COVID-19 in hospitalized patients as part of the agency's ongoing efforts to fight COVID-19.

Convalescent plasma refers to blood plasma collected from people who have recovered from COVID-19. That plasma is then used to treat others with COVID-19. The blood donor must have had a positive test for SARS-CoV-2 (the virus that causes COVID-19), be

symptom free for at least 14 days and be otherwise eligible to donate blood.

The procedure is the same as any routine blood donation. After donation, the blood is processed in the lab to obtain the plasma component. The patient is transfused with the donor's convalescent plasma, which contains antibodies that may attack the virus and may help the patient recover more rapidly.

Here's how the donation program works at Lee Health:

Individuals who have previously tested positive for COVID-19 whose symptoms have resolved for at least 14 days can volunteer to donate blood.

Donors are screened by clinical personnel with questions and tests to make sure they are appropriate to donate blood that will be processed to make COVID-19 convalescent plasma.

To volunteer, call 343-2332 or email [covid.plasma@leehealth.org](mailto:covid.plasma@leehealth.org) (email

preferred).

Documented routine blood donation consent is required; forms provided by Lee Health.

If potential donors are appropriate, an appointment for blood donation is scheduled at a Lee Health donation site.

All donations collected by Lee Health

Got A Problem?  
Dr. Connie Is In

by Constance  
Clancy

**Q:** My parents sent me off to an inpatient therapy center so I could work on "my problems," yet they both drink too much and refuse to get help for themselves. It is

so hard to be with them, and it's been going on for years. I'm 30 years old. What can I do?

**A:** I hope that your time in treatment was helpful for you. While it is difficult to see your parents in this state, you may not be able to help them change, however, you can continue to help yourself. I would like to suggest Al-Anon meetings for you. This is a support group for those who have family

members who struggle with alcohol. There are many online groups that you can join so you have the support you need. Most meetings begin with reading the 12 steps of Al-Anon. I don't know if you live near your parents, but wherever you are, it's important that you set healthy boundaries with them. If you see them, you may want to limit your visits and when you talk with them on the phone, you can do the same.

Continue to get support for yourself and you will be able to use better healthy coping techniques to keep you healthy. If you find yourself not having healthy boundaries or unable to cope, you may want to contact a therapist who works with co-dependency and family members of alcoholics in addition to Al-Anon. Take extreme self care and stay well.

Constance Clancy, EdD, LMHC, LPC, NCC is a licensed mental health therapist, hypnotherapist, author and holistic stress management instructor. If you have a question, email [Constance at drconstanceclancy@gmail.com](mailto:Constance@drconstanceclancy.com) or visit [www.drconstanceclancy.com](http://www.drconstanceclancy.com).\*

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Lee County Alliance for the Arts .....	939-2787
Naples Philharmonic.....	597-1111
Sanibel Music Festival .....	336-7999
Sanibel-Captiva Art League .....	sancapart.org
Southwest Florida Symphony .....	418-0996
Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida .....	560-5695
CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS	
ABWA.....	<a href="http://abwasanibelcaptiva.org">http://abwasanibelcaptiva.org</a>
American Legion Post 123.....	472-9979
Angel Flight SE .....	1-877-4AN-ANGEL
Audubon of SWFL.....	<a href="https://www.audubonswfl.org/">https://www.audubonswfl.org/</a>
Audubon Society.....	472-3744
Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum .....	395-2233
CHR Community Housing & Resources .....	472-1189
Community Foundation of Sanibel-Captiva .....	274-5900
COTI Committee of the Islands .....	<a href="mailto:coti@coti.org">coti@coti.org</a>
CROW, Clinic For The Rehabilitation of Wildlife.....	472-3644
Disabled Am Vets #108 (San-Cap Rep Ted Tyson) 211 .....	984-5920
FISH OF SANCAP Neighbors Helping Neighbors .....	472-4775
FISH OF SANCAP 24-hr service.....	472-0404
Horticultural Society of the Islands.....	472-6940
Horticulture and Tea Society of Sanibel and Captiva .....	472-8334
JN "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge .....	472-1100
Kiwanis Club .....	677-7299
League of Women Voters .....	<a href="mailto:sanibelLWV@gmail.com">sanibelLWV@gmail.com</a>
Lions Club, Jeff MacDonald.....	302-521-1158
Master Gardeners of the Islands .....	472-6940
Military Officers Assc. of America, Alex MacKenzie ..	395-9232
Newcomers .....	472-9332
Notre Dame Club of Southwest Florida .....	768-0417
Optimist Club.....	472-0836
PAWS, Protection of Animal Welfare Society .....	239-313-6918
Progressive Club of the Islands .....	<a href="mailto:pcisancap@gmail.com">pcisancap@gmail.com</a>
Rotary Club .....	472-7257 or 472-0141
Sanibel Bike Club .....	<a href="http://sanibelbicycleclub.org">sanibelbicycleclub.org</a>
Sanibel Beautification Inc.....	470-2866
Sanibel-Captiva Orchid Society.....	472-6940
Sanibel-Captiva Power Squadron .....	<a href="http://www.sancapboating.club">www.sancapboating.club</a>
Sanibel-Captiva Republican Caucus.....	395-0819
Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club.....	267-7291
Sanibel Historical Museum & Village .....	472-4648
Sanibel Island Fishing Club .....	472-8994
Sanibel Youth Soccer.....	395-2040
SCCF Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation.....	472-2329
SCCF Sea Turtle Hotline.....	978-728-3663
Shell Islands Garden Club .....	246-8875
United Way of Lee County - 24 hour helpline 211 .....	433-2000
Zonta Club .....	728-1971

