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Vol. 14, No. 50

From the Beaches to the River District downtown Fort Myers

DECEMBER 18, 2015

Amernet String Quartet To Perform At Davis Art Center

The Chamber Concert Series kicks off Friday, January 8 at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center (SBDAC) with the Amernet String Quartet, ensemble-in-residence at Florida International University in Miami.

Praised for their “intelligence” and “immensely satisfying” playing by *The New York Times*, the Amernet String Quartet has garnered recognition as one of today’s exceptional string quartets that travels the world in concert. Their sound has been called “complex” but with an “old world flavor.” *Strad Magazine* described the Amernet as “...a group of exceptional technical ability.”



Amernet String Quartet

The Amernet is joined this season by second violinist Tomas Cotik and forges ahead with a newly formed sound with the release of a new CD, *Dissenting Voices*. It features rarely-heard works by Sofia Gubaidulina, Shostakovich and Mieczyslaw Weinberg, one of the most important recent re-discoveries and considered by many the third of the great Soviet composers.

The group includes: Misha Vitenson, violin; Tomas Cotik, violin; Michael Klotz, viola; Jason Calloway, cello.

The Chamber Music Series is sponsored by Rob and Ruth Diefenbach. Chamber series continued on page 20

City Of Palms Basketball Classic Ready To Tip Off

It’s almost “tip-off” time for the 43rd Annual Culligan City of Palms Classic, to be held at Bishop Verot Catholic High School in Fort Myers Friday through Wednesday, December 18 to 23.

With just a few days until some of the best boys’ high school basketball players and teams descend upon Southwest Florida, tickets are going fast. This is the last year the tournament will be held at Bishop Verot before moving to the new Suncoast Credit Union Arena on the campus of Florida SouthWestern State College.

Along with local favorites Lehigh Senior High School and Charlotte High School, the tournament will feature *USA Today*’s Super 25 national champion Montverde Academy (Montverde, Florida), the National Association of Christian Athletes national champion Potter’s House Christian Academy (Jacksonville, Florida), the 2014 Culligan City of Palms Classic champion Wheeler High School (Marietta, Georgia) and the Oregon 6A state champion West Linn High School (West Linn, Oregon).

The crowd will be treated to the athleticism of players such as Class of 2016 Hoop Scoop #1 player Thon Maker (The Athlete Institute, Ontario); Class of 2016

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Cast of *The Eight: Reindeer Monologues*. The show is already 75 percent sold out.

Fort Myers Art:

Tickets Limited For Holiday Comedy

by Tom Hall

Playing now at the Laboratory Theater of Florida is *The Eight: Reindeer Monologues*.

“When a doe says no, it means no.” In this delightfully irreverent holiday comedy, Santa is accused of impropriety with one or more reindeer. Audiences get to judge for themselves, hearing different reactions from eight of the reindeer in this entertaining

continued on page 5

Mimi Gold Coin Again Appears In Red Kettle

For the 11th straight year, an anonymous donor has dropped a \$20 Liberty Eagle gold coin in one of The Salvation Army’s red kettles. The coin, as in previous years, was wrapped in a note that reads, “In loving memory of Mimi.” The coin is dated 1924 and is estimated to be worth around \$2,328 according to *USA Coin Book*.

Facts about this coin:

- Designer/engraver, Augustus Saint Gaudens
- Metal composition, 90 percent gold/ 10 percent copper
- Diameter, 34 mm
- Mass, 33.44 grams
- Minted, 1907 to 1932

Before 1850, the \$10 eagles were the largest denomination U.S. coins. As the \$20

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Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

Children's Christmas Party Turns 100



by Gerri Reaves, PhD

This festive scene in this late-1950s photo is the Annual Children's Christmas Party at Evans Avenue and Mango Street (renamed Dr. Ella Piper Way in 2010). The property was the location of Dr. Ella Piper's home and, today, the Dr. Ella Piper Center for Social Services is located there.

That party is but part of the legacy of two important women in Fort Myers history, Sarah Williams and her daughter, Dr. Ella Piper.

Williams founded the party on Christmas Day, 1915, for 15 little "colored" girls in the black community of Safety Hill, a neighborhood better known as Dunbar today. This month, the

100th party will be held.

Williams organized the celebration as a way to show the true spirit of Christmas giving. After she died in 1926, only one week before Christmas, her daughter carried on the tradition.

Could Williams have guessed that what began as a small-scale Christmas-tree party at her home would ultimately spread holiday cheer to hundreds of children over 10 decades?

In addition to having exceptional community spirit, Williams and Piper were successful businesswomen. These were all the more significant accomplishments for black women at that time because of the Jim Crow laws.



In this late-1950s photo at Evans and Mango Street, adults and children celebrate the Annual Children's Christmas Party, which is a century old this month

courtesy Southwest Florida Museum of History



Today, the Dr. Ella Piper Center (right and out-of-frame) is located on the property which Piper gave to the City upon her death. The view is westward across Evans Avenue.

photo by Gerri Reaves

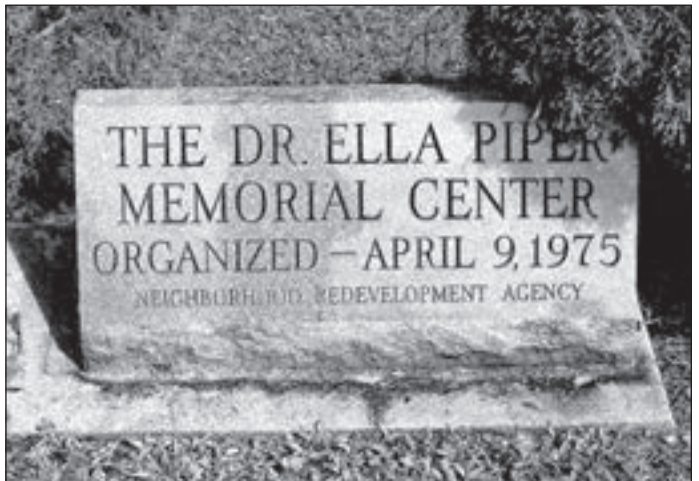
Williams had come to Fort Myers in 1899 as Sarah Baylor (or Bailer), and, in 1901, married John Williams. She originally owned property in the neighborhood of Pinetucky, at today's Cleveland Avenue and Johnson Street, but moved to Safety Hill around the time her daughter joined her in Fort Myers. At one time, she owned a restaurant in Safety Hill.

Both mother and daughter also possessed philanthropic know-how. They were adept at raising money for charity in the white and black communities. They contributed their own time and money and secured donations from businesses, churches and other citizens.

Ella Piper was the proprietor of a beauty parlor and was a chiropodist. Trained and skilled in the most current beauty trends, she introduced them to the small town of Fort Myers. Among her clients were Mrs. Thomas Edison and Mrs. Henry Ford.

She first had a beauty salon on Jackson Street, which in 1917 advertised "artistic hair dressing" and the specialty of "high-frequency" facial and body massage.

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This marker acknowledges Piper's legacy

photo by Gerri Reaves

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Bank Honors Student Nature Photo Winners

Earlier in the school year, Cypress Lake Middle School students visited the JN "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge to photograph the wild-life and native plants.

Now, the winners have been announced in the annual Student Nature Photography Contest sponsored by Edison National Bank in cooperation with the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society. Edison National Bank provides overall financial support for this annual event,



Photo contest winners Ryan Welsh, Esmeralda Flores and Katie Newman with their principal, Edison National Bank officers and refuge representatives

including medals and cash prizes for the winners. They are:

1st place: Ryan Welsh

2nd place: Esmeralda Flores

3rd place: Katie Newman

The awards ceremony took place on Tuesday, December 8 at the school. Cypress Lake 8th grade teacher Joy Williams emceed the proceedings with highlights about the students' photography and their time at the refuge. Principal Kelly Maniscalco joined in the ceremony. Also in attendance were Refuge Ranger Becky Larkin and volunteers Ken and Ginny Kopperl who assisted the students during their photography field trip to the refuge.

At the awards ceremony, Edison National Bank President Robbie Roepstorff and Vice President Susan Nasworthy presented award medals to the top three student photographers judged in the contest. The sponsoring

bankers also gave the winners \$100, \$75 and \$50 cashier's checks for the top three selected photographs.

"It is truly an honor for Edison National Bank to sponsor this event," said Roepstorff. "Ms. Williams did a terrific job supervising the contest. These middle school photographers have captured some very beautiful images. I hope everyone will come see their work in our lobby display at the Cleveland Avenue office."

Every student participating in the contest will receive a \$1 U.S. Mint gold coin from Edison National Bank when they visit the lobby photo display.

The public is also invited to see the display starting the week of January 4 during banking hours at 13000 S. Cleveland Avenue, Fort Myers.*



The Ladybugs

Concert Series Attracts New Audiences At Art Center

The last concert in the Kate Davis Series, The Ladybugs, will perform classical standards with a fresh, young twist for the 21st century at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center. SBDAC is located in the historic downtown River District at 2301 First Street in Fort Myers.

The Ladybugs are a traditional jazz vocal group known for their intricate harmonies and experimental arrangements. Lead by Martina DaSilva, all members of the band sing while playing ukulele, guitar, trombone, bass and drums.

The Ladybugs' repertoire includes favorites from the 1920s, '30s, and '40s, infused with old-school swing, country and blues. The band has received high praise for recent performances at Jazz At Lincoln Center's Generations in Jazz Festival, the NY Hot Jazz Festival and the NYC Winter Jazzfest. With a sound that attracts all audiences, The Ladybugs effortlessly keep listeners smiling and moving.

The Ladybugs will perform January 15, 2016. Cocktails are served at 7 p.m. and the performance begins at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$25 in advance, or \$30 at the door. Tables also available. Visit www.sbdac.com for more information.*

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Help Support Local Young Scientists



The Regional Science Fair is part of the qualifying process for the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair

submitted by Patricia Stevens

You can make a difference in the lives of young scientists from Lee and Charlotte counties. Each year, the Fort Myers Kiwanis Club must raise \$20,000 to be used for



All donations are tax deductible and sponsorships are acknowledged in printed programs. Additionally, company logos or banners will appear at the awards ceremony. The Regional Science Fair is Saturday, January 23 at Alico Arena.

trophies, awards, scholarships and travel expenses to state and international competitions for regional winners. Donations are tax deductible and sponsorships are acknowledged in the printed programs and a display of donors' logos or banners at the awards ceremony. Six levels of sponsorship are suggested. One-hundred percent of the funds raised benefit students from Lee and Charlotte county schools. Fort Myers Kiwanis Foundation, Inc. is an IRS Code 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization. The employer identification number (EIN) for the foundation is 46-1012210. For information on the six levels of

sponsorship, contact Denny Sharma, fundraising coordinator, at 770-7427 or at Kiwaniis-Denny@comcast.net. Mail tax deductible checks payable to Fort Myers Kiwanis Foundation, Inc. to P.O. Box 1498, Fort Myers, FL 33901. The Fort Myers Kiwanis Club was the first service organization in Southwest Florida, chartered in April, 1922. Its members come from all over the community and a spectrum of professions. They meet every Wednesday at noon for lunch at the Kiwanis Hall, 1630 Woodford Avenue, in the River District of downtown Fort Myers. Come join us to help children.✧

Downtown Art Fair Is Saturday

Artists and crafters will set up on First Street in downtown Fort Myers on Saturday, December 19 to sell the works they create. The vendors will stretch from Hendry Street to Jackson Street. There will be works of fine art, jewelry, ceramics, designer wear and fine crafts. Prints from original works will also be available. The fair takes place the third Saturday of the month from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.✧

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Female Pioneers of Fort Myers
Women Who Made a Difference in the City's Development
By Robin C. Tuthill and Thomas P. Hall

"Packed with facts and employing an engaging storytelling style, [Female Pioneers of Fort Myers] both teaches and entertains. Local history buffs and newcomers to history will value Tuthill and Hall's research and appreciate the accessible format, too."

Gerri Reaves, PhD, author of *Legendary Locals of Fort Myers* and *Fort Myers, Then & Now*

Vigil For 16 Lee Homeless Who Died This Year Will Be December 21

As a tribute to at least 16 homeless individuals who have lost their lives while living on the streets or in shelters in Lee County this year, the Lee County Homeless Coalition will host its 19th annual Candlelight Vigil on Monday, December 21 at 6 p.m. The community is encouraged to gather on the steps of the Old Lee County Courthouse at 2120 Main Street in Fort Myers to mourn those who have passed. The event is also intended to educate and inspire the public to support the community's need for more affordable housing, shelters, living wages and accessible health care. The Candlelight Vigil will include remarks by Lee County Homeless Coalition representatives, Janet Bartos, executive director, and Jan Frick, member. An opening prayer will be presented by Pastor Shane Frazier of Next Level Church. Taps will be performed by Harvey Charter, Commander Victor Paul Tuchman Post 400 Jewish War

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River District Farmers' Market Holiday Hours



Produce at the River District Farmers' Market, under the U.S. 41 Caloosahatchee Bridge in Centennial Park in downtown Fort Myers

photo credit Natalie S. Dunham/
Fort Myers CRA

The River District Farmers' Market in downtown Fort Myers announces special December holiday hours for the convenience of shoppers who would like fresh food and hand-made products at reasonable prices. The Market, located at 2000 West First Street beneath the U.S. 41 Caloosahatchee Bridge in Centennial Park, will be open on Wednesday, December 23 from 7 a.m. to 1 p.m., instead of its usual Thursday date.

At the River District Farmers' Market, cooks are able to purchase fresh local and specialty produce, seafood, honey, baked goods, cheese, and flowers for their holiday tables, often finding varieties lacking in the average grocery store.

Free two-hour parking is available next to the market under the Caloosahatchee Bridge.

The Farmers' Market will return to its regular Thursday 7 a.m. to 1 p.m. hours on New Year's Eve, December 31.

Call 810-2313 for more information.✱

From page 1

Mimi Gold Coin

coins had twice the face value of the eagle, they came to be known as "double eagles"

The coin was donated over the weekend at the Publix Super Market located on Palm Beach Boulevard, Fort Myers.

Multi-year volunteer Merrill Conrad was surprised to discover the coin for the third year in a row. Once again, other volunteers joked that Merrill might be the actual donor of the coin since he continues to find it among the dollar bills and change in the kettles, but Merrill is happy to have a small role in this happy tradition.

"For eleven years, the memory of Mimi has provided hope and joy for hundreds of families," said Major Tim Gilliam, Area Commander for The Salvation Army of Lee, Hendry & Glades counties. "I, for one, thank God for Mimi."

With 10 days left to ring the bell, The Salvation Army is making progress toward its goal of \$550,000 for the red

kettle season. If this generous donation inspires other local donors to give, this important goal will be met.

Every Christmas, The Salvation Army serves thousands of families in need with toys and food for the holidays. The money raised during the red kettle drive supports these efforts as well as food, shelter and medical and recovery programs throughout the year.

Volunteer bell ringers are needed; call 278-1551.✱

From page 1

Reindeer Monologues

and memorable adult comedy, which the *Village Voice* labeled "arrestingly funny."

"*The Eight: Reindeer Monologues* is a fun and laugh out loud alternative to the normal holiday offerings," adds *Behind the Curtain*.

Performances continue on December 18 and 19 at 8 p.m. and on December 19 and 20 at 2 p.m. But be forewarned: the show is already 75 percent sold out. So don't wait until later to reserve your seats or else you'll get coal in your stocking.

The Laboratory Theater of Florida is located at the historic Kiwanis Hall, 1634 Woodford Avenue, Fort Myers. For tickets, go to www.laboratorytheaterflorida.com or call 218-0481.

Tom Hall is both an amateur artist and aspiring novelist who writes art quest thrillers. He is in the final stages of completing his debut novel titled Art Detective. A former tax attorney, he lives in Estero with his fiancé and their four cats.✱

Blue Christmas Service In Tice

Tice United Methodist Church in east Fort Myers, a neighborhood that is struggling with violence, poverty and gangs, will be holding a Blue Christmas service – a service of healing and hope – on Tuesday, December 22, the longest night of the year, the winter solstice.