To be listed in calling card email your information to:  
[press@islandsunnews.com](mailto:press@islandsunnews.com)

PUZZLES

Answers on page 31B



SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Raider  
**PARTIE**

Veer  
**WEVERS**

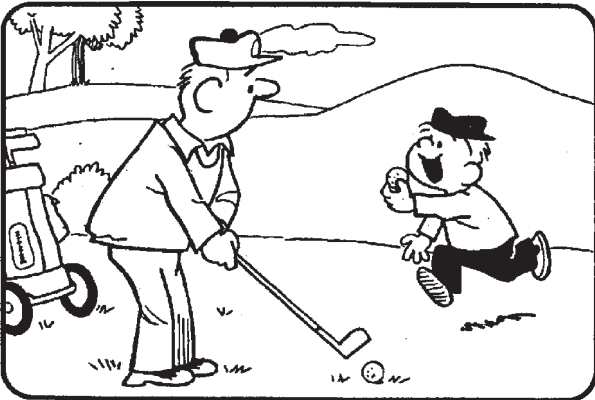
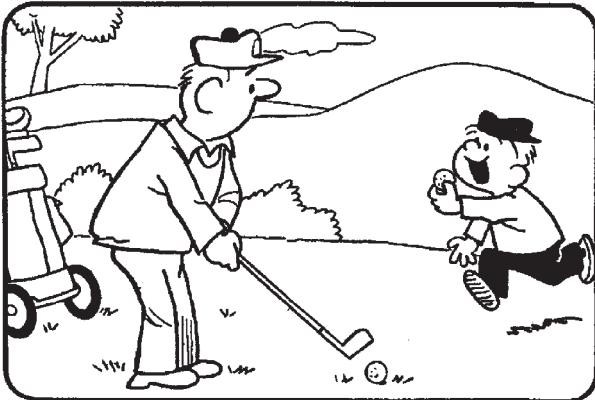
Sugar  
**CORUSES**

Chide  
**CLODS**

TODAY'S WORD

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Boy is moved. 2. Golf club is missing. 3. Tree is added. 4. Golf shoes are different. 5. Hedge is missing. 6. Zipper is added.

To Play  
Sudoku:

Complete the grid so that every row, column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (the same number cannot appear more than once in a row, column or 3x3 box.) There is no guessing and no math involved, just logic.

	1		9					5
5				3		7	2	
		4			8			9
		3	8					6
7		9			6	2		
	4			1			8	
		2	7					1
	5		6	4			3	
8					5	6		

# PETS OF THE WEEK



Link ID# A853663

photos provided

Lee County Domestic Animal Services

## Link And Minnie

Hello, my name is Link. I'm a 6-year-old brown hound mix. I'm an energetic boy who may be short in stature, but not in personality. I love to be the center of attention whether I am playing outside or just sitting on the couch snuggling. I love to flirt with the girls in the next playyard and share my toys with them. My adoption fee is \$40.

Hi, my name is Minnie. I'm a 5-year-old female domestic shorthair. I'm your typical tortie with the "it's all about me" motto. But no worries, I'm a sweet, loving cat who will greet you at



Minnie ID# A633733

the door after a long day of work and be your BFF! My unique coloring makes me one of a kind. Be sure to stop by the adoption center and visit with me today. My adoption fee is \$20, and you can adopt a friend for me at no additional fee.