The service acknowledges that not everyone is feeling comfort and joy, and it also expresses God's grace in the midst of those feelings. This is done through reflective and participatory music, readings and reflections, as well as the opportunity to participate in communion and candle lighting.

"We hope that those in our community who are feeling alone... and those who are struggling will come and find that they are not alone, that God cares and that we care too." Rev. Esther Rodriguez. Everyone is invited.

Tice UMC is located at 4545 Tice Street, Fort Myers.✱

Our email address is
press@riverweekly.com

Broadsides: Poetry Off The Shelf Presented At Alliance For The Arts

Celebrate poetry and art during Broadsides: Poetry Off The Shelf at the Alliance for the Arts on Thursday, January 28. Now in its third year, Broadsides features the words of 15 poets merged with images created by 15 visual artists into printed posters. You can see the finished Broadsides and hear the poets read their works during a reception in the Foulds Theatre at the Alliance on Thursday, January 28 at 7 p.m. There is a \$10 suggested donation. Limited edition prints of the 2016 broadsides will be exhibited and available for purchase.

Participating poets include L.M. Davies, Victoria Dym, Sara Fitzpatrick Comito, Ruth Follmann, Richard Fox, Dan Graveley, Marnie Heenan, Joan Heller Winokur, Eddie Krzeminski, Mary Beth Lundgren, Salvatore Marici, Marilyn Mecca, Joe Pacheco, Dobie Pasco and Shelby Whidden.

Participating artists include Crystina Castiglione, Pat Collins, Steve Conley, Stephanie Davis, Veron Ennis, Leigh Herndon, Doug MacGregor, Kellen Beck Mills, Dani Papanikolaou, Caren Pearson, Christina Penuel, Alicia Schmidt, Tim Smith, Guy Tieman and Daniel Venditti.

Historically, "broadsides" are printed communications containing text and images, typically designed to be posted in public places. For more information about this annual celebration of poetry and art, visit ArtInLee.org or call 939-2787.

The Alliance for the Arts is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard, just south of Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.✱

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Santa and Mrs. Claus with their elves Destiny Tarrats and Angelee Tarrats



Soloist Beth Filiowich sings *O Holy Night*

Christmas Carol Sing Raises Food For Soup Kitchen

Residents who attended the Christmas Carol Sing at First Presbyterian Church of Fort Myers Tuesday held on December 8 contributed plenty of canned goods to help The Soup Kitchen of Community Cooperative feed the hungry in Southwest Florida.

About 2,000 pounds of food was donated at the 25th annual Christmas Carol Sing, which was sponsored and organized by the Galloway Family of Dealerships. The canned goods will be distributed immediately to families in need, according to event organizers.

"It is so gratifying to see our community coming together to help those less fortunate, especially during these economic times. The need has never been greater," said event founder Sam Galloway, Jr.

About 2,000 people attended the three performances, which featured a sing-a-long with the First Presbyterian Church Choir, Brass Elements, special guest soloists and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus.

The Christmas Carol Sing is the third



Gulf Coast Humane Society CEO Jennifer Galloway and her husband, Sam Galloway, III of the Galloway Family of Dealerships

of three annual community sing-a-longs presented by First Presbyterian Church and sponsored by the Galloway Family of Dealerships. The other two are Mrs. Edison's Hymn Sing in February (planned for February 9) as part of the Edison Festival of Light and First Celebrates Freedom in July. All three events benefit The Soup Kitchen of Community Cooperative, which was founded by First Presbyterian Church of Fort Myers in 1984.

The Christmas Carol Sing and two hymn sings are major sources of support for Community Cooperative, which works to end hunger and homelessness in Lee County with headquarters in Fort Myers, satellite offices in Cape Coral and Fort Myers Beach, and mobile services throughout greater Lee County. Clients range from shut-ins, homeless families and individuals, to the working poor and children. The agency partners with United Way, Harry Chapin Food Bank, Lee County School District and regional community foundations as well as with community and service groups, churches, businesses and other support organizations.

For more information about Community Cooperative, call 332-SOUP or visit www.ccmileecounty.com. For more information about First Presbyterian Church, call 334-2261 or visit www.fpc-fortmyers.org.



Shane Diaz, Bill Filiowich and Lydia deJong



Sam Galloway, Jr., Christmas Carol Sing founder and sponsor, with his wife, Kathy Galloway



Fort Myers Mayor Randy Henderson



Collecting food for Community Cooperative were, from left, Louisa Wile, Angelee Tarrats, Destiny Tarrats and Renae Kosecki



Community Cooperative CEO Tracey Galloway with her family - Robert Galloway, Olivia Galloway and Will Galloway



Ushers Josephine Clanton, Dennis Cloud and Betty Campbell welcomed guests to the Christmas Carol Sing

Republican Women Meeting

Lee Republican Women Federated will conduct their monthly luncheon meeting on Monday, January 11 at Pinchers – The Marina at Edison Ford, 2360 West First Street (located adjacent to the Edison & Ford Winter Estates) in the Fort Myers Downtown River District. The meeting will begin at 11:15 a.m. with a social hour, followed by lunch and the program.

The meeting's guest speaker will be Yaro Garcia, president of the coalition and head clinician at Abuse Counseling & Treatment (ACT), which works directly with local trafficking victims.

Cost to attend the meeting is \$22, which includes lunch.

To make reservations, visit www.leerepublican-women.com/event or contact Wren Morefield at 270-210-1284 or wrenspet@hotmail.com.



Yaro Garcia

From page 2

Christmas Party

In 1925, her beauty parlor at Evans and Fourth advertised not only the basics, such as shampooing and manicuring, but also facial massage, Marcel waving, hair bobbing, round curl, scalp treatment and chiropody.

She also was the owner of a soft-drink manufacturing plant.

Over the years, her philanthropy extended far beyond the holiday party: providing scholarships to deserving students; donating food and clothing to needy neighbors; and housing Negro League baseball players denied hotel accommodations in Fort Myers.

She helped finance Williams Academy, a school for blacks, and Jones-Walker Hospital, the first for non-whites in Fort Myers. She also helped to establish a black chapter of the American Red Cross.

When Piper died in 1954, she left her home and property at Evans and Mango to the City of Fort Myers, stipulating that it be a community center to serve seniors and young children. The Christmas party continued to be held there.

In 1976, Piper's house was demolished and the existing center was built on the site.

You can help the Dr. Piper Center celebrate a century of Christmastime giving by donating unwrapped gifts suitable for children up to 14 year old. To celebrate the party's 100th year, there will be a drawing for 100 bicycles.

Visit the property bequeathed by Piper to the City and find out about Fort Myers's historic Christmas Party.

Then visit the Southwest Florida Museum of History at 2031 Jackson Street to learn more about the mother and daughter who epitomized community spirit.

Call the museum at 321-7430 or go to museumofhistory.org. Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

If you love local history, be sure to visit the Southwest Florida Historical Society's research center.

The all-volunteer, non-profit organization is at 10091 McGregor Boulevard on the campus of the Lee County Alliance for the Arts.

The center is open Wednesday and Saturday between 9 a.m. and noon and Wednesday 4 to 7 p.m. Call 939-4044 or visit swflhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

Sources: Archives of the Southwest Florida Historical Society and the Southwest Florida Museum of History.

Appreciation Dinner For Police Foundation



The Fort Myers Police Foundation will host the Men & Women in Blue of the Year appreciation dinner on Saturday, January 23 at Colonial Country Club, located at 9181 Independence Way in Fort Myers.

The appreciation dinner honors the outstanding public service of the brightest stars of the Fort Myers Police Department and other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies. FMPD retirements for 2015 will also be recognized. More than 60 officers will be honored during the event.

"These men and women put themselves at risk each and every day to make our community safe, and we think they deserve an evening of recognition and thanks," said Larry Romano, president of the Fort Myers Police Foundation. "We hope the community will join us in thanking these public servants in blue for all they do for us."

Individual tickets are \$100, and tables of eight are \$750. Sponsorships from

\$100 to \$10,000 are also available.

All funds raised by the Police Foundation go toward purchasing life-saving equipment for the FMPD.

For more information, visit www.fortmyerspolicefoundation.org or call Paul Fratello at 610-470-0049.

Greeters Club

Doug Molloy, formerly southwest Florida's top Federal Prosecutor as well as Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney in Fort Myers, will be the guest speaker at the Greeters Club Luncheon on Thursday, January 21.

His storied career reads like a best selling crime novel. For more than 20 years, Molloy dealt with cases involving everything from a mafia boss to a Colombian drug lord to local politicians being paid off by drug dealers.

Molloy, known as the slavery expert, will talk about his specialty --human trafficking and slavery-- a persistent and tragic issue.

Cost of the luncheon is \$20. To register and to find out more about the dynamic group of Lee County women, email greetersclub@gmail.com and provide your contact information (your name, email address and phone number). You will receive a detailed return email confirming your reservation. Luncheons are held on the third Thursday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at the Colonial Country Club, 9181 Independence Way, Fort Myers. Go to greetersclubofgreaterfortmyers.com for more information.

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Along The River



The Southwest Florida Symphony performs its Holiday Pops concert twice this week: Sunday at BIG ARTS on Sanibel and Monday at Shell Point in Fort Myers. Maestro Nir Kabaretti leads the symphony in performing December holiday classics, inspired by the Festival of Lights.

On Friday, December 18, kids of all ages are invited to visit with **Santa and Mrs. Claus** during their special appearance at **Holiday Nights at the Edison & Ford Winter Estates**. Doug MacGregor, a former cartoonist at *The News-Press*, has been playing Santa at the estates for five years. Stop by between 6 and 8:30 p.m. on Friday and watch him draw cartoons during the celebration.

Holiday Nights is open through January 3 with the exception of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. The estates are open daily from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. during December and until 5:30 p.m. for the remainder of the year. Tickets for Holiday Nights are \$20 for adults, \$2 for children age six to 12 years, and \$10 for students ages 13 to

college age (with college ID).

The Edison & Ford Winter Estates is located at 2350 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers. Call 334-7419 or go to www.edisonfordwinterestates.org.

The historic River District comes alive this Friday with the return of **Music Walk**. The free event is held on the third Friday of every month from 6 to 10 p.m. December evenings in downtown Fort Myers are particularly lovely this time of year as temperatures are cooler and many of the street lights and store fronts are adorned with holiday lights and decorations.

For more information, call Lance at 645-6457 (Ford's Garage) or go to www.fortmyersmusicwalk.com.

Also in the River District, the **Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center** and **TheatreKids** present **A Christmas**

Carol. A cast of young artists joins master storyteller Douglas Coventry in a performance that blends narration, dance and creative movement in a one-of-a-kind rendition of Charles Dickens' classic. Prepare to laugh, cry, hoot and holler – and, for the little ones, even join the action on stage. This is the Fort Myers debut for the children's theater company, which has been operating in Charlotte County for 26 years.

Performances are Friday, December 18 and Saturday, December 19 at 7 p.m., and Sunday, December 20 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$18.

The art center is located at 2301 First Street in downtown Fort Myers' historic River District. For more information, call the box office at 333-1933 or visit www.sbdac.com.

On Sanibel this Friday, the **Herb Strauss Theater** presents **Happy Holidays! A Musical Celebration**. Featuring favorite standards that will take listeners through a musical winter wonderland, this fresh holiday revue is geared to the entire family. Showtime is 7:30 p.m. on December 18, 19, 21, 22, 23, 26, 28, 29 and 30. A 4 p.m. matinee is scheduled for Sunday, December 20 and 27. The performance on New Year's Eve begins at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$5 for students and children.

The Herb Strauss Theater is located at 2200 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel. Call 472-6862 or go to www.bigarts.org.

Also on Sanibel, the **BIG ARTS Concert Band** performs on Friday at **Schein Hall**. Under the direction of Mike Lamade, the holiday concert features great music and good cheer. The concert begins at 7 p.m. General admission is \$7 per person, free for students and children.

On Sunday, December 20 at 4 p.m., the **Southwest Florida Symphony** – Lee County's only professional orchestra – returns to **Schein Hall** with its popular Holiday Pops concert. The performance features conductor Nir Kabaretti and soloist Laura Woyasz.

General admission is \$36, \$5 for students and children.

Schein Hall is located at the BIG ARTS Center, 900 Dunlop Road, Sanibel. Call 395-0900 or go to www.bigarts.org.

The public has another chance to hear the **Southwest Florida Symphony's** Holiday Pops concert on Monday, December 21 at The Village Church



The TheatreKids will perform **A Christmas Carol** this weekend at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center

Auditorium at **Shell Point**. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m.

Conductor Nir Kabaretti leads the symphony in performing December holiday classics inspired by the Festival of Lights – Hanukkah. The concert also includes performances by Broadway star, soprano soloist Laura Woyasz, and the Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida. Audience participation is invited during familiar sing-along tunes, such as *Here Comes Santa Claus*, *I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas* and other traditional seasonal favorites.

Tickets are \$30. To purchase, call 454-2067 or go to www.shellpoint.org/concerts

On Thursday, Shell Point presents its annual **Christmas Eve Carols & Candlelight**. Gather with family and friends for a retelling of the Christmas story at either of two special services: 4:15 and 7:15 p.m. Choose either the afternoon or evening service; both will include caroling, candlelight, special music and an inspirational message. There is no charge to attend either service. For more information, call 454-2147.

Shell Point Retirement Community is located at 15100 Shell Point Boulevard, Fort Myers, approximately two miles before the Sanibel Causeway.

St. Peter Lutheran Church in Fort Myers Beach has a special services schedule for the holidays.

On Thursday, December 24, its Christmas Eve candlelight services are at 6:30 and 8:30 p.m. On Friday, Christmas Day worship is at 10:30 a.m. On Sunday, December 27 at 9:30 a.m., the service is Christmas Lessons and Carols.

St. Peter Lutheran Church is located at 3751 Estero Boulevard, Fort Myers Beach. For more information, call 463-4251.*

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FORT MYERS FARE

Dining From Downtown's Historic River District To The Beaches
For more information, check out our advertisers in this week's *River Weekly*

DOC FORD'S RUM BAR & GRILLE

Doc Ford's Rum Bar & Grille is named for the Doc Ford character in local author Randy Wayne White's best-selling mystery novels.

It's a well known gathering place with indoor and outdoor patio seating. The combined menu offers all the lunch and dinner items from 11 a.m. until closing. It includes cedar plank salmon topped with a mango chipotle glaze or a marinated grilled chicken sandwich and there's a well provisioned raw bar. Tropical drinks are a specialty, notably the signature rum drink, Island Mojito.

Doc Ford's is open Christmas Eve and closed Christmas Day.

708 Fisherman's Wharf, Fort Myers Beach. Call 765-9660.

ICHIBAN

Ichiban is a downtown favorite for Chinese and Japanese cuisine. The name means "Number One" in Japanese and offers its customers the perfect balance of great quality and affordable prices. Ichiban has been family owned and operated for ten years and its enduring popularity is a testament to its exceptional, friendly service.

Ichiban is open all day Christmas



Doc Ford's Fort Myers Beach is open Christmas Eve for your holiday celebration. Happy hour is daily from 3 to 6 p.m. The restaurant is closed on Christmas Day.

Eve and 4 to 10 p.m. on Christmas Day.

1520 Broadway #106, Fort Myers. Call 334-6991.

ISLAND COW

Where can you go when you're in the mooood for some great cook'in, local fun and prices that won't make you lose

the farm? Try Island Cow on Sanibel.

Island Cow is an airy bistro with french doors leading out to the front and back patios. It is open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Dine under the stars while you listen to live music on one of Sanibel's only al fresco eating porches.

Island Cow is open all day on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

2163 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel. Call 472-0606.

SS HOOKERS

Get hooked on great cuisine and spirits at SS Hookers. The restaurant pays tribute to the rich history of Punta Rassa, the home of big game fishing. It serves American cuisine with a Cajun twist. Waterfront dining is available daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

After a triumphant day of fishing, bring your catch to the restaurant: "If you hook it, our chef will cook it."

A late night bar features live music nightly. A fresh seafood market, bait shop and gifts are also on site.

SS Hookers is open all day Christmas Eve and from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Christmas Day.

17501 Harbour Pointe Drive, Fort Myers. Call 466-5377 (HOOKERS).✱

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Churches/Temples

ALL FAITHS UNITARIAN CONGREGATION (UUA)

2756 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers. Sunday Services 9 and 11 a.m., Adult Education Workshop 10 a.m., Reverend Margaret L. Beard, Minister. 226-0900. www.allfaiths-uc.org

ALL SAINTS BYZANTINE RITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

10291 Bayshore Road, North Fort Myers. Divine Liturgy Sunday 10:30 a.m.; Rosary begins 10 a.m. Lenten services (Presanctified Liturgy) will be on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. starting February. Very Reverend Peter Lickman, 305-651-0991. Church of the Eastern Catholic or Byzantine Rite, 1.5 mi. east of Interstate 75.

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

8210 Cypress Lake Drive, Fort Myers. Reverend Fr. Dean Nastos, Proistammenos Orthros Service Sunday 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy Sunday 10 a.m., www.annunciation.fl.goarch.org, 481-2099

BETH SHILOH

MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE

15675 McGregor Boulevard. Rabbi Judah Hungerman. Friday Service, 8 p.m., Saturday Service, 11 a.m. Shabbat School Saturday Morning, Adult Hebrew Classes. Call for information 437-3171

BREAD OF LIFE MINISTRIES

CHURCH OF GOD

16581 McGregor Boulevard, 267-3166. Just past the Tanger Outlet Mall. Pastor Barry Lentz, 281-3063. Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study, 7 p.m.

CHABAD LUBAVITCH

OF SW FLORIDA ORTHODOX

5620 Winkler Road, Fort Myers. Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz. 433-7708, rabbi@chabadswf.org. www.chabadswf.org. Friday service 6:30 p.m.; Saturday Kabbalah class 9 a.m.; Shacharit 10 a.m.; Kiddush at noon. Minyan Monday and Thursday 7 a.m.

CHAPEL OF CYPRESS COVE

10200 Cypress Cove Circle Fort Myers 850-3943. Located at Cypress Cove Retirement Center on HealthPark Campus. An ecumenical non-denominational community of believers. Sunday Worship Service, 10 a.m.; Wednesday Bible Study, 7 p.m. Reverend Ted Althouse, Pastor revtedalthouse@aol.com

CHURCH OF THE CROSS

13500 Freshman Lane; 768-2188. Pastor Bud Stephens; A nondemonimational church emphasizing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Sunday Service: 9:15 a.m. Traditional, 10:45 Contemporary.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1619 Llewellyn Drive Fort Myers. Just off McGregor across from the Edison/Ford Winter Estates 334-4978, Pastor Douglas Kelchner, Worship times Sunday's 9 and 10:30 a.m. Website: www.taecc.com

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2439 McGregor Boulevard, 334-8937. Reverend Dr. Jeffrey DeYoe, Senior Pastor. Reverend David Dietzel, Pastor Emeritus. Traditional Sunday service 10 a.m. Nursery available.

CYPRESS LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH

8400 Cypress Lake Drive, Fort Myers, 481-5442. Randy A. Alston, Reverend. Sunday Services: Bible study, 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship, 11 a.m., Evening Worship, 7 p.m., Wednesday Prayer Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

CYPRESS LAKE

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8260 Cypress Lake Drive, Fort Myers, 481-3233. www.clpc.us. Clint Cottrell, Pastor. Prayer Service 8 a.m., Praise 9 a.m., Children's Church 9 a.m., Traditional 11 a.m. Summer Prayer Service 8 a.m. Combined Traditional/Praise 10 a.m.

CYPRESS LAKE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

8570 Cypress Lake Drive, Fort Myers, 482-1250, 8 and 11 a.m. Sunday Traditional Service 9:30 a.m. Praise Service Sunday School all times.

FAITH FELLOWSHIP WORLD OUTREACH MINISTRIES

6111 South Pointe Boulevard, Fort Myers, 278-3638. Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Voice of Faith, WCRN 13.50 AM Radio, Sunday, 1:30 p.m.; Thursday Service, 7:30 p.m.; Friday Youth Service, 7:30 p.m. Nursery care for pre-school children and Children's Church ages 5 to 12 available.

FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

15690 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers, 482-2030. Pastor David Stauffer. Traditional Service Sunday 8:45 a.m., Contemporary Service Sunday 10:30 a.m. Go south on McGregor Boulevard. The church is ½ mile past the intersection of Gladiolus and San Carlos Boulevard on the way to Sanibel.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

2390 West First Street, next door to Edison Estates. 10:30 a.m. Sunday Service and Sunday School; 12 noon Wednesday Testimony Meeting. Child care provided at services. Reading Room located in church building for quiet study and information about Christian Science. Monday and Friday noon to 4 p.m., Wednesday 1 to 4 p.m. christiansciencefortmyers.net, christianscience.org

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

13545 American Colony Boulevard off Daniels Parkway in the Colony, Fort Myers, 936-2511. Pastor Reverend Joey Brummett Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening, 6 p.m.; Wednesday Family Night, 7 p.m.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Downtown Fort Myers River District, 2466 First Street, 332-1152. www.fumcftmyers.org. Sunday Services: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Blended Church Service; 5:30 p.m. Youth Group.

FORT MYERS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) A STEPHEN MINISTRIES CONGREGATION

5916 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, 437-4330. Pastor Reverend Mark Condrey. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Church School 9:15 a.m.

FORT MYERS CONGREGATIONAL

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST:

8210 College Parkway, Fort Myers. 482-3133. Philip White, pastor. Morning Worship: 10 a.m., Church School: 10:15 a.m., Adult Forum: 11:30 a.m.

IONA-HOPE EPISCOPAL CONGREGATION

9650 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers 454-4778. Reverend Ray Buchanan Rector. Saturday 5 p.m., Eucharist with Healing; Sunday 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Rite One; 9:30 a.m., Family Eucharist with Healing and Church School. Tuesday 9:30 a.m., Morning Prayer (in Spanish); Wednesday 9:30 a.m., Eucharist with Healing. Child care available Saturday 5 p.m. and Sunday 9:30 a.m. services.

JESUS THE WORKER

CATHOLIC CHURCH

881 Nuna Avenue, Fort Myers, 481-1143. Masses Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday, 8 and 10 a.m. and 6 p.m.

KINGDOM LIFE CHURCH

2154 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers, 218-8343. Pastor Randy and Anita Thurman. 10:30 a.m. Sunday Service.

LAMB OF GOD CHURCH

A few federated Lutheran (ELCA) and Episcopal Congregation. 19691 Cypress View Drive, Fort Myers. 267-3525. www.lambofgodchurch.net. Reverend Dr. James Reho. Sunday 7:45 and 10 a.m. Sunday's Cool for Children 10 a.m.

NEW BEGINNINGS CENTER

New Home Church, 8505 Jenny Cae Lane, North Fort Myers, 656-0416. Weekly Friday meeting meet and greet 6:30 p.m. Kingdom Teaching 7 p.m. Fellowship and refreshments. nbcministry@embargmail.com, www.facebook.com/nbcministry. Alex and Patricia Wiggins, Ministers

NEW COVENANT EYES CHURCH

See Clearly. Meeting monthly at 9 a.m. at the Elks Lodge. 1900 Park Meadows Drive, Fort Myers. 220-8519. Pastor Alan Bondar. www.newcovenanteyes.com. LIFT Kidz program, free coffee and donuts.

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH OF FORT MYERS

16120 San Carlos Boulevard, Unit 10. 985-8503. 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages. 11 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship. 7 p.m. Wednesday Evening Bible Study.

NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3825 McGregor Boulevard. Fort Myers. Pastor Eddie Spencer. 8 and 9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship. 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship. 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday School. Youth and Children's programming runs concurrent to Sunday services. Nursery care provided at all services. 274-1230. www.newhopefortmyers.org.

PEACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Fort Myers Beach Masonic Lodge. 17671 Pine Ridge Road. 267-7400. Pastors, Gail and RC Fleeman. Adult Discussion Classes 8:45 a.m. Countdown to Worship 10:10 a.m. Amazing Grace Worship: 10:30 a.m. www.peacecommunity-church.com.

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. Peace a member of ELCA. Weekly communion with traditional liturgy, organ and choir. 15840 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers, on the way to Sanibel. 437-2599, www.peaceftmyers.com, peace@peaceftmyers.com.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

3950 Winkler Ext., Fort Myers, 274-0143. 8:15 and 10:15 a.m. Sunday Services. Daily early learning center/day care.

RIVER OF LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

21580 River Ranch Road, Estero. 495-0400, Senior Pastor Todd Weston. 8 and 9:45 a.m. Services; 11:30 a.m. Legacy Service, multi-generational.

SAMUDRABADRA BUDDHIST CENTER

Meditation classes. Guided meditations, methods to relax body and focus mind on virtuous objects. Bring peace and happiness into daily activity. 567-9739. www.MeditationInFortMyers.org.

SAINT COLUMBKILLE

CATHOLIC CHURCH

12171 Iona Road, Fort Myers, off McGregor and north of Gladiolus. 489-3973. Father Joseph Clifford. Monday through Saturday 8 a.m. Saturday 3 and 5 p.m.; Sunday 7, 9, 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Reconciliation Saturdays 12 noon and by appointment.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

CATHOLIC CHURCH

2157 Cleveland Avenue, Fort Myers, 334-2161. Masses: Monday through Thursday 6:45 a.m.; Friday 6:45 and 11 a.m.; Saturday 4 p.m.; Sunday 6:45, 9:30 and 11 a.m., 12:15, 4 Creole and 6 p.m.

SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

3049 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers, 344-0012. Pastor Reverend Steve Filizzi. An Affirming and Inclusive Congregation. Sunday Services 10 a.m.

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN

CHURCH & SCHOOL (LCMS)

3595 Broadway, Fort Myers, 939-1218, Worship: Saturday 5:30 p.m., Sunday 8 and 10:45 a.m. Bible Study for adults and children Sunday at 9:15 a.m.

SAINT PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH

3751 Estero Boulevard, Fort Myers Beach, 463-4251, www.stpeterfmb.com. Sunday worship service at 9:30 a.m.

SAINT NICHOLAS MONASTERY

Church and Bookstore. 111 Evergreen Road (southwest corner of Evergreen Road and Gail Street.) Liturgical services conducted in English and Church Slavonic; following the Julian (Old) Calendar. Liturgical Services Sundays and Holy Days 9:30 a.m. Holy Liturgy 0 a.m. Call to confirm service schedule: 997-2847; Bookstore 691-1775. www.saintnicholas-monastery.org.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

13031 Palm Beach Boulevard (3 miles east of I75) East Fort Myers (across from Fort Myers Shores) 693-0818. 9 a.m. Tuesday through Friday. 4 p.m. Saturday, 9 and 11 a.m. Sunday.

SOUTHWEST BAPTIST CHURCH

16940 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers, 454-3336. Robert G. Kasten Pastor. Sunday 11 a.m. Nursery 9:45 a.m. Sunday School all ages. Junior Church grades one to five. Wee Church Pre-K to K. Evening Service 6 p.m. Wednesday Service 6 p.m.

TEMPLE BETHEL SYNAGOGUE

16225 Winkler Road Fort Myers. 433-0018, www.templebethel.com. Rabbi. baras@templebethel.com. Rabbi Jeremy Barras, Cantor Victor Geigner, Religious School Director Dale Cohen, Learning Tree Director Jesyca Virnig, Office Manager Inna Vasser. Union For Reform Judaism Shabbat Service Friday 7:30 p.m., Torah Study Saturday 9:30 a.m. Religious School Wednesday 5:30 p.m. and Sunday 9:30 a.m. Learning Tree Monday through Friday.

TEMPLE JUDEA (CONSERVATIVE)

14486 A&W Bulb Road, Fort Myers, 433-0201, Rabbi: Rabbi Marc Sack Minyan: Monday at 9 a.m. Religious Education: Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Services Friday 6:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. www.tjswfl.org.

THE NEW CHURCH

The New Church of SWFL, 10811 Sunset Plaza Circle #401, behind Zoomers. Reverend Gabriella Cahaley. Sundays 11 a.m. during the season. Other worship events on Fort Myers Beach. <http://www.new-churchflorida.com>. 481-5535.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

CHURCH FORT MYERS

13411 Shire Lane (off Daniels Parkway one mile west of I-75). Minister The Reverend Allison Farnum. Sunday services and religious education at 10:30 a.m. 561-2700. www.uucfm.org.

UNITY OF BONITA SPRINGS

28285 Imperial Street, Bonita Springs. 947-3100. Family Service 10 to 11 a.m. Healing Circle 11 a.m. Hospitality and Fellowship, 11 a.m. Inspiring lesson, uplifting and dynamic music, meditation in a loving environment.

UNITY OF FORT MYERS

11120 Ranchette Road, Fort Myers. Sunday Services 9:15 and 11 a.m. Children's classes 11 a.m. Reverend Jim Rosemergy. 278-1511, www.unityoffortmyers.org. Our God is Love, Our Race is Human, Our Religion is Oneness

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

9065 Ligon Court, Fort Myers, across from HealthPark Hospital, 481-2125. Senior Pastor Robert Brunson. Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages. 11 a.m. Blended Worship. www.westminsterfortmyers.org

WORD OF LIFE CHURCH

2120 Collier Avenue, Fort Myers. 274-8881. Sunday 10 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m. Bishop Gaspar and Michele Anastasi

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers. 481-4040. Pastor Curtis Deterding. Sunday 8 a.m. Traditional, 10:45 a.m. Blended, 9:30 a.m. Educational Hour. www.zionfm.org✴



Goodwill's MicroEnterprise Institute graduates

Foundation Provides Grant To Goodwill

Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida has received a \$50,000 grant from the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation. The grant will provide support to the Goodwill SWFL MicroEnterprise Institute, Goodwill's small business training program. Grant will support programming for Southwest Florida entrepreneurs.

"This funding will really help the expansion of our program across the region," said Dorothy Browning,

Goodwill's community education program manager. "We will be able to offer 10 additional classes across our area, and pilot an online version of the program to service rural communities and people with transportation barriers."

Goodwill started its microenterprise program in 2011, as a response to the area's high unemployment during the recession. Since its inception, the microenterprise program has honored 44 graduating classes and 428 program graduates. Those graduates have started 161 local small businesses.

"The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation is pleased to be a part of the Goodwill SWFL MicroEnterprise Institute initiative," said Mary Beth Geier, region

coordinator for the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation. "Giving people the opportunity to learn about entrepreneurship, as well as create sustainable business plans, will positively impact both the participant and community."

The Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation was created in 2004 by Best

Buy founder Dick Schulze. The foundation supports organizations that operate in the areas of human and social services, education, health, and entrepreneurship. The grant to Goodwill is part of an initiative to bolster entrepreneurship and improve the odds of success for future generations of entrepreneurs.✴

Venetian Charity Ball Tickets On Sale

Tickets are now on sale for the 2016 Venetian Charity Ball, the premier gala evening in Southwest Florida, benefitting the essential humanitarian work of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. in Lee, Hendry and Glades counties. Visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org for tickets, exclusive sponsorships, car raffle tickets and other exciting opportunities to be part of this exquisite event starting at 6 p.m. on Saturday, March 12 at Hyatt Regency Coconut Point in Bonita Springs.

Hosted by Bishop Frank J. Dewane of the Catholic Diocese of Venice, the 17th annual Venetian Charity Ball will feature cocktails, dinner, dancing, entertainment by the Paul Vesco Orchestra, and an exciting live auction. Dick and Betty Porell, the recipients of the 2016 Catholic Charities Frank Galeana Sr. Humanitarian Award, will also be honored during this illustrious evening. In addition, one attendee will become the owner of a brand new 2016 Jeep Wrangler with a donation for the car raffle.

Several attractive sponsorship opportunities are available, such as the Diamond and Platinum Sponsors, featuring 20 or 10 VIP tickets, a one-night stay at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point, full-page ad in the event program, special recognition and logo on Facebook, event and table signage, and recognition in the

event program and in announcements at the ball.

Attendees can purchase individual tickets for \$225 or reserve a table of 10 for \$2,250. Volunteers are also needed for the event. For more information, call 337-4193, email VenetianBall@ccslee.org or visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org.