Lee County Domestic Animal Services is located at 5600 Banner Drive in Fort Myers. Adoptions are available by appointment Monday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Visit [www.leelostpets.com](http://www.leelostpets.com) to complete an online application. As always, cats and kittens are adopt one and get a feline friend at no additional charge. For more information, call 533-7387.\*

## Food Campaign Begins For North Bound Residents

Lee County Solid Waste's 3rd annual Donated not Wasted food rescue campaign encourages seasonal residents and visitors to donate unopened pantry items before returning north. The two previous campaigns resulted in 6,000 pounds of food diverted from potential disposal – enough to provide 5,000 meals to hungry people.

Nationwide, Americans throw out 30 to 40 percent of the available food supply. In Lee County, food waste accounts for 13 percent, or 70,000 tons, of the local waste stream, according to a 2016 audit.

Since the onset of COVID-19, the need for food has increased dramatically. "Last year, we distributed 32.4 million pounds of food," said Meg Madzar, food drive coordinator for Harry Chapin Food Bank. "Now, we are distributing nearly one million pounds a week and feeding a quarter of a million people a month."

People can drop off unopened canned or dry goods from March 22 to April 5 at libraries or Lee County Parks & Recreation centers. Additional collection containers are located at the Parks & Recreation's Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve and at Lee County Solid Waste's Topaz Court Household Chemical Waste Facility.

Partners in the Donated not Wasted campaign include: Harry Chapin Food Bank; Lee County Government – Lee County Solid Waste, Lee County Parks & Recreation and the Lee County Library System; additional municipal libraries – City of Sanibel and Town of Fort Myers Beach libraries; Waste Pro; and FOX4.

Drop off locations include:

Estero Recreation Center, 9200 Corkscrew Palms Boulevard, Estero  
North Fort Myers Recreation Center, 2000 North Recreation Park Way, North Fort Myers  
Veterans Park Recreation Center, 55 Homestead Road South, Lehigh Acres  
Wa-Ke Hatchee Recreation Center, 16760 Bass Road, Fort Myers  
Bonita Springs Public Library, 10560 Reynolds Street, Bonita Springs  
Cape Coral-Lee County Public Library, 921 SW 39th Terrace, Cape Coral  
Captiva Memorial Library, 11560 Chapin Lane, Captiva  
Dunbar Jupiter Hammon Public Library, 3095 Blount Street, Fort Myers  
East County Regional Library, 881 Gunnery Road, Lehigh Acres  
Fort Myers Regional Library, 2450 First Street, Fort Myers  
Fort Myers Beach Public Library, 2755 Estero Boulevard, Fort Myers Beach  
Johann Fust Community Library, 1040 West 10th Street, Boca Grande  
Lakes Regional Library, 15290 Bass Road, Fort Myers  
North Fort Myers Public Library, 2001 N. Tamiami Trail, North Fort Myers  
Northwest Regional Library, 519 Chiquita Boulevard North, Cape Coral  
Pine Island Public Library, 10701 Russell Road, Bokeelia  
Riverdale Branch Library, 2421 Buckingham Road, Fort Myers  
Sanibel Public Library, 770 Dunlop Road, Sanibel  
South County Regional Library, 21100 Three Oaks Parkway, Estero  
3. Additional sites  
Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve, 7751 Penzance Boulevard, Fort Myers  
Topaz Court Solid Waste Annex, 6441 Topaz Court, Fort Myers.  
Visit [www.leegov.com/solidwaste](http://www.leegov.com/solidwaste) or call 533-8000 for more information.\*

## My Stars ★★★★★

### FOR WEEK OF MARCH 15, 2021

**Aries** (March 21 to April 19) Consider moving beyond the usual methods to find a more creative means of handling a difficult on-the-job situation. Avoid confrontation and, instead, aim for cooperation.

**Taurus** (April 20 to May 20) Seasonal change creates a new look for the outdoors. It also inspires Taureans to redo their own environments, and this is a good week to start redoing both your home and workplace. Enjoy.

**Gemini** (May 21 to June 20) A misunderstanding needs to be straightened out so the wrong impression isn't allowed to stand. If necessary, offer to support the use of a third party to act as an impartial arbitrator.

**Cancer** (June 21 to July 22) A career change offering what you want in money and responsibilities could involve moving to a new location. Discuss this with family members before making a decision.