The Venetian Charity Ball is the major fundraising event for Catholic Charities, a source for quality programs and services for thousands of needy families, individuals and seniors. Last year, in Lee, Hendry and Glades counties, Catholic Charities provided food assistance to 45,000 people through three food pantries, screened over 4,000 applicants for food stamps, and filed 1,795 food stamp applications on behalf of clients. Catholic Charities also provided in-home assistance to 89 seniors, tutored 175 children in the Positive Youth Development Program, administered intensive case management to 49 victims of human trafficking, offered substance abuse counseling to 36 clients, helped 498 people with immigration services, taught citizenship classes to 25 persons, and distributed infant supplies to 190 young mothers.

Catholic Charities strives to continue to deliver efficient programs and services to the community. Support of the Venetian Charity Ball affords Catholic Charities the ability to offer hope to desperate families, individuals and seniors in the area. The News-Press Media Group serves as the event's media sponsor, with Galeana Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Fort Myers generously providing the car raffle prize.

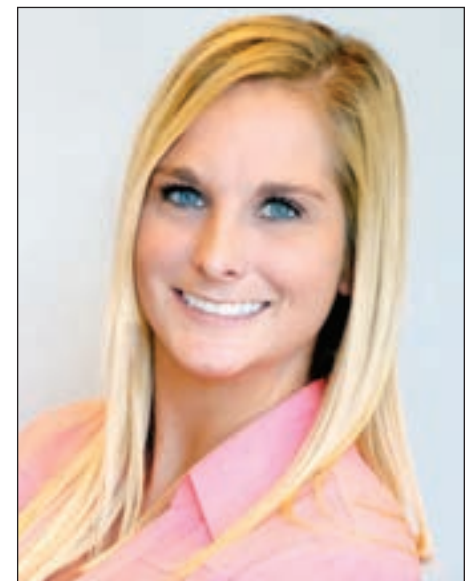
Visit www.catholiccharitiesdov.org for more information.✴

Rieg Joins Community Cooperative

Nicole Stefanick Rieg has joined Community Cooperative as the new Community Relations Coordinator. Prior to joining Community Cooperative, Rieg was the Special Programs and Events Coordinator for the Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce. She is a Fort Myers native and graduate of Florida Gulf Coast University.

Rieg will lead the planning and implementation of events, and community relation initiatives for Community Cooperative in an effort to elevate community outreach and partnerships for the agency.

"Nicole is very dedicated to her community and is a passionate advocate for those who are less fortunate in our community," said Tracey Galloway, CEO. "She could not be a better fit for our organization and we are very excited to



Nicole Stefanick Rieg

have her join our team."

For more information, call 332-7687 or visit www.CommunityCooperative.com.✴

Operation Christmas Child Still Collecting Shoebox Gifts

During Operation Christmas Child's National Collection Week, held from November 16 to 23, Fort Myers residents and residents from surrounding counties generously donated 30,850 gift-filled shoeboxes for children in need.

With a computer or mobile device, anyone can still conveniently pack a personalized Operation Christmas Child shoebox gift on the Samaritan's Purse website, located at samaritanspurse.org/occ. Fort Myers residents can select the age and gender of a child to help, shop through an online selection of gifts, "build" the shoebox, write a note of encouragement and upload a photo.

This year, these gifts will be added to those collected in nine countries so more than 11 million children can receive a personalized gift from people who want them to know they are loved and not forgotten.

For more information, visit samaritanspurse.org/occ.✴

Our email address is press@riverweekly.com

Hard Edge Honey Holes



by Capt. Matt Mitchell

Near perfect weather conditions along with my favorite wintertime fishing set-up of minus low incoming tide proved to be ideal for the bite to go off this week.

Besides awesome action the variety of species was outstanding too. Snook, redfish and mangrove snapper were the main target species along with some hard fighting bonus catch-and-release gag grouper.

During these super low minus tides we experience all winter I do the majority of my fishing in deeper channels. These deep water areas can be either natural or man-made. The deciding factor that can make or break a channel is it having strong tide movement. These likely channels can be found throughout the sound. Add in some good structure and odds are the fish will be there.



Mary Ann Siclari with a 30-inch redfish caught fishing with Capt. Matt Mitchell this week

Send Us Your Fish Tales

The River Weekly would like to hear from anglers about their catches. Send us details including tackle, bait and weather conditions, date of catch, species and weight, and include photographs with identification. Drop them at the River Weekly, 1609 Hendry Street, Suite 15, Fort Myers, Florida 33901, or email to press@riverweekly.com.

Channels and cuts that run through shallow exposed grass flats, creek entrances and deeper mangrove shorelines are where I have the most success during the first few hours of a low incoming tide. Most of these places have one thing in common: a hard edge. This is basically where the water goes from super shallow dropping off quickly into deeper water. Generally it drops off so fast because it's been cut by the tide.

Next comes finding that magic combination with the right set-up of the wind and tide moving together on a hard edge. This creates an ambush point with the wind and current bringing the food to the fish. Gamefish stack up in these places, the lower the water the more concentrated they will be. Work out this winter low tide pattern and you will be rewarded with some of the most wide open action of the year.

So far this December we have seen very few sheepshead around due to the unseasonably warm conditions. These usually abundant fish are an easy choice to target when my clients are looking for a fresh fish dinner. With the sheepshead just not biting and the catch-and-release snook bite being so good, I have been snook fishing most trips and generally catch enough other random species including mangrove snapper, redfish, flounder and trout along the way to put in the cooler and make everyone happy.

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.

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CROW Case Of The Week:

Northern Gannet



by Patricia Molloy

The northern gannet is a spectacular migratory seabird that winters in coastal waters off Florida and, occasionally, Texas. As the only northern member of the booby family,

northern gannets are one of the only bird species in the world to possess binocular vision, meaning they are able to see forward with both eyes. Graceful, fast-flying birds, they can glide just above the ocean's surface for hours at a time. Gannets are also powerful plunge-divers capable of diving up to 72 feet in pursuit of shoaling pelagic fish.

A lethargic northern gannet (*Morus bassanus*) was discovered December 4 near the beach. No other history was available. Upon his examination at CROW, the seabird appeared to be suffering from brevetoxicosis, an all too common diagnosis caused by the ingestion of the algal bloom responsible for red tide.

While red tide causes little more than respiratory and eye discomfort for most humans, it has a more serious effect on marine wildlife. Exposure to the algal bloom can be dangerous, even fatal, to fish, sea turtles and birds.

During the early stages of care, the gannet required daily tube feedings of Piscivore Care, a formula designed to meet the metabolic needs of critically-ill, fish-eating seabirds. It also required fluid injections under its skin to prevent dehydration and the administration of a liver detox with milk thistle to stimulate its liver into filtering out the toxins.

Daily exercise for the gannet comes in the form of tub time. In addition to being good physical therapy, it allows the staff to monitor the bird's strength and stamina at a safe distance without causing undue stress to the patient.

"He doesn't swim around a lot. He just sits there floating," said Melissa Fox, certified vet tech and veterinary assistant. After tub time, Fox said that the gannet is eager to return to its comfortable, quiet cage located in a back room of the clinic's ICU. "He sleeps a lot with his head tucked-in," she said.

With the dedicated support of CROW's veterinarian staff and students, the prognosis for the northern gannet is promising. Patient #15-3462 is expected to make a full recovery and be returned



It takes four to five years for the plumage of a northern gannet to turn snowy white (with jet-black wingtips), like that of this adult, patient #15-3462

to its home on Sanibel's beaches.

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 PO Box 150, Sanibel, FL 33957. Call 472-3644 or visit: www.crowclinic.org.



Sampson



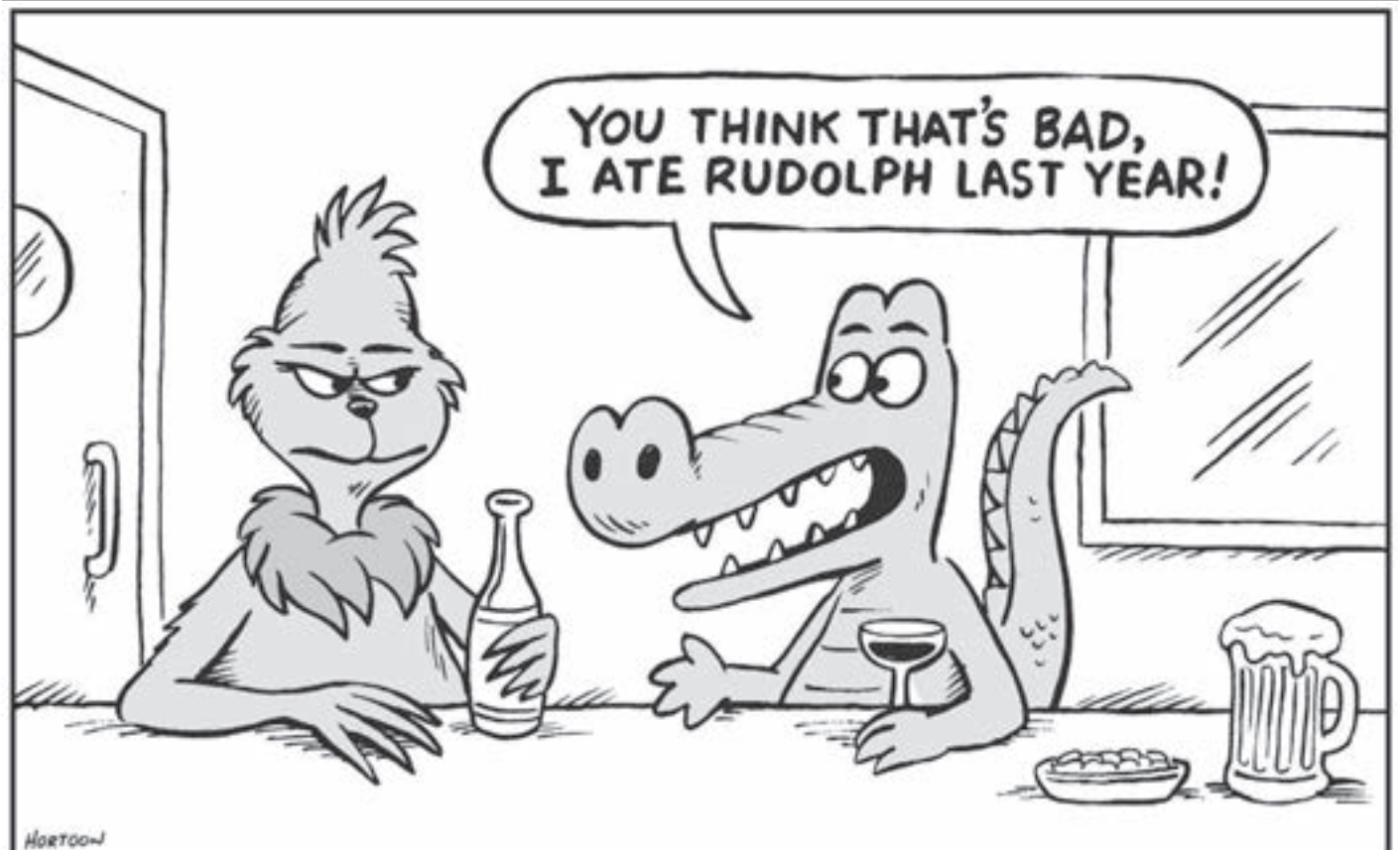
Delilah

PAWS Of Sanibel

Sampson And Delilah

Sampson and Delilah are 6 years old, but not siblings. They are neutered and spayed, respectively, and up to date on all their shots. They were seen by the vet several weeks ago. They recently lost their owner and are in desperate need of a new home, together. They are gorgeous kitties and extremely loving of one another and their people. If you can foster or adopt, call Pam at PAWS of Sanibel at 472-4823 as soon as possible.✧

HORTOONS



Send your
editorial copy to:
press@riverweekly.com

Plant Smart

Ackee

by Gerri Reaves

There's something about ackee's (*Blighia sapida*) shiny deep black seeds that warns "beware." And that instinct should be heeded, for those seeds, as well as the fruit, are highly poisonous.

If that isn't enough to deter you from even thinking of eating the fruit, the alternate common names of vegetable brains or apple brains will.

Ackee belongs to the same family, *Sapindaceae*, as the Florida natives, red maple (*Acer rubrum*) and soapberry (*Sapindus saponaria*). That family also includes species such as the destructive and invasive carrotwood (*Cupaniopsis anacardioides*).

This fruit tree is native to the Ivory and Gold Coasts of West Africa. Capt. Bligh introduced it to Jamaica in 1793 as a food source for slaves, and it is now cultivated throughout the Caribbean and in Central America, South American and the U.S.

It has become naturalized and is grown commercially in Jamaica, but is not recommended as a landscape plant in Florida because it is so poisonous to both humans and animals.

Ackee is an attractive tree with a short trunk and dense crown. It reaches up to 40 feet tall and grows fastest in fertile, well-drained soil.

This evergreen has glossy compound leaves with six to eight oblong or elliptic



The ackee tree, indigenous to West Africa, has dense foliage and red fruit capsules

photos by Gerri Reaves

leaflets. The five-petaled fragrant flowers bloom most profusely in spring.

However, despite the pretty foliage and fruit, the public's general unfamiliarity with the tree poses a danger. Eating any part of the fruit at the wrong phase of growth can be fatal.

The scarlet leathery fruit capsule is somewhat pear-shaped, three-lobed and about three or four inches long. It splits open after ripening to reveal three large, hard, black seeds and a creamy, yellow



The fruit is highly toxic to humans and animals unless consumed at the proper stage of development. The seeds should never be eaten.

fleshy interior.

If the fruit is eaten prior to the splitting or too long after natural splitting, it will be poisonous. Only the pulp of a properly ripe ackee should be eaten. The seeds are poisonous at all stages of development.

If you have a yearning to try this exotic nutritious fruit, it might be advisable to simply buy imported commercially produced canned or frozen fruit.

The fascinating tree serves a variety

of uses in African countries: the lathering green fruits serves as laundry soap, the crushed fruits as fish poison, all plant parts for medicinal purposes, the wood in construction and the flowers in making cologne.

Sources: edis.ifas.ufl.edu, hort.purdue.edu, and ofwlaw.com.

*Plant Smart explores the diverse flora of South Florida.**



Canines and owners alike make new friends aboard Pure Florida's Bark on the Ark cruises

Bark On The Ark Cruise To Picnic Island

Pure Florida's Fort Myers location is presenting Bark on the Ark on Saturday, December 19 from 8 to 11 a.m. Guests will have the opportunity to bring their dogs aboard the *M/V Edison Explorer* for a sightseeing river cruise to Picnic Island, an island located between Sanibel and Pine Island that exhibits the natural beauty of Southwest Florida.

Passengers can enjoy a peaceful cruise along the Caloosahatchee River followed by a playful time on the island, socializing with man's best friend. During the excursion, dogs and owners can run, swim and play catch while enjoying the sunshine, water, sand and fresh air.

Water, Frisbees and dog treats are included for the canines. Human treats, such as soda, wine and beer will also be available for purchase. The *M/V Edison Explorer* departs from The Marina at Edison Ford, located at 2360 W. First Street in Fort Myers.

Registration for the tour is \$44 per human. Reservations are required as



Man's best friend enjoy the waters of Picnic Island during Pure Florida's Bark on the Ark excursions

room is limited to 25 passengers and their pets. All dogs that can follow basic commands are welcome.

For more information or to book your ticket, call 919-2965, email FortMyers@PureFL.com or visit www.PureFL.com.*

Public Relations Accreditation Classes Offered

The Florida Public Relations Association Southwest Florida Chapter (FPRA SWFL) will be offering study sessions in 2016 for PR professionals interested in receiving accreditation in public relations (APR) designation.

For those interested in registering for

the free study sessions or learning more about the accreditation process, there will be an informational meeting on Thursday, Jan. 13 at 6 p.m. The meeting will take place at the Southwest Florida Community Foundation, 8771 College Parkway, Building 2, Suite 201 in Fort Myers.

To earn APR accreditation, candidates must pass an oral presentation and rigorous written examination administered by the Universal Accreditation Board (UAB), which is an alliance of eight national and statewide professional associations dedicated to furthering the field of public relations and the development of public relations professionals. FPRA SWFL is a member of the UAB.

For more information on the meeting, study sessions or APR designation, contact Credentialing Chair Kara Winton, APR, CPRC, at pkwinton@earthlink.net.*

Nature Walk At Pine Island Flatwoods

Rather than facing leftover turkey and mounds of wrapping paper the day after Christmas, how about a nature walk in a beautiful preserve? A Lee County volunteer naturalist will lead a free mile-long nature walk at Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, December 26. The Preserve is located at 6351 Stringfellow Road in St. James City.



A pine lily in bloom at Pine Island Flatwoods

The 90-minute walk takes participants through a longleaf pine flat woods that is home to gopher tortoises and bright orange pine lilies. This is one of the few locations in Lee County with naturalized longleaf pines. No reservations are required and participants should dress for the weather and wear sturdy walking shoes.

Call 707-8251 for more information.✱

Registration Now Open For Regatta

The Notice of Race for the 7th annual Charlotte Harbor Regatta, set for February 4 to 7, has been posted. The regatta will feature 10 classes, including the F18, F16, Hobie 16, Wave, WindRider 17, Weta, 2.4mR, Precision 15, Harbor 20 and Flying Scot.

The 2016 Charlotte Harbor Regatta will feature the Will White Cup. Named in honor of Sunfish racing legend and *The Sunfish Book* author Will White, the cup will be awarded to the Boat of the Week.

Sailors from around the country will compete on three race circles. Free beach, ramp and lift launching facilities, free or low-cost storage, affordable hotels and low registration fees make the Charlotte Harbor Regatta “the fun, affordable regatta.” Find out why *SAIL* magazine designated Charlotte Harbor as “one of the top 10 greatest places to sail in the United States.”

The 7th annual Charlotte Harbor Regatta will once again feature a wildly popular Pusser’s Rum Beach Party at Port Charlotte Beach Park. Limited on-site tent camping will be available.

The 2016 Charlotte Harbor Regatta NOR and online registration is available at www.charlotteharborregatta.com.✱

Island Hopper Songwriter Fest Will Return For Third Season

The Island Hopper Songwriter Fest brings music back to the beach in 2016. The third annual Island Hopper Songwriter Fest returns Sept. 23-Oct. 2, 2016.

The free festival will take place over 10 days on Southwest Florida’s most beautiful barrier islands and offers a range of star-studded performances. The festival kicks off on Captiva Island, from September 23 to 25 and wraps up from September 30 to October 2 on Fort Myers Beach. Historic downtown Fort Myers will also feature mid-week performances again.

“Each year, the Island Hopper Songwriter Fest gets better and better in terms of audience experience,” said Tamara Pigott, executive director of the Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau. “This festival gives the audience a unique opportunity to hear the stories behind the songs in small, intimate venues. It’s a once-in-a-lifetime event for music lovers.”

The last festival offered more than 70 artists who gave 136 performances at 23 venues.

“The caliber of talent that we’ve attracted to our festival in our first two years surpassed our dreams, and year three is already shaping up to be even better,” said Sherri Griswold-Holladay, iHeartMedia, market president and regional market manager.

Attendees will hear some of their favorite songs while getting a taste of the destination at live music venues including The Crow’s Nest at Tween Waters Inn, Key Lime Bistro and Doc Ford’s at South Seas Island Resort on Captiva Island; The Twisted Vine and The French Connection in downtown Fort Myers; as well as Matanzas on the Bay and Cabanas Beach Bar at DiamondHead Beach Resort and Pink Shell Beach Resort & Marina on Fort Myers Beach.

Island Hopper is presented by Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau, iHeartMedia, Cat Country 107.1 and BMI, the largest music rights organization in the U.S. For more information, visit www.islandhopperfest.com.✱

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Call 415-7732, Fax: 415-7702
or email press@riverweekly.com

Magic Under The Mangroves Gala Fundraiser Returns March 3

The Conservancy of Southwest Florida will host the 12th annual Magic Under The Mangroves gala dinner and auction fundraiser on Thursday, March 3 at 5:30 p.m. at the Conservancy of Southwest Florida Nature Center. Presented by Northern Trust, the Magic Under The Mangroves fundraiser is a recognition of the continuing importance of protecting the natural environment and quality of life in Southwest Florida, and is a key source of revenue for the Conservancy of Southwest Florida. All proceeds from the fundraiser support the Conservancy’s mission to protect our water, land, wildlife and future.

“Magic Under the Mangroves has become one of the top charitable events in Southwest Florida, and is our largest fundraising event here at the Conservancy,” said Rob Moher, president and CEO of Conservancy of Southwest Florida. “This annual fundraising event does so much to support our programs that protect our water, land, wildlife and future for generations to come, and we are honored to receive the support from the Southwest Florida community.”

One of the largest fundraisers in Southwest Florida, Magic Under the Mangroves attracts hundreds of guests each year. The event will begin with cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and a silent auction and fund a need. Windows Catering, an award-winning green caterer, will provide a three-course dinner, which will be followed by a live auction.

The Conservancy of Southwest Florida’s commitment to sustainable and green practices is incorporated into the event. For the third year, the eco-chic gala will utilize renewable resources and sustainable practices through the use of fabrics and materials, such as bamboo, sisal and potato starch. Additionally, energy-efficient lighting will be used, all possible materials recycled and use of paper promotional materials will be limited. The paper that is used is Forest Stewardship Council-certified, a designation indicating that the forest products used are from responsibly harvested and verified sources, that the paper is at least 30 percent recycled content and that non-toxic soy inks are used.

William Boyajian of Port Royal Jewelers will serve as chairman for the upcoming event. “Magic Under the Mangroves is about protecting the things we love about Southwest Florida. When you love something it is your responsibility to protect it,” said



Photo from last year’s Magic Under The Mangroves

Boyajian. “Growing up in Naples, I truly appreciate this incredible home we all share. This is why I am so deeply committed to the Conservancy and Magic’s mission.”

In addition to the Presenting Sponsor, Northern Trust, the Magic Under the Mangroves Supporting Sponsors include AVMedia, *Gulfshore Life*, *Florida Weekly*, NBC-2 and the *Naples Daily News*. Patron-level supporters are invited to the Patron Party from 1 to 4 p.m. on Sunday, February 7 at the Keewaydin Club on Keewaydin Island.

For more information on Magic Under the Mangroves or to become a patron sponsor, call 403-4218 or visit www.conservancy.org/events/magic-under-the-mangroves.✱

Theatre Conspiracy Presents Two Premieres In January

Theatre Conspiracy will present the Florida Premiere of *Kayak* by Canadian playwright Jordan Hall at the The Alliance for the Arts in Fort Myers. The production will be directed by Stephen Hooper and open on January 7.

Winner of the 2010 Samuel French Canadian Playwrights Contest, *Kayak* begins with Annie Iversen alone on a vast stretch of water. She recounts the strange chain of events that left her stranded in her son's old kayak. A doting suburban mother, Annie is blindsided when her son, Peter, falls in love with Julie, a passionate environmental activist. Unable to reconcile herself to Julie's radical worldview, Annie struggles desperately to keep Peter from falling further into the young woman's dangerous world. Climate change, S'mores, SUVs and Noah's Ark are all onstage as Annie sets out to save her son and unwittingly throws herself into the path of events larger than she ever could have imagined. Touching and provocative, *Kayak* looks at our world in a new light. This show is sponsored by Bruce and Janet Bunch.

Opening night, January 7, of *Kayak* is pay what you will and 50 percent of ticket sales that night will go to benefit Florida Coastal and Ocean Coalition. Thursday nights are buy one, get one half off. Tickets are \$24 or \$11 for students with proper ID and Women under age 41.



Kayak is the winner of the 2010 Samuel French Canadian Playwrights Contest

Performances will be January 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23 at 8 p.m. with one Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. on January 17.

The Amish Project Will Be Performed At Florida Southwestern State College

Theatre Conspiracy presents the Florida premiere of *The Amish Project*, a solo-play by award-winning writer Jessica Dickey at Florida Southwestern State College's Black Box Theatre in Building L from January 22 to February 7.

At a time when mass shootings happen almost daily in our country, the events surrounding the Nickel Mines killings stand out in our memories – not only because most Americans could never comprehend such a thing happening among the pacifist Amish, but because the Amish families of the victims extended forgiveness to the shooter and condolences to the shooter's family.

Called "a remarkable piece of writing" by The New York Times and "unique, uplifting, and unforgettable" by Chicago Theatre Beat, this powerful and poetic piece is a fictional exploration inspired by the 2006 killing of five girls in a hostage-taking at an Amish school in Pennsylvania. One actress (Tera Nicole Miller) conjures seven characters, from gunman to community members, to victims and family, and delves into how communities are indelibly tied together in such a crisis, as well as how forgiveness and compassion are forged in the wake of tragedy.

The Amish Project plays January 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30 and February 4, 5 and 6 at 8 p.m. There will be one matinee on February 7 at 2 p.m. Opening night, January 22, of *The Amish Project* is pay what you will. Thursday nights are buy one, get one half off. Tickets are \$24 or \$11 for students with proper ID and Women under age 41.*



Santa On Trial At Lab Theater



by Di Saggau

The Eight: Reindeer Monologues is far from a saccharine Christmas tale. Its dark humor accuses none other than Santa of being a sex offender. The language is raw so don't bring the kid-

dies to this one.

It may sound horrific, but the play by Jeff Goode gives way to laughter immediately. Each reindeer represents a specific social group and they are each well cast and appropriately dressed to embody various stereotypes.

In the Red Nose Inn, a neighborhood establishment near The North Pole, we hear their monologues concerning the controversy. Dasher (Mike Dinko) starts things off. He always leads the team except for that one time when Rudolph did the job. He makes it clear that Rudolph got the job due to some fog, while he flew through blizzards, hail storms and other natural disasters.

Next we meet Cupid (Matt DeNoncour) the only openly gay reindeer on the team. With his bright red heart shaped glasses and red feather boa he prances around giving the inside scoops on Santa's numerous sexual encounters. He plays a picture-perfect flamingo role with flamboyant spunk.

Hollywood (Dale Hoover), better known as Prancer, is a prima donna who



Dena Galyean as Vixen

needs attention. He's extremely self-centered and brags about his past movies and what he hopes for in the future. Sitting behind him at the bar is Blitz (Kathy Grey) who is getting blitzed on martinis. She's boiling over with feminist rage. Comet (Patrick Day) is a reformed junkie, who refuses to believe any of the charges against Santa, or Saint Nicholas as he calls him. After all it was St. Nick who rescued him from the gutters.

Next we hear from Dancer (Kate Dirrig) in her tutu and ballet slippers. She's a cheerful and adorably clueless ex-ballerina who stumbled into her current job. Donner (James Robinson) has the most heartbreaking story. He is Rudolph's father, who put all of his hopes into his son. Unfortunately Santa took a particular liking to young Rudolph, which

ended in a downward spiral for the red-nosed reindeer.

Finally we meet Vixen (Dena Galyean), the alleged victim who leaked her story to the press. In black patent leather knee high boots and red velvet teddy top, she oozes sexuality. She delivers a believable summary of emotions while offering no conclusion. That is up to the viewer.

The monologues for the most part are hilarious. The actors are superb. Unlike

any other Christmas play, *Reindeer* is an entertaining, moving and memorable adult comedy that makes the audience seriously consider the dysfunctional ways in which society deals with various subjects.

The Eight: Reindeer Monologues runs through December 20 at Laboratory Theater of Florida, 1634 Woodford Avenue in downtown Fort Myers. For tickets call 218-0481.*

CORRECTION

Davis Art Center, TheatreKids Bring Holiday Spirit To The River District

TheatreKids performs their magical holiday production of *A Christmas Carol* for the first year in Fort Myers at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, located in the historic downtown River District at 2301 First Street in Fort Myers.

An old tale gets an entirely new spin this holiday season as TheatreKids presents *A Christmas Carol*, running December 18 to 20 at the Sidney & Berne Davis Arts Center. A cast of talented young artists joins master storyteller Douglas Coventry in a performance that blends narration, dance and creative movement in a one-of-a-kind rendition of Charles Dickens' classic. Prepare to laugh, cry, hoot and holler – and, for the little ones, even join the action on stage.

This is the Fort Myers debut for the

children's theater company, which has been operating in Charlotte County for 26 years. The mission of TheatreKids Performance Academy & Company is to cultivate imagination, develop artistry and provide opportunities for young artists to interpret great literature and showcase their talent in works that uplift and inspire. Join us as we bring the magic to life!

Performances are:

- Friday, December 18, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, December 19, 2 p.m.

(special Arts Outreach performance) – Open for purchase to outreach groups of 20 or more at \$5 per ticket (includes educational groups, extracurricular teams, nursing homes, camps, etc.); contact the director for more information at coven-trypayne@me.com.

- Saturday, December 19, 7 p.m.
- Sunday, December 20, 3 p.m.

Tickets are \$18 each. For more information, call the Davis Arts Center box office at 333-1933 or visit www.sbdac.com.*

Read us online at
IslandSunNews.com

Book On Female Pioneers Now Available



The book was co-authored by Tom Hall, who is also a featured art columnist in *The River Weekly News*

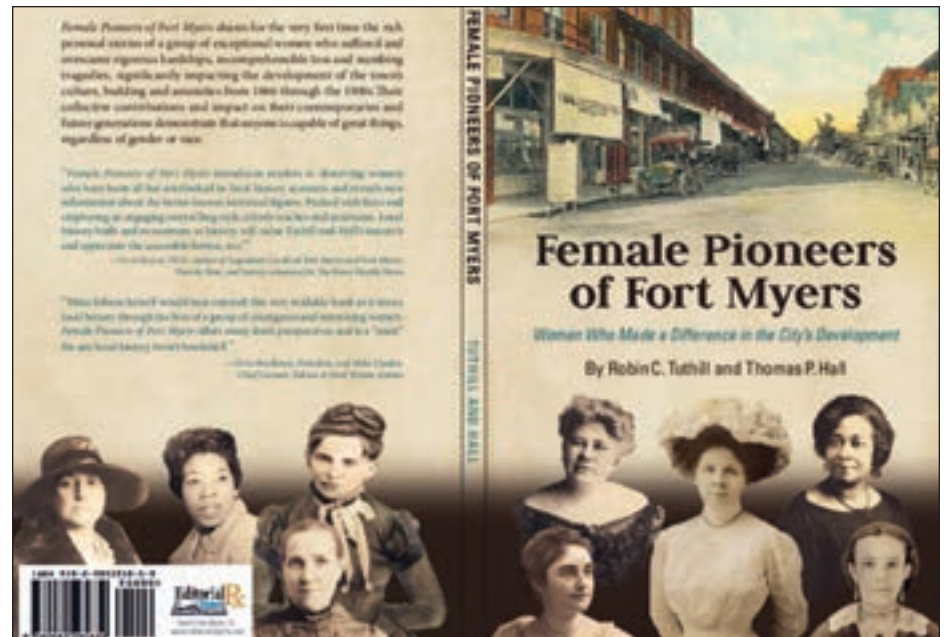
On December 7, Editorial Rx Press released *Female Pioneers of Fort Myers: Women Who Made a Difference in the Early Development of Fort Myers*, by local authors Robin Tuthill and Tom Hall. In addition to being an amateur artist and aspiring



Robin Tuthill

novelist, Hall is a featured art columnist for *The River Weekly News*.

The two authors have spent more than a year collaborating to write a book about the women who helped settle Fort Myers and transform it from a rough-and-tumble cow town into a modern cultural, commercial and tourist center. You may think, at first blush, that it's just another dry historical, but what makes *Female Pioneers* unique is that it shares the previously untold and all but forgotten tales of the women who saved Fort Myers from abandonment and influenced the town's buildings, topography, culture and amenities from 1866 through the mid-1900s.