**Leo** (July 23 to August 22) Feeling miffed over how you believe you were treated is understandable. But before you decide to "set things straight," make sure the whole thing wasn't just a misinterpretation of the facts.

**Virgo** (August 23 to September 22) Showing you care makes it easier to build

trust and gain an advantage in handling a delicate situation. What you learn from this experience also will help you understand yourself better.

**Libra** (September 23 to October 22) Planning for the future is fine, especially if you include the roles that family members may be asked to play. Don't be surprised if some hidden emotions are revealed in the process.

**Scorpio** (October 23 to November 21) Making choices highlights much of the week, and you have a head start here, thanks to your ability to grasp the facts of a situation and interpret them in a clear-cut manner.

**Sagittarius** (November 22 to December 21) Carrying a torch can be a two-way situation: It can either keep you tied to the past or help light your way to the future. The choice, as always, has to be yours.

**Capricorn** (December 22 to January 19) Your watchwords this week are: "Focus." "Focus." "Focus." Don't let yourself be distracted from what you set out to do. There'll be time later to look over other possibilities.

**Aquarius** (January 20 to February 18) A workplace opportunity might require changes you're not keen on making. Discuss the pluses and minuses with someone familiar with the situation before you make a decision.

### Pisces (February 19 to March 20)

Love and romance are strong in your aspect this week. If you've already met the right person, expect your relationship to grow. And if you're still looking, odds are you'll soon be finding it.

**Born This Week:** You approach life in a wise and measured manner, which gives you an edge in many areas.

### MOMENTS IN TIME

• On March 23, 1839, the initials "OK" are first published, in *The Boston Morning Post*. Meant as an abbreviation for "oll korrekt," a popular slang misspelling of "all correct" at the time, OK steadily made its way into the everyday speech of Americans.

• On March 26, 1920, *This Side of Paradise* is published, immediately launching 23-year-old F. Scott Fitzgerald to fame and fortune. While in Europe, Fitzgerald finished his masterpiece, *The Great Gatsby* (1925).

• On March 25, 1933, the newly commissioned USS Sequoia becomes the official presidential yacht. Previously, the Department of Commerce had used the Sequoia as a decoy to catch Prohibition lawbreakers.

• On March 22, 1947, President Harry Truman establishes a sweeping loyalty investigation of federal employees in response to public fears of communism in

the U.S. Congress had already launched investigations of communist influence in Hollywood.

• On March 28, 1958, William Christopher Handy, the famous blues musician known as WC, dies in New York City. Jazz standards *The Memphis Blues* and *St. Louis Blues* are his most famous compositions, but his musical legacy can be heard in works of composers as varied as George Gershwin and Keith Richards.

• On March 27, 1973, actor Marlon Brando declines the Academy Award for Best Actor for his performance in *The Godfather* as a protest against Hollywood's portrayal of Native Americans in film. The first performer to turn down a Best Actor Oscar was George C. Scott, for *Patton* in 1971.

• On March 24, 1989, one of the worst oil spills in U.S. territory begins when the supertanker Exxon Valdez, owned and operated by the Exxon Corporation, runs aground on a reef in Prince William Sound in southern Alaska. An estimated 11 million gallons of oil eventually spilled into the water, polluting more than 700 miles of coastline.

### NOW HERE'S A TIP

• "When thickening soup, don't overlook instant mashed potato mix. It's perfect for making a thin broth into a