Tuthill and Hall give a more balanced version of history while providing inspirational stories about women who overcame rigorous hardships, incomprehensible loss and numbing tragedies to settle, save and build Fort Myers alongside their male counterparts

Until now, the historical narrative about the founding of Fort Myers has been all about the flamboyant and irascible men who built our town – like Cow King Capt. F.A. Hendry, fellow cattleman “Wild Bill” Towles, battling bankers/developers Harvie Heitman and Walter Langford, and hardware magnate and hotelier W.P. Franklin. While the women of that era also played pivotal parts in the town's early development, their roles, if mentioned at all, were generally rel-

egated to footnotes or parentheticals in the exploits of their male counterparts. But now, Tuthill and Hall are setting the record straight, not just giving a fuller and more balanced version of our local history, but providing inspirational stories at a time when girls and boys and young women and men of all ages are desperately searching for positive female role models. And what better role models are there for our local youth than the women

continued on page 18



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Student Writing And Art Contest

The Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy announced the Florida Celebration of Reading Student Writing and Art Contest, open to kindergarten through third grade students in Southwest Florida, including Charlotte, Collier and Lee counties.

Since 2001, the Florida Celebration of Reading has raised more than \$25 million for the Barbara Bush Foundation in support of family literacy programs that help children and their parents improve their literacy skills. This year's event will feature a guest appearance from *New York Times* best-selling children's author Drew Daywalt. The writing and art contest is based on Daywalt's book, *The Day The Crayons Quit*, which inspires children to look at everyday objects – such as crayons – in a whole new, imaginative light.

"We're so excited that Drew Daywalt will help us kick off our 16th Florida Celebration of Reading," said Liza McFadden, president of the Barbara Bush Foundation. "We know his fun, colorful book will spark some really creative responses from young readers, and we can't wait to see the entries."

The Florida Department of Education's Just Read, Florida! office will assist in



Drew Daywalt

reading and judging entries. Contest winners, accompanied by their parents, will be recognized at a VIP breakfast kicking off the Celebration of Reading event on Friday, February 5 at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa in Bonita Springs. The students will be Daywalt's guests at the Celebration Student Breakfast and have the opportunity to visit with the author and share their winning submissions. Winners will also be

awarded with two \$100 travel vouchers from Southwest Airlines, the official airline of the Barbara Bush Foundation.

The book's main character, Duncan, opens his desk one day to find a stack of letters where his crayons should be. His crayons have quit, and each one has written him a letter to explain why they are unhappy. To enter the contest, young authors/illustrators are asked to put themselves in Duncan's place and respond to one of the letters he received. Students should select one crayon color to respond to and address the crayon's concerns and frustrations. The submission should also include a drawing to illustrate the response.

Entries are limited to a maximum of 100 words, must include an illustration (no larger than 8.5 by 11 inches), and are due Friday, Jan. 15, 2016, at 5 p.m. Entries can be submitted electronically to info@barbarabush.org or mailed to The Barbara Bush Foundation, Attn: FCOR 2016 Student Writing Contest, 516 North Adams Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301, postmarked no later than January 15.

Contest guidelines are available on the Barbara Bush Foundation's website events page at www.barbarabush.org/events. Select Florida Celebration of Reading.

Twelve winning entries will be selected. Winners will be announced in schools and on the foundation's website at www.barbarabush.org.

New York Times best-selling author, Dana Perino will also join the Celebration of Reading program. Author of *And The Good News Is...* and co-host of Fox News Channel's *The Five*, Perino was the former White House press secretary for President George W. Bush and served for seven years in the Bush administration working at the Justice Department and the Council on Environmental Policy. Perino also was appointed by President Obama and confirmed by the U.S. Senate to serve three years on the U.S. Broadcasting Board of Governors.

For more information about Celebration of Reading and the Barbara Bush Foundation, visit www.barbarabush.org/events.

Free Open Painting Offered

The Art League of Fort Myers located at 1451 Monroe Street in downtown Ft. Myers offers free open painting opportunities every Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

Beginning Tuesday, January 19, free evening open painting will be offered from 6 to 8 p.m. It is a great opportunity to paint with fellow artists and exchange ideas. For more information, call 275-3970.



B.A. Shapiro

Bestselling Author At The Alliance

Join *New York Times* bestselling author B.A. Shapiro as she discusses her new book *The Muralist* at the Alliance for the Arts on Tuesday, January 12 at 7 p.m. Shapiro is best known for her book *The Art Forger* which explored the world of art forgery and theft. It won the New England Book Award for Fiction in 2013.

The evening is presented in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte counties. There will be a reception and book signing after her talk. Copies of *The Muralist* will be for sale. A \$10 donation is requested at the door. RSVP is encouraged.

Shapiro's new book *The Muralist* is



a thrilling novel of art, history, love and politics that traces the life and mysterious disappearance of a brilliant young artist on the eve of World War II. Alizée Benoit, an American painter working for the Works Progress Administration (WPA), vanishes in New York City in 1940 amid personal and political turmoil. No one knows what happened to her. Not her Jewish family living in German-occupied France. Not her artistic patron and political compatriot, Eleanor Roosevelt. Not her close-knit group of friends, including Mark Rothko, Jackson Pollock and Lee Krasner. And, some 70 years later, not her great-niece, Danielle Abrams, who while working at Christie's auction house uncovers enigmatic paintings hidden behind recently found works by those now

famous Abstract Expressionist artists. Do they hold answers to the questions surrounding her missing aunt?

Entwining the lives of both historical and fictional characters, and moving between the past and the present, *The Muralist* plunges readers into the divisiveness of prewar politics and the largely forgotten plight of European refugees refused entrance to the United States. It captures both the inner workings of today's New York art scene and the beginnings of the vibrant and quintessentially American school of Abstract Expressionism.

B.A. Shapiro is a master at telling a gripping story while exploring provocative themes. In Alizée and Danielle, she has created two unforgettable women, artists both, who compel us to ask, "What happens when luminous talent collides with inexorable historical forces? Does great art have the power to change the world? And to what lengths should a person go to thwart evil?"

There will be a reception and book signing after her talk. Copies of *The Muralist* will be for sale. A \$10 donation is requested at the door. RSVP or learn more at ArtInLee.org/RSVP or by calling 939-2787.

The Alliance campus and galleries,

located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard just south of Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers, are open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.


From page 17

Female Pioneers

from our collective past who were actually responsible for settling, saving and building our town?

Southwest Florida author, essayist and *News-Press* columnist Amy Bennett Williams has written the Foreword, with "back cover" endorsements being supplied by Mayor Randy Henderson, author and *River Weekly News* local history columnist Gerri Reaves, Edison Ford CEO and President Chris Pendleton, Edison Ford Chief Curator Mike Cosden, *Dared to Dream* author Doris Weatherford and former Mound House director and local archaeologist/anthropologist/historian Theresa Schober.


Order a copy and share it with your family and friends. *Female Pioneers* will enhance your understanding and enjoyment of Fort Myers. It is now available at www.amazon.com and at www.editorial-rxpress.com.



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Volunteers Needed For ArtFest Fort Myers

ArtFest Fort Myers, Southwest Florida's premier fine art festival, is looking for volunteers who want a rewarding and exciting opportunity to "peek behind the scenes" of a great community event.

"Volunteers are a key part of the success of ArtFest Fort Myers and we are always looking for eager and energetic people to have fun with us," explained Ethel Willis and Evelyn Murphy, volunteer team coordinators. "Each volunteer works a four hour shift and can choose to help with the professional artists, sell commemorative shirts and posters, assist in the children's Art Yard, welcome our VIP's, get our 5K Publix Run To The Arts off to a great start or select one of dozens of other volunteer assignments. We encourage our volunteers to pick an area that they are interested in and there is no experience required. We provide the training and, thanks to our volunteer sponsor, Lee County Electric Cooperative, every volunteer receives a beautiful festival T-shirt to wear."

Signing up to volunteer over ArtFest Fort Myers weekend - February 5, 6 and 7 - is as simple as visiting ArtFestFortMyers.com. Go to the volunteer page and choose the available volunteer job that interests you. Your four-hour volunteer shift truly makes a difference to the community and there is no experience required.

Volunteer perks include reserved parking, a complimentary ArtFest Fort Myers volunteer T-shirt, a chance to enjoy wonderful artists from across the country and to meet other great volunteers from within the Southwest Florida community.

For more information, visit ArtFestFortMyers.com or call 768-3602.✱

VIP Experience At ArtFest Fort Myers

Upgrade to the VIP Experience as ArtFest Fort Myers celebrates their 16th anniversary. Ron Bucher, vice president of investments at Raymond James, looks forward to welcoming the community to a weekend of all things artfully pampered, beginning with the elite Opening Night VIP Party and continuing at the VIP Tent on Saturday and Sunday, February 6 and 7. Begin on Friday evening, February

5, join your fellow VIPs at the VIP Tent on opening night. Delectable food from some of our area's finest restaurants, great wine and ice cold beer are just the beginning, as the evening also includes an extraordinary sampling of 65 festival artists and surprise performances.

Over festival weekend, relax in comfort and style in the VIP Experience Tent. The all-weekend passes will provide you with a private and shady oasis in the center of all the Festival action. Complimentary breakfast treats, mid-day lunch, access to beverages all day, free parking and comfortable seating are available to those who purchase VIP packages.

"I am so proud to be a sponsor of this wonderful event," explained Ron Bucher, returning for his 13th season with the festival. "The arts continue to form and define our community and give us a competitive edge with regard to our quality of life."

The VIP Experience is \$95 per person and your support contributes to the year-round ArtFest Fort Myers' art education outreach programs. To enjoy the ArtFest Fort Myers VIP Experience and their 215 artists as a Very Important Patron, visit Upgrade To VIP at ArtFestFortMyers.com or call 768-3602.✱

5th Friday On First Coming In January

The River District Alliance (RDA) announced a new Friday night event in the historic River District titled 5th Friday On First, beginning on Friday, January 29 from 6 to 9 p.m.

5th Friday On First features River District restaurant food samples for purchase in \$5 increments. Also included are several stages along First Street with Blues Music. Food sample tickets are available in advance beginning on Monday, January 25 or on the night of the event at participating downtown retail shops. 5th Friday On First patrons will vote for their favorite downtown restaurant which will be determined by the most food tickets sold for the night. The winning restaurant will receive a 5th Friday On First trophy for the night which they will embellish before passing it on to the next winner at the following event date.

Future dates for 5th Friday On First are April 29, July 29 and September 30. There is no event on Friday, December 30 due to New Year's Eve.

For more information, visit www.fortmyersriverdistrictalliance.com.✱



The Southwest Florida Symphony will perform its Holiday Pops concert at Shell Point Retirement Community on December 21

Shell Point Holiday Pops Concert

Shell Point Retirement Community welcomes the Southwest Florida Symphony for its Holiday Pops concert. The symphony will take the stage in The Village Church at 15100 Shell Point Boulevard on Monday, December 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Conductor Nir Kabaretti leads the symphony in performing December holiday classics, inspired by the Festival of Lights. The concert also includes performances by Broadway star, soprano soloist Laura Woyasz, and the Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida.

Audience participation is invited during familiar sing-along tunes, such as Here Comes Santa Claus, I'm Dreaming of a White Christmas and other traditional seasonal favorites.

"Shell Point audiences are always enthusiastic and fun to join for symphony performances," said Dorothy Munsch, Shell Point resident and board member of the Southwest Florida Symphony. "This concert is a wonderful way to celebrate the holidays with family and friends."

To purchase tickets for \$30, visit www.shellpoint.org/concerts, or call the box office at 454-2067.✱

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ENGEL & VÖLKERS



From page 4

Vigil For 16 Lee Homeless

Veterans. Music will be provided by the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers Youth Choir and choir director, Darlene Mitchell.

The Lee County Homeless Coalition is a non-profit organization comprised of community and faith-based service providers, local businesses, people who are currently experiencing or who have experienced homelessness, and other advocates committed to ending homelessness. s.

To learn more contact Bartos at 322-6600.✱

Our email address is press@riverweekly.com

Cut-Off Jeans, Beer, Music – Is That What Golf Needs To Survive?



by Ed Frank

Florida leads the nation in the number of golf courses – more than 1,100 – and the Naples-Fort Myers area is the golfing mecca of the state. Three major professional tournaments are held here annually, two in the last month, Greg Norman’s Franklin-Templeton Shootout and the CME Group Tour Championship. Yet on the eve of Norman’s 27th annual Shootout, he issued a dire warning in an article in *USA Today* that the sport needs to change, and change quickly, to stop the decade-long slide in interest and participation in the grand old game.

A 2013 study by the National Golf Foundation showed there were 15,516 golf facilities in the United States, but in that year alone there had been 157 closings nationwide with just 13 new courses. In the last decade, more than 600 have turned to pastures, and the number of golfers dropped from 30 million to an estimated 25.3 million.

More than 100 courses are expected to have closed during the current year. The economic meltdown in golf is felt in every state from Alaska, with just six courses, to Florida with 1,100-plus. Some of the decline is attributed to the recent housing bust where courses had been built primarily to attract home buyers. But Norman and others feel the sharp decline is deep-seated for many other reasons.

The young generation, ages 20 to 35, are not attracted to golf as their parents. It takes too long to play, the staid atmosphere is not “their thing,” and they feel green fees are too high.

Maybe these feelings are better understood if you watch the Waste Management Phoenix Open each spring where 20,000 “rowdies” drink and shout around the 16th hole. Just watch and you will see their beer cans aloft as each player hits on this par-three hole.

That’s the environment this young crowd loves. Norman compares today’s golf dilemma to the problems facing skiing 20 years ago. Mom and Dad skied while snowboarding was frowned upon because youngsters dressed differently and plummeted down the mountain with abandon. The sport adapted to this change and families returned to the ski slopes. In golf, the old timers cringe when they see golfers in cut-off jeans and T-shirts on the course gulping beer and, perhaps, playing loud music. Norman said he is considering building a 12-hole golf course where you could play in less than three hours. And even if they came out there with a skateboard, “let them go.” Here in Southwest Florida, snowbirds are the economic backbone of the golfing industry. It has been estimated that the economic impact of golf in Lee and Collier counties approaches \$1 billion a year, \$7.5 billion for the entire state. But what happens in the years ahead when the next wave of snowbirds arrives and their interest in golf is far less?

We live in a fast-changing era. And golf had better change with it. **Smith Returns As Miracle Manager**

Naples resident Jeff Smith will return next season for the second consecutive year to manage the Fort Myers Miracle baseball team, the Advanced A Minor League team of the Minnesota Twins. He also managed the Miracle in 2008-09.

Smith’s 76-63 record this past season was the best in the Florida State League’s South Division.

Returning for his 11th season as Miracle hitting coach will be Jim Dwyer. Henry Bonilla is moving up from Low A Cedar Rapids to the Miracle as the team’s new pitching coach.

Florida Everblades Skate To Best Record
The Florida Everblades hockey team began the week with a 18-9 season record, best in the entire 28-team ECHL.

In their own South Division, Florida led second-place South Carolina by four points. The Everblades split a pair of home games last weekend against Reading, a 3-2 overtime victory Friday and a 2-1 loss Saturday.

Florida visits South Carolina this weekend for two games.✧



Publix Run to the Arts

Publix Artsy 5K

Publix Run to the Arts isn’t just a race - it’s a full morning of fun that kicks off at ArtFest Fort Myers with exceptional art, entertainment and interactive art activities on Sunday, February 7.

Runners and their guests will enjoy live music and be the first to sneak a peek at the artist booths on Sunday morning, even before the festival opens to the public. In keeping with the spirit of the fine art festival, runners will also be invited to take part in creating a public art piece, to further celebrate this event.

“This is so much more than any ordinary 5K,” said Sharon McAllister, executive director. “Publix Run To The Arts brings together the very best that life has to offer: health and fitness, arts and culture, friends and family and the scenic beauty of the Fort Myers waterfront. In our view, it is all about quality of life in our community”

Publix Run To The Arts registration fee guarantees a spot in the race as well as a very special run t-shirt, featuring fabulous artwork, a post-race breakfast, medals and special awards for top finishers and reserved early morning parking. There will also be wonderful raffle prizes, including weekend getaways and tickets to theatre/symphony performances.

We also welcome non-runners as race day volunteers! All volunteers will get a cool Publix Run To The Arts staff shirt, breakfast on race day, raffle entry and preferred parking.

Run to the Arts is made possible by the generous support of Publix, a 12-year sponsor of ArtFest Fort Myers that is carrying on its tradition of being the kind of company a community can count on. Publix invites you to start your day with an invigorating run or walk and a healthy breakfast ... then feed your mind and spirit at ArtFest Fort Myers.

ArtFest Fort Myers, the annual juried fine art festival, takes place in the Fort

Myers River District during February 5-7. Join the experience with 215 professional artists from across the county and around the world; the largest high school art exhibit and competition in south Florida and free interactive art experiences for children of all ages.

For more information visit RunToTheArts.com or connect with the race or the art festival on Facebook and LinkedIn Tag us #artfestfm.✧

From page 1

String Quartet

tickets are \$80 for all four concerts. Single tickets are \$25 in advance, \$30 at the door. Doors open at 7 p.m. for cocktails, with performance time at 8 p.m.

For more information, visit www.sbdac.com or call 333-1933.

SBDAC is located in the historic downtown River District at 2301 First Street in Fort Myers. ✧

From page 1

Basketball Classic

ESPN #2 player Jayson Tatum (Chaminade, St. Louis, Missouri); Class of 2016 ESPN #6 player Edryce “Bam” Adebayo (High Point Christian, High Point, North Carolina); Class of 2016 ESPN #11 player Lonzo Ball (Chino Hills, Chino Hills, California); Class of 2016 Hoop Scoop #10 player Udoka Azubuike (Potter’s House Christian, Jacksonville, Florida); and Class of 2017 ESPN #3 player Michael Porter (Father Tolton, Columbia, Missouri).

For more information, including a complete lineup of the teams scheduled to play in this year’s tournament or to purchase tickets, go to www.cityofpalm-sclassic.com.✧

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School Smart



by Shelley M. Greggs, NCSP

Dear Shelley, My husband and I are not doing well financially and now we are faced with all the spending that goes with the holidays. We can

afford some gifts but we don't want to get further into debt. Do you have any ideas on what to say to our kids, ages 7, 9, 11, when money is limited? I hate to disappoint them.

Elena Z, Fort Myers, Florida

Elena,

I applaud you for wanting to deal with this very difficult situation. The desire to have the perfect holiday with all the "trimmings" can drive our shopping patterns crazy. The holidays are a difficult time to limit spending when faced with the expectations of our children. The media hype for a specific gift and the intense consumerism of the season may

also create unreasonable expectations for your family. The National Association of School Psychologists has provided the following tips for families who are coping with difficult economic issues. Most importantly, do not hide the truth from your children. Children sense parents' worry and the unknown can be scarier than the truth.

- Maintain as much of a normal family routine as possible.
- Be available and open to talk when your child is ready.
- Answer questions honestly and calmly while staying optimistic.
- Be aware of changes in your child's behaviors and emotions.
- Encourage your child to tell you if he or she feels overwhelmed.
- Encourage healthy and diverse friendships and involvement in extracurricular activities.
- Encourage physical activity, good nutrition and rest.
- Help your child be part of decision-making when appropriate.
- Some adolescents will feel better if they can help; identify tasks that are reasonable and don't overburden them.
- Reassure your child that it is not his or her job to fix the problem and that you

will take care of the family.

- Avoid unnecessary discussions in front of your child that might increase his or her stress or anxiety.
- Emphasize the family's ability to get through tough times, particularly with the love and support of family and friends.
- Find time to relax and have fun together. Family dinnertime may be especially important.
- Discourage an excessive focus on the news/media.
- Monitor your own stress level. Take care of yourself.

• Communicate with school. They need to know if your child is struggling. They have resources to help.

Shelley Greggs is adjunct faculty at Florida SouthWestern State College, where she teaches 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. Not all questions submitted can be addressed through this publication.✱

Insurance Firm Adds Vet To Board

Fort Myers-based Disabled Veterans Insurance Careers (DVIC) has added Jae Barclay to its board of directors. Barclay's own military experience, career in the insurance industry and passion for supporting disabled veterans will make him a valuable asset to DVIC, according to the company.

Barclay followed the footsteps of his father and grandfather and began his military career with an ROTC scholarship to North Georgia College. He graduated in 2004 and was commissioned as a U.S. Army Infantry officer. In February 2006, he was deployed as a platoon leader to Afghanistan where he was stationed in Korengal Valley. In 2006, his Humvee was struck by an IED and Barclay spent the next two years recovering from burns that covered 40 percent of his body. He was awarded the Purple Heart and a Bronze Star for his valor.

Barclay is an associate property broker in Houston Texas.

For more information about DVIC, visit dvic.us.✱

Financial Focus

Holiday Spending Teaches Children About Money



by Jennifer Basey

During this holiday season, you'll likely be spending money, in various amounts and in various ways. And you can use this experience to teach your children about money manage-

ment.

Here are a few ideas for doing just that:

- Stick to a budget. Tell your children you've set aside a certain amount of money for gifts and holiday events, such as hosting parties, and that you won't exceed it. And if you have saved money throughout the year in a special holiday fund, let your kids know about that, too. This information should help impress upon them the importance of sticking with a budget and saving for a goal.
- Discuss credit and debt. Ideally, you won't have to use your credit cards to an unusual degree during the holiday season. If you do, though, explain to your children that using a credit card is not the same thing as "free" money, and that your goal is to pay off the card as soon as possible, so that you won't have to pay even more for your purchases in the form of interest payments.
- Compare short- and long-term goals. Explain to your children that your holiday spending is the result of having saved for, and met, a short-term goal,

but that you are also saving for long-term goals, such as retirement. Depending on the age of your kids, you might want to go into somewhat more detail, such as describing, in general terms, the different ways you save for the different goals. For example, for your holiday spending, you might be drawing on money from your checking account – or, as mentioned above, a holiday fund, possibly kept in a low-risk, liquid vehicle – while for your long-term goals, you might be relying in part on your employer-sponsored retirement plan, such as a 401(k). The key point to get across is that you have various financial goals in life with various means of working toward achieving them.

• Introduce your children to investing. If you've already brought up the topic of saving for long-term goals, why not take it a step further and give your children a doorway into the investment world? Specifically, consider giving them a few shares of stock, possibly in companies with which they are already familiar, and help them follow these stocks. One way of giving stocks to children is through a custodial account, which can be opened under the Uniform Transfer to Minors Act (UTMA) or the Uniform Gifts to Minors Act (UGMA). Keep in mind, though, that once your child reaches the age of majority – usually 18 or 21 – he or she gets full control of the money in the account. Plus, your gift is irrevocable.

• Be generous. If you're going to make charitable gifts, let your kids know about it – or even let them help pick the charities. It will show them that one purpose of wealth accumulation is to give back to the world.

By providing some financial education to your kids this holiday season, you'll be giving them a gift that can last long after the festivities have ended.

Jennifer Basey is a financial advisor in Fort Myers. She can be reached at jennifer.basey@edwardjones.com.✱

Doctor and Dietitian

Obesity, Joints And Osteoarthritis



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

Obesity has many wide-reaching effects on health, but how does the excess weight affect the joints? Weight puts force on the joints and, when walking, joint forces on the hip and knee, for example, are increased by approximately 1.5 times the amount of body weight than while standing.

Dr. Carlton Savory of Hughston Health Clinic states, "If a person weighing 200 pounds is walking along a level sidewalk, the forces on the joint are the same as for a 300-pound person standing still." Increase the activity and the force is even more.

Osteoarthritis added into the mix creates an even bigger problem. Obesity and osteoarthritis are two well-known problems among Americans. Whether obesity actually causes osteoarthritis is still a matter of controversy, but considering the amount of extra force it places on the joint, this combination is clearly problematic.

The Centers for Disease Control

(CDC) has reported that osteoarthritis is a common comorbidity to obesity. The seriousness of obesity cannot be ignored as it poses a high risk for Type 2 diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, stroke and some types of cancers. Regrettably, the majority of Americans are overweight and many are morbidly obese.

Losing weight is the best way to help the joints, while decreasing the risk of developing the aforementioned conditions. Unfortunately, obesity accompanied by osteoarthritis creates a negative cycle of inactivity, pain and lack of exercise, which encourages weight gain. When confronted with this situation, regenerative treatments, such as prolotherapy, can repair the degenerated joint, relieving the pain. The obese person should then engage in healthy eating, while following a weight loss and exercise plan.

Obesity is a serious issue and physical activity is a crucial life-saving component. Get started on a path to health and healing today.

This information is not intended to treat, cure or diagnose your condition. Caring Medical and Rehabilitation Services has two locations: one in Oak Park, Illinois, and one in Fort Myers. It was established in 1991 by Ross Hauser, MD, and Marion Hauser, MS, RD. They can be reached at info@car-ingmedical.com.✱

Send your
editorial copy to:
press@riverweekly.com



The front facade of Cypress Cove at HealthPark Florida's multi-million dollar memory care community photos courtesy of Cypress Cove

Care Community Nears Build End

Officials at Cypress Cove at HealthPark Florida are eyeing a Spring 2016 targeted finish of their memory care facility – The Cottage – and recently announced that residency reservations are being accepting.

The Cottage is a multi-million dollar distinctive two-story, four-household community located on the 48-acre campus of the south Fort Myers planned-living community. Construction on the property began in November of 2014. Cypress Cove Executive Director Michele Wasserlauf

reports that work is progressing quickly. Contractors are currently completing installation of the 45,000 square foot community's attractive multi-peaked standing seam green metal roof. Installation of windows and outside doors have neared completion, while inside framing, insulation and utility work is actively progressing on both floors. When open, The Cottage will feature many of the memory care industry's most unique and visionary lodging components, including innovative programming for those residents with Alzheimer's or other form of dementia. Among The Cottage's unique characteristics is its small house concept with four distinct household clusters, each providing home-



Outside stucco work on the 45,000 square foot multi-million dollar memory care community on the campus of Cypress Cove at HealthPark Florida is nearing completion

like surroundings for eleven residents – including individual rooms with private bathrooms, a kitchen with breakfast bar, dining and living area, etc. Featured within The Cottage's interior setting are several concepts fresh and new to Southwest Florida memory care. Perhaps the most advanced is the industry's first "Ketra" lighting system: a revolutionary 24-hour lighting that delivers programmed high and low lighting patterns to aid resident stimulation and improve their nighttime sleep. Other innovative features include a multi-sensory

therapy room (called a Snoezelen Room) and a large tropical outdoor garden with interactive water features and low-impact walking paths. "We're thrilled with the progress. This has been a long and thoughtful process for creating this facility. It is wonderful to see The Cottage now taking shape," Wasserlauf said. Individuals seeking reservation information are encouraged to call Adrienne Gerard at 839-7673 or check out The Cottage website at www.memorycareftmyers.com.

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From left, Jim Nathan, president of Lee Memorial Health System; Frank Haskell, founder of Barbara's Friends; Al Kinkle, chairman of Barbara's Friends; Jim Andrews, Lee Memorial Auxiliary president-Elect; Tracy Connelly, senior director of development for Lee Memorial Health System Foundation; Sally Wilson, special event planner for Lee Memorial Health System Foundation; and Phil Fortin, president of the Lee Memorial Auxiliary

LMHS Auxillary Donates To Barbara's Friends

At an annual holiday meeting on December 1, Lee Memorial Auxiliary President Phil Fortin presented Frank Haskell, founder of Barbara's Friends, with a \$500,000

check fulfilling the auxiliary's commitment to the Golisano Children's Hospital capital campaign. Barbara's Friends is the pediatric cancer fund for the children's hospital. The auxiliary promised a donation of \$100,000 every year for five years in addition to their ongoing fundraising efforts which support various programs, projects, education and equipment for the health system, its patients and their families.

To advertise in *The River Weekly News* Call 415-7732

dearRPharmacist

This Is Why I Threw Out My Multivitamin



by Suzy Cohen, RPh

Dear Readers:

I used to think multivitamins filled a nutritional gap, but today I think differently. There's no way that 1.7mg of any B vitamin will boost energy, or 20mg of magnesium

could improve mood. I'm beginning to realize that multivitamins are an absolute joke. It'd be funny except the joke's on us, and you spent good money on them. Here's my rationale:

- Negligible amounts – There are so many nutrients in a multivitamin that the amounts of each become negligible. For example, 1mg of pyridoxine (B6) doesn't impact you, metabolically speaking. I think it's on the label "for show" as clearly, this amount doesn't optimize health. By the time this 1mg gets past your digestive tract, hardly anything could have made it to your blood stream, no less your nerves where B6 is required. The same goes for cyanocobalamin, a typical form of vitamin B12. One popular multi-billion dollar producing brand has 1mcg cyanocobalamin in it. Microgram folks... that is just one-thousandth of a milligram! With hundreds of B12 dependent meta-

bolic reactions (including methylation), what do you think that 1 microgram does for you? I'll tell you, nothing! It's there "for show."

- Allergies – Multivitamins have upwards of 68 different ingredients, some of which are synthetic. Are you sure you're not allergic to this stuff?

- Inactive forms – It's one thing to take insignificant amounts of a nutrient, but there are usually completely inactive vitamins in your multivite and they remain inactive until converted by your liver to something that could work. After you take cyanocobalamin B12, your body breaks it into cyanide and cobalamin, and then you have to methylate it. Superior forms of B12 are methylcobalamin, hydroxycobalamin or adenosylcobalamin.

- Potential toxins – Let's revisit that cyanocobalamin B12, what I consider to be inferior to other B12 supplements. It contains minute amounts of cyanide, which has low potential to do harm when bound to organic cobalamin. But still, I don't want it in my body, even in teeny-tiny amounts.

- Cramps and diarrhea – Yep, you could get that due to the addition of cheap forms of magnesium such as the "oxide" form. Gentler forms of magnesium include the "chelated" forms, or threonate, or glycinate.

- Artificial colors – One popular brand contains three artificial colors, FD&C Red #40, Blue #2 and Yellow #6, and there is a controversy over the safety of those dyes.

The greatest deception is that the minerals from these multivitamins will get into your bones. Magnesium oxide and calcium carbonate don't penetrate your

continued on page 24

Mom And Me



by Lizzie and Pryce

Lizzie and Pryce answer your questions and give advice about aging concerns from a two-generational perspective. A mother and daughter team, Lizzie is a retired RN and health educator, and Pryce is a licensed psychotherapist in private practice who specializes in the care of elders and people with chronic illnesses.

Dear Mom & Me,

We became acquainted with a nice (computer savvy) gal. She was in her middle 40s and was in a live-in arrangement with her boyfriend. They decided to get married, each for the second time.

One day we received an email invitation to their wedding. We both thought that it was a little unusual. The wedding was very casual, they made up their own service and it was held in a local park. The reception was beautifully catered and

we enjoyed ourselves.

We sent them a sentimental card with a very nice check enclosed. One week later we received another email and all it said was, "Thank you for the gift."

Is this how it is done now?

Sarah

Dear Sarah,

I certainly hope not.

I would be insulted because they couldn't even take the time and write a little note of appreciation. But, by today's standards, I guess you were fortunate to have received recognition of the gift.

I did call a local bridal agency, and they were shocked about the email invitation but said, "We knew it was coming," although they hadn't heard that it had actually been done.

It seems to take a long time for some people to learn a few manners, and then others I guess never learn.

Lizzie

Dear Sarah,

I look forward to emails the same way that many people look forward to receiving U.S. Post letters. However I too would be put out by what amounts to a mass mailing. "Dear (fill in the blank)" does not make you feel special or appreciated for your kindness, only an address on a mailing list. Where is Ms. Manners when we need her?

Pryce

Lizzie and Pryce's email address is momandmeaging@hotmail.com.*

New Certifications Allow Specialized Parkinson's Therapy At Shell Point

The Rehabilitation Center at Shell Point Retirement Community now offers specialized Parkinson's therapy, following recent certifications obtained in LSVT-LOUD and LSVT-BIG.

According to the National Center for Biotechnology Information, nearly 90 percent of individuals with Parkinson's disease (PD) suffer from speech and voice disorders that negatively impact communication abilities – ranging from reduced volume to poor articulation. Additionally, PD patients can struggle with controlling repetitive motions that are commonly seen as hallmarks of the disease.