continued on page 30B

PUZZLES

Answers on page 31B

Super Crossword RIDING ON EMPTY

- ACROSS
- 1 Veg-o- — (Ronco product)
- 6 Cesar who played the Joker
- 12 Stocking material
- 16 Counterpart of a column
- 19 Neighbor of Minneapolis
- 20 Hybrid ride
- 21 Falco of "Outside In"
- 22 Dramatist Levin
- 23 Start of a riddle
- 26 Engage in, as a trade
- 27 Chilling Chaney
- 28 English actress Diana
- 29 Astronaut Grissom
- 30 Charisma
- 32 Like a triangle with three unequal sides
- 34 Respected
- 38 Fashion's Wintour
- 39 Riddle, part 2
- 43 Emotes, e.g.
- 46 Pupil locale
- 47 Young tiger
- 48 Tijuana "two"
- 49 Riddle, part 3
- 57 Earthy hue
- 58 Chaperones, typically
- 59 Hot dog roll
- 60 Part of SWAK
- 64 Work unit
- 65 It often follows "Co."
- 66 Use a kayak
- 68 Like snakes
- 69 Untidy type
- 71 Riddle, part 4
- 76 Parallel (with)
- 77 Cake layers
- 79 "To clarify ..."
- 80 Suffix with Taiwan
- 82 TV's Longoria
- 83 Calm
- 85 Backwoods denial
- 86 Inventive Edison
- 89 Male sheep
- 90 Riddle, part 5
- 94 Toothpaste box org.
- 97 Memento of Molokai
- 98 Haughtiness
- 99 Spots
- 100 End of the riddle
- 108 Roll-call call
- 109 "30 Rock" star
- 110 Seasons of falling leaves
- 114 Sneakers brand
- 117 Hwy. offense
- 118 Part of SWAK
- 119 Roll-call call
- 120 Fellow
- 121 Riddle's answer
- 127 LGA info
- 128 German Mr.
- 129 Join a class
- 130 Rebound on a pool table
- 131 Comfy room
- 132 Female sheep
- 133 Entertainer Charles Nelson —
- 134 Revival shouts
- DOWN
- 1 Whimpers
- 2 Specially formed, as a committee
- 3 Disney princess from "The Princess and the Frog"
- 4 Bank acct. accrual
- 5 — Yards (Orioles' stadium)
- 6 Got long again, as a mown lawn
- 7 Phil of protest songs
- 8 Bon — (witticism)
- 9 Outer: Prefix
- 10 Match cheer
- 11 Salem locale
- 12 Teacher of martial arts
- 13 Boise locale: Abbr.
- 14 Peruvian capital
- 15 Maintain
- 16 Matured
- 17 City near Epcot
- 18 Attacks from ambush
- 24 Skye of the screen
- 25 Mongolian tent
- 31 Shriver of tennis
- 33 Final
- 34 Actor Buchholz
- 35 Overlooks
- 36 Humorist Ogden
- 37 Cato's 750
- 40 Small brook
- 41 Actors' aids
- 42 Melancholy instruments
- 43 Certifies (to)
- 44 Actor Sheen
- 45 Did a slowish ballroom dance
- 50 — chi ch'uan
- 51 Novelist O'Brien
- 52 Emmy winner Susan
- 53 Internet auction site
- 54 StarKist fish
- 55 In a little bit
- 56 Confront
- 61 Shirley's TV roommate
- 62 Give a lift to
- 63 Balls of fire
- 66 Hoodwink
- 67 Pathological plant swelling
- 70 Bric-a- —
- 72 Prefix with potent
- 73 Tire (out)
- 74 Cry buckets
- 75 "Pronto"
- 78 Swiped
- 81 Special ability, for short
- 84 Fancy pourer
- 86 Yours, in the King James Bible
- 87 Equine, in tot-speak
- 88 Really, really
- 91 Special ability
- 92 Street stray
- 93 Biblical brother of Jacob
- 94 Humiliated
- 95 When delivery is expected
- 96 Nigerian, e.g.
- 101 Nurtured
- 102 Bill tack-ons
- 103 "Movin' —" ("The Jeffersons" theme song)
- 104 Shipping container
- 105 Chiefly
- 106 Cashews and pecans
- 107 Cornell's city
- 111 Mother, in Spain
- 112 Stocking material
- 113 Appears
- 115 Tennis star Arthur
- 116 Whole bunch
- 118 Actor Ferrell
- 122 Sooner than, to bards
- 123 Ending for butyl
- 124 — Lanka
- 125 Fa-la linkup
- 126 Water flow stopper

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14	15		16	17	18
19						20							21					22		
23					24							25						26		
27				28							29				30		31			
32				33				34	35	36				37			38			
				39				40							41	42				
43	44	45					46						47					48		
49				50	51	52					53	54	55				56			
57				58							59				60			61	62	63
64				65						66				67		68				
69				70		71		72	73	74					75		76			
77				78		79								80		81		82		
83					84		85					86	87	88				89		
				90			91				92						93			
94	95	96		97						98							99			
100				101				102	103	104				105	106	107				
108																		111	112	113
114				115	116		117						118					119		
120				121		122					123	124	125					126		
127				128						129							130			
131				132						133							134			

King Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Nightwear, for short
- 4 Rm. coolers
- 7 Fable writer
- 12 Decay
- 13 Prefix with athlete
- 14 Preamble
- 15 Mode lead-in
- 16 Soundly defeated
- 18 Zilch
- 19 Berth places
- 20 Retain
- 22 Away from NNW
- 23 Roundish 'do
- 27 Writer Harper
- 29 Sitting room
- 31 Prepared apples for baking
- 34 Street punks
- 35 Uproar
- 37 Rotating part
- 38 A Great Lake
- 39 Actor Stephen
- 41 Dumbstruck
- 45 Striped equine
- 47 Hockey's Bobby
- 48 Performed to the end
- 52 Gun-lobby org.
- 53 Broadcaster
- 54 Code-
- breaking gp.
- 55 Small barrel
- 56 Musical pace
- 57 Thither
- 58 Billboards
- DOWN
- 1 Bit of mischief
- 2 "Salt" star
- 3 Angelina
- 3 Trité
- 4 Perched on sea
- 5 Vacation at sea
- 6 Locations
- 7 Has a bug
- 8 Disney deer
- 9 Pigs' digs
- 10 Metal source
- 11 Group of whales
- 17 Get ready, briefly
- 21 West Point freshman
- 23 Bakery lure
- 24 "Alice" waitress
- 25 Scepter
- 26 Hosp. areas
- 28 College URL ender
- 30 "Eureka!"
- 31 "Evita" narra-
- tor
- 32 Owned by us
- 33 MLB stat
- 36 Raised
- 37 Tenor Enrico
- 40 Deep, lustrous black
- 42 Candymaker Willy
- 43 Goofed
- 44 Pulls
- 45 Goose egg
- 46 — impasse
- 48 Bit of butter
- 49 Fib
- 50 Branch
- 51 "Uh-huh"

MAGIC MAZE "S" COUNTRIES

V P N K I F C A X E V L D S A  
Q O (S W I T Z E R L A N D) L C  
J H L E C A O O X G A V T R I  
P N O L J H P N E L F D B A R  
Y X V V T A A N I A P S I R F  
P O E M G D E Z A R K B I G A  
E D N N U S A I O B A Z X W H  
U T I S R W B Q M R O M N L T  
J S A I S R I L A N K A N G U  
F D C N E D E W S S Y R I A O  
A Y X S W A E R O K H T U O S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally  
Unlisted clue hint: SAUDI —

- Samoa Singapore Spain Sweden  
San Marino Slovenia Sri Lanka Switzerland  
Senegal South Africa Sudan Syria  
Serbia South Korea Swaziland

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FRIDAY  
Partly Cloudy  
High: 78 Low: 70




SATURDAY  
Sunny  
High: 77 Low: 71



SUNDAY  
Sunny  
High: 74 Low: 66



MONDAY  
Mostly Cloudy  
High: 75 Low: 68



TUESDAY  
Sunny  
High: 78 Low: 70



WEDNESDAY  
Mostly Cloudy  
High: 77 Low: 71



THURSDAY  
Mostly Cloudy  
High: 76 Low: 68

Redfish Pass Tides					Point Ybel Tides					Punta Rassa Tides					Cape Coral Bridge Tides				
Day	High	Low	High	Low	Day	High	Low	High	Low	Day	High	Low	High	Low	Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	6:39 am	9:41 am	4:39 pm	None	Fri	5:44 am	9:43 am	3:44 pm	None	Fri	5:49 am	10:03 am	4:11 pm	None	Fri	8:49 am	2:47 am	6:49 pm	12:57 pm
Sat	5:19 pm	12:37 am	None	None	Sat	4:24 pm	12:39 am	None	None	Sat	6:56 am	12:26 am	4:55 pm	10:22 am	Sat	7:29 pm	3:53 am	None	None
Sun	6:13 pm	1:55 am	None	None	Sun	5:18 pm	1:57 am	None	None	Sun	8:16 am	2:02 am	5:47 pm	10:47 am	Sun	8:23 pm	5:11 am	None	None
Mon	7:32 pm	3:16 am	None	None	Mon	6:37 pm	3:18 am	None	None	Mon	7:03 pm	3:17 am	None	None	Mon	9:42 pm	6:32 am	None	None
Tue	9:09 pm	4:23 am	None	None	Tue	8:14 pm	4:25 am	None	None	Tue	9:22 pm	4:17 am	None	None	Tue	11:19 pm	7:39 am	None	None
Wed	1:18 pm	5:15 am	10:31 pm	4:18 pm	Wed	12:23 pm	5:17 am	9:36 pm	4:20 pm	Wed	12:03 pm	5:11 am	10:45 pm	4:29 pm	Wed	3:28 pm	8:31 am	None	7:34 pm
Thu	1:23 pm	5:58 am	11:36 pm	5:19 pm	Thu	12:28 pm	6:00 am	10:41 pm	5:21 pm	Thu	12:30 pm	5:58 am	11:46 pm	5:35 pm	Thu	12:41 am	9:14 am	3:33 pm	8:35 pm

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--	--	--	--------------------------------------	---	---

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\* Price Match Guarantee Applicable With Proof Of 2 Other Estimates From A Licensed Contractor

From page 25B

## Now Here’s A Tip

- nice, thick stew sauce, and it’s pretty cheap. It only takes a couple of tablespoons.” – IF in Utah
- “Cut kitchen sponges into smaller pieces. They clean as well as a larger sponge, and you can dispose of the smaller pieces when they get yucky.” – OC in Michigan
  - Don’t forget to clean out your dryer’s lint trap regularly. It can get clogged up, and that can be a fire hazard. Set a reminder on your phone to vacuum it out once a month.
  - If you have high boots, you can use this trick to keep them looking good and upright in storage. Simply use 1-liter soda bottles. They can be empty, or you can poke some small holes around the bottom and add a little baking soda, which will keep the boots dry and odor free.
  - Ficus trees can remove up to 80 percent formaldehyde in the air. Other

great indoor air-cleaning plants include peace lilies, ivies, spider plants and ferns.

- “Have you overdyed your hair at home? Try washing your hair with a dandruff shampoo. You may have to repeat it, but dandruff shampoo can sometimes get the extra color out of your hair follicles. Make sure that you condition well afterward.” – BR in Georgia

### STRANGE BUT TRUE

- Attention, *Lord of the Rings* fans: the dark region on the north pole of Pluto’s moon, Charon, is called Mordor.
- A common issue with blood donation – along with other types of charitable contributions – is that if donors don’t know the recipient, it’s harder to convince them that donating is beneficial. Therefore, in an effort to encourage more young people to give blood, Sahlgrenska University Hospital in Gothenburg, Sweden, sends a text when their donation has been dispensed to someone in need, providing proof that it’s going to good use.
- The Twitter bird actually has a

name – Larry, after Hall of Fame basketball player Larry Bird.

- In the 18th century, Napoleon Bonaparte and Benjamin Franklin were both defeated at chess by a machine called the Mechanical Turk – or at least they thought they were. It was later revealed to be quite the elaborate hoax, with a highly skilled chess master hiding inside the “machine” and moving the pieces against the opponent.
- In a move to keep disease-wary Nazis away, Polish doctor Eugene Lazowski faked a typhus outbreak, saving over 8,000 people from slave labor camps and death.
- The longest song title ever is Hoagy Carmichael’s 1943 *I’m a Cranky Old Yank in a Clanky Old Tank on the Streets of Yokohama with my Honolulu Mama Doin’ Those Beat-o, Beat-o Flat-On-My-Seat-o, Hirohito Blues*.
- Duncan Hines was a real person – a popular restaurant critic who also wrote a book of hotel recommendations.
- Eight of the 10 largest statues in the world are of Buddhas.

- Pittsburgh is the only city where all the major sports teams (MLB, NHL, NFL) have the same colors: black and gold.

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Many are stubborn in pursuit of the path they have chosen, few in pursuit of the goal.”

– Friedrich Nietzsche

### TRIVIA TEST

1. **Literature:** Which 19th-century novel begins with the sentence, “There was no possibility of taking a walk that day”?
2. **Chemistry:** Which element’s Latin name is hydragyrum and goes by the symbol Hg?
3. **History:** Who was the first female detective in the United States, hired by the Pinkerton Detective Agency in 1856?
4. **Advertisings Slogans:** What product’s 1970s advertising slogan was, “I can’t believe I ate the whole thing”?

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3/12 ★ 3/26

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Landing a big fish from the beach can be hard on the fish. Dragging a fish up onto the sand if you’re going to release it is not an option as it usually damages or kills the fish. Hold the fish in the water while you unhook it if you’re going to release it.

The less you can touch a fish before release the better for the fish.

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Florida residents as well as out of state visitors need a fishing license to fish from shore.

- 5. **U.S. Presidents:** Only two Catholics have served as president of the United States. Who are they?
- 6. **Movies:** The *Star Wars* movie series was partly filmed in which African country?
- 7. **Language:** What does the name Boca Raton (Florida) mean in Spanish?
- 8. **U.S. States:** The highest and lowest points in the contiguous United States can be found in which state?
- 9. **Entertainers:** Which American actor and comedian was born Eric Marlon Bishop?
- 10. **Television:** Which 1950s Western series featured the theme song *Happy Trails?*

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Jane Eyre 2. Mercury 3. Kate Winslet 4. Alka-Seltzer 5. John Kennedy and Joe Biden 6. Tunisia 7. Rat's mouth (named for sharp rocks where ships docked) 8. California: Mount Whitney and Death Valley 9. Jamie Foxx 10. "The Roy Rogers Show"




SCRAMBLERS ANSWER

- 1. Pirate 2. Swerve;
- 3. Sucrose; 4. Scold

Today's Word  
**CIRCUS**

# HORTOONS

## INVASIVE SPECIES



HORTOON/PETCHER

PUZZLE ANSWERS

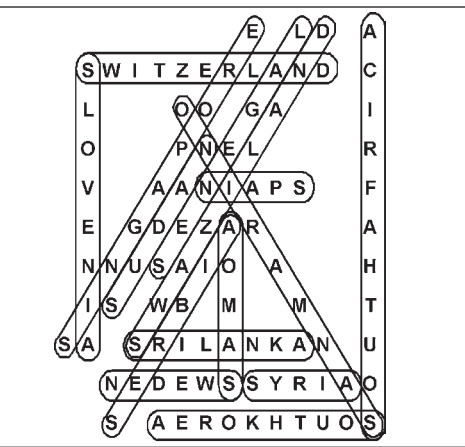
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E	D	I	N	A	E	C	O	C	A	R	E	D	I	E	I	R	A
W	H	A	T	M	I	G	H	T	T	H	E	Y	N	A	M	E	P
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A	C	T	S		I	R	I	S		C	U	B		D	O	S	
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H	E	R	E		T	I	N	A	F	E	Y		A	U	T	U	M
A	D	I	D		A	S		D	U	I		W	I	T	H		A
M	A	C		S	L	E	E	P	L	E	S	S	I	N	S	A	D
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P	J	S		A	C	S		A	E	S	O	P	
R	O	T		T	R	I		I	N	T	R	O	
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MAGIC MAZE



SUDOKU

2	1	8	9	6	7	3	4	5
5	9	6	1	3	4	7	2	8
3	7	4	5	2	8	1	6	9
1	2	3	8	7	9	4	5	6
7	8	9	4	5	6	2	1	3
6	4	5	3	1	2	9	8	7
4	6	2	7	8	3	5	9	1
9	5	7	6	4	1	8	3	2
8	3	1	2	9	5	6	7	4

Top 10 Real Estate Sales

Subdivision	City	Year Built	Square Footage	Listing Price	Selling Price	Days On Market
Sanibel Estates	Sanibel	1991	3,277	\$3,695,000	\$3,445,000	45
Frowes Subdivision	Captiva	1983	3,215	\$3,699,000	\$3,300,000	168
Bonita Beach	Bonita Springs	2019	3,787	\$3,590,000	\$3,275,000	82
Key West Courtyards	Fort Myers Beach	2005	2,187	\$2,480,400	\$2,375,000	52
St. Charles Harbour	Fort Myers	2003	5,938	\$2,500,000	\$2,200,000	485
Parkridge	Fort Myers	2008	4,838	\$1,650,000	\$1,615,000	9
North Captiva Dunes	Upper Captiva	1988	1,667	\$1,650,000	\$1,530,000	188
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	2009	3,798	\$1,498,500	\$1,500,000	115
San Carlos Estates	Bonita Springs	2017	4,203	\$1,495,000	\$1,495,000	4
Castaway Key Unrecorded Subdivision	Upper Captiva	1986	2,134	\$1,395,000	\$1,385,000	40

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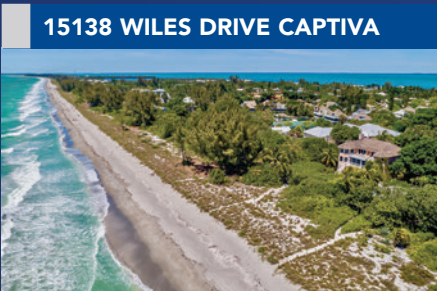


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