LSVT-LOUD and LSVT-BIG are therapy programs developed for patients with PD and similar neurological conditions, and perfected over decades of research. The LSVT-LOUD treatment uses systematic exercise to stimulate the speech motor system, improve vocal function, and slow the progression of muscular deterioration. LSVT-BIG targets limb motor systems to increase speed of motion and sensory perception.

"The great news for those with Parkinson's is that studies have proven positive outcomes resulting from LSVT-LOUD and LSVT-BIG therapy. Patients report strengthened vocal muscles and improved movements," said Christine Gulotta, director of therapy at Shell Point's Rehabilitation Center. "We are thrilled to be capable of delivering these programs to our clients."

The following LSVT-LOUD and LSVT-BIG certified therapists will assist clients at

continued on page 24



The Rehabilitation Center at Shell Point now offers LSVT-LOUD and LSVT-BIG specialized therapy programs developed for individuals with Parkinson's disease

photo courtesy of Shell Point Retirement Community

ANOTHER REASON TO LOVE FLORIDA JOINT REGENERATION THERAPY

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The Calendar Girls performed at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theater last week

Calendar Girls Perform At Holiday Luncheon

The Calendar Girls performed for the Dr. Piper Center's Volunteer Holiday Luncheon at Broadway Palm Dinner Theater on December 8. For more information, visit www.calendargirlsflorida.com.✴



The Calendar Girls at The Palms

Holiday Extravaganza At The Palms

The Calendar Girls brought their Holiday Extravaganza to the residents of the Palms of Fort Myers on Friday, December 4. The group supports guide dogs for veterans. To find out how you can have the Calendar Girls add some razzle dazzle to your next soiree, call Katherine at 850-6010.✴

From page 23

Specialized Parkinson's Therapy

Shell Point Rehabilitation Center who could benefit from this therapy: Mina Keramati, SLP; and Ilse Kluever, PT. Located in The Larsen Pavilion at Shell Point, 15071 Shell Point Boulevard in Fort Myers, the Rehabilitation Center offers inpatient and outpatient rehabilitative and individualized physical therapy to members of the Southwest Florida community as well as Shell Point residents. Shell Point's team of physical, occupational and speech therapists, physical therapy assistants, certified occupational therapy assistants, and technicians provide specialized therapy programs that include orthopedics, stroke care, memory care, pain management, low vision and more. A dedicated occupational therapy suite and aqua therapy pool are also available. Learn more about Shell Point's comprehensive healthcare services at www.shell-point.org/healthcare, or schedule a visit by calling the admissions team at 415-5432.✴

From page 23

Why I Threw Out My Multivitamin

bone cells well. They have a tough time leaving your intestines. In my humble opinion, it's not possible to take a multivitamin once daily, that contains biologically active ingredients, and has them in dosages that advance your health. This is why I threw out my multivitamins. You can get biologically active nutrients if you just eat real food; nothing from a box or can. Your diet should include the basics like salads, greens, nuts, seeds, citrus fruits, berries and, of course, lean, clean protein. We need to stop fooling ourselves into thinking we can eat garbage and take one tiny pill to fix it all. Ain't gonna happen! 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.✴

PAWS Of Sanibel

Ghost Of The Causeway Islands

PAWS of Sanibel has trapped the so-called Ghost of the Causeway Islands. She's a beautiful, all-white female, approximately 1 to 3 years of age. She has been spayed, micro-chipped, combo tested, and has had her vaccinations. PAWS just learned she was out there last week, but now hears from locals that's she's been out there since June. This sweet girl is very frightened but not aggressive, and is looking for someone to love her forever. Call Pam at PAWS of Sanibel at 472-4823 if you can foster or adopt this lovely kitty.✴



Island Girl

Event Celebrates Golden Retrievers

Golden Retriever Rescue of Southwest Florida will host GoldenFest VI from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, February 21 at Doggy Heaven at the Shell Factory & Nature Park, 2787 N. Tamiami Trail in North Fort Myers. Events include pet vendors, dog dock diving, pet portraits, a grooming booth, raffles and auctions. All breeds of well-mannered, leashed dogs are welcome. For more information, to volunteer or to become a vendor, visit grswf.org, email info@grswf.org or call 369-0415.✴



Dock diving

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or email press@riverweekly.com

DID YOU KNOW

TRIVIA TEST

- 1. GEOGRAPHY: Which U.S. state is closest to Russia?
- 2. HISTORY: In what year did labor leader Jimmy Hoffa disappear?
- 3. FOOD & DRINK: What relative of the banana is a staple food in tropical regions?
- 4. TIME: When is the next leap day?
- 5. MOVIES: What famous 1950s movie featured an unlikely couple named Charlie and Rose?
- 6. MUSIC: Who was the first artist to have a “greatest hits” album?
- 7. TELEVISION: Who starred as Simon Templar in “The Saint”?
- 8. SCIENCE: What is the most abundant gas in the air we breathe on Earth?
- 9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: In olden days, what was the occupation of a wainwright?
- 10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a baby whale called?

ANSWERS

1. Alaska 2. 1975 3. The plantain 4. Feb. 29, 2016 5. “The African Queen” (Humphrey Bogart, Katharine Hepburn) 6. Johnny Mathis 7. Roger Moore 8. Nitrogen. The air is made up of about 78 percent nitrogen, 21 percent oxygen and 1 percent other gasses. 9. One who makes or repairs wagons 10. A calf

SPORTS QUIZ

- 1. Who was the last Yankees rookie pitcher before Masahiro Tanaka and Dellin Betances in 2014 to be named to the A.L. All-Star team?
- 2. In 2014, the Dodgers’ Clayton Kershaw became the third pitcher since 1914 to win eight consecutive games while striking out at least seven batters in each one. Name the other two.
- 3. Roddy White set a record in 2014 for most career TD receptions in Atlanta Falcons history. Who had held the mark?
- 4. When was the last time before the 2014-15 season that Villanova’s men’s basketball team started a season 13-0?
- 5. Name the last player younger than Florida’s Aaron Ekblad (19 in 2015) to win the NHL’s Calder Trophy (top rookie).
- 6. Which team holds the Major League Soccer record for most ties in a season?
- 7. What was heavyweight boxer Evander Holyfield’s record when he lost his first pro fight, and to whom did he lose?

ANSWERS

1. Spec Shea, in 1947. 2. The Dodgers’ Sandy Koufax (1966) and the Giants’ Juan Marichal (1967). 3. Terance Mathis, with 57 TD receptions (1994-2001). 4. It was the 1937-38 season. 5. Bobby Orr was 18 years old when he won the Calder Trophy in 1967. 6. Chicago had 18 ties during the 2014 season. 7. Holyfield was 28-0 when he lost to Riddick Bowe in 1992.

My Stars★★★★

FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 21, 2015

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Although taking advice isn’t always easy for the headstrong Sheep, you might want to consider what someone you respect says about an upcoming decision.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A new offer is tempting, but don’t be bullied into a quick decision. Rely on your keen Bovine business sense to alert you to anything that might be questionable.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your Gemini Twin nature rallies to help you deal with this week’s hectic schedules, both in your personal and professional lives. One caution: Watch your diet.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Avoid rushing to make up for time lost on a stalled workplace operation. Best to set up a schedule and pace yourself. Welcome the help of colleagues.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Despite those glittering holiday distractions you love so well, be sure to keep your feline senses set on high to alert you to anything that might require fast action.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Making an effort to restore fraying relationships proves to be more successful than you dared hope. The holidays also bring new friends into your life.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Private and professional matters compete for your attention. Be honest in your assessment of which should get more of it, and for how long.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A seemingly endless list of must-do tasks is best handled by tackling them one by one, and taking energy-restoring timeouts between each job.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A vexing relationship seems destined to deteriorate no matter what each side tries to do. A third party’s advice just might prove helpful.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Reach out to ease any tensions caused by home or workplace pressures before they threaten the relationship-building progress you’ve made.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You often go out of your way to

show kindness to others. So, don’t be surprised if other people want to do something nice for you this week.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) People in your life respect your Piscean wisdom, so don’t hesitate to speak up about a matter that you feel isn’t being handled quite the way it should be.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your personal warmth helps you make friendships, and your sense of fair play helps you keep them.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

- On Dec. 24, 1851, a devastating fire at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., destroys two-thirds of its 55,000 volumes. Today the collection contains more than 17 million books.

- On Dec. 22, 1864, Union Gen. William T. Sherman presents the captured city of Savannah, Georgia, to President Abraham Lincoln with the message, “I beg to present you, as a Christmas gift, the city of Savannah, with 150 heavy guns and plenty of ammunition, and also about 25,000 bales of cotton.”

- On Dec. 23, 1888, in Arles, France, Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh, suffering from severe depression, cuts off the lower part of his left ear with a razor. He documented the event in a painting titled “Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear.”

- On Dec. 27, 1900, prohibitionist Carry Nation smashes up a bar in Kansas, causing several thousand dollars in damage and landing in jail. Nation became famous for carrying a hatchet and wrecking saloons as part of her anti-alcohol crusade.

- On Dec. 26, 1946, in Las Vegas, mobster Benjamin “Bugsy” Siegel opens The Pink Flamingo Hotel & Casino. The grand opening was a flop. Gamblers had no rooms at the yet unfinished hotel, so they took their winnings and gambled elsewhere.

- On Dec. 25, 1962, “To Kill a Mockingbird,” a film based on the 1960 Pulitzer Prize-winning novel of the same name by Harper Lee, opens in theaters. The American Film Institute has rated Atticus Finch (played by Gregory Peck) as the greatest movie hero of the 20th century.

- On Dec. 21, 1975, in Vienna, Austria, Carlos the Jackal leads a terrorist

raid on a meeting of OPEC oil ministers, killing three people and taking 63 others hostage. After demands for a jet were met, all the hostages were released unharmed in Algeria.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

- It was beloved American singer, songwriter and musician Ray Charles who made the following sage observation: “Marriage is like college; as great as it is, it ain’t for everybody.”

- Those who study such things say that when a llama is humming, that means it’s content.

- If you think life in the Big Apple is tough these days, consider this: In the 1930s, landlords evicted about 17,000 tenants every month.

- It’s the little details that can make or break a plan. A pair of aspiring bank robbers in Daytona Beach, Florida, walked into a bank, pulled out guns, demanded that a teller hand over the loot, and even made it out of the building. The problem came when they got in their getaway car; the engine sputtered and died almost immediately. It seems someone had forgotten to fill up the gas tank.

- The gray squirrel isn’t always gray; these arboreal rodents also come in both black and white varieties.

- Sharks have been known to attack boats before, but they rarely, if ever, try for a second bite -- regardless of what Hollywood would have you believe. When a shark goes for a boat, it’s a case of mistaken identity: electrical impulses from the metal of a ship’s hull make the shark think that the boat is another animal (that is to say: dinner).

- If you’re fond of fancy cocktails, you probably won’t be surprised to learn that the words “mai tai” are actually Tahitian for “the very best.”

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

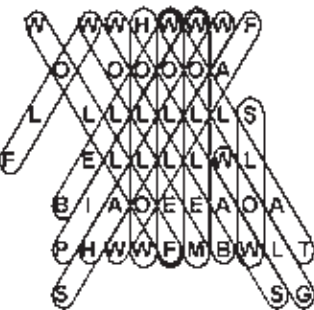
“I would rather try to persuade a man to go along, because once I have persuaded him he will stick. If I scare him, he will stay just as long as he is scared, and then he is gone.” -- Dwight D. Eisenhower

PUZZLE ANSWERS

ASTRIDE SAYEST ABRUPT
DARENOT TRADER NOOD F
FINGZHOJCHINA YONDER
ELSAEON SIS WOUEAR
MOHSEL ZOLIANKORDA
R CES GALENA LEI
ADOIEGVEF BYFIFTIT
FNOOFLTA ZOTSAIDANA
RACY GOCR DORSAL GINE
ELIRENOIR ADEIE
MOZAGREBCROATIALED
INVIEW ATONCF SRI
T FR OPT MA GAF FAGOG
ZOOAILANIA ZJB NMLHA
INFER CTS SEA OEE TIM
ASK MATERS SISSY
ZETAPII BETA JOGMAS
LRF UNO HMOOLIORAL
BRION ZOOM LENS CAVERA
HOBEHI OYMEUS IALENIS
ALERTS STEREO OSPREYS

ALSO LAW SNIP
RAIN ORE TACO
IRRIGATE OVEN
ASSORT DERIDE
NIH STAG
ATM DEC AGAIN
WAI F DUB ETNA
EXTOL EEL EGG
IRIS ROT
LEGATE ADORES
AWAY LITIGATE
METE MOE AGUE
BRED AND SAID

HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?





Florida Oysters Rockefeller

36 oysters, shucked, on the half shell
2 cups spinach, cooked and drained
½ cup crispy bacon, crumbled
1 cup mozzarella cheese
½ cup Parmesan cheese, grated
1 small bell pepper, diced
2 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped fine
¼ tablespoon hot pepper sauce
½ cup panko breadcrumbs
1 lemon, juiced
4 lemons, quartered for garnish
Sea salt and fresh ground pepper to taste
Preheat oven on high broil.
In a medium-sized mixing bowl, combine spinach, bacon, mozzarella, Parmesan cheese, bell pepper, parsley, hot sauce and lemon juice. Stir ingredients to combine.
Taste spinach mixture and adjust seasoning with salt and pepper. Place 1 tablespoon or so of the spinach mixture on top of each half-shell oyster.
Place all stuffed oysters on a cookie sheet. Put the cookie sheet in the middle rack of the oven. Carefully watch the oysters under the broiler, and let them cook for several minutes until the oyster edges curl and the top of the stuffing is golden brown and bubbly.
Serve oysters over a bed of ice cream salt with lemon wedges.✱



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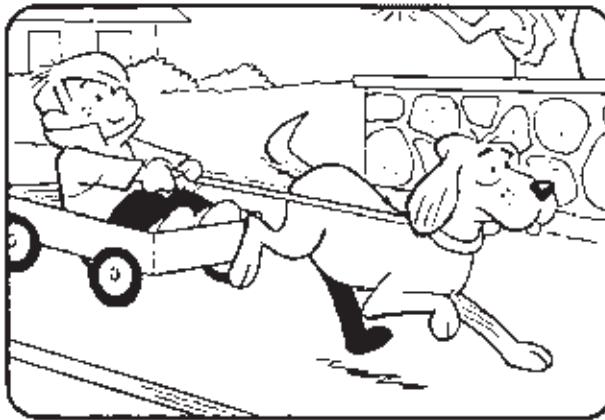
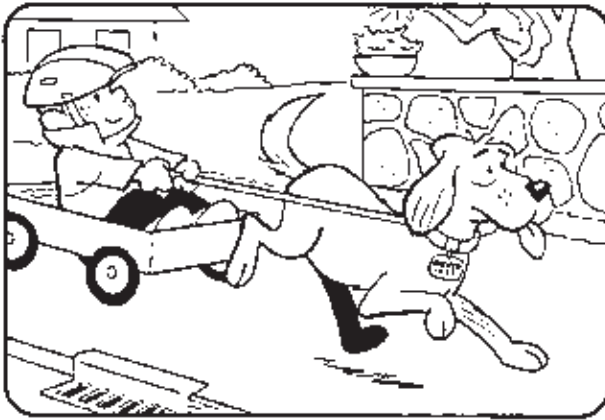
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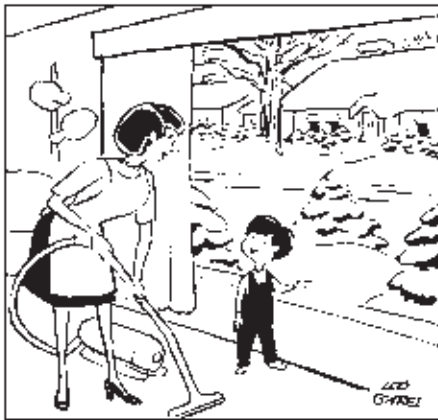
HOCUS-FOCUSBY
HENRY BOLTINOFF

FIND AT LEAST SIX DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS

Differences: 1. Helmet is missing. 2. Dream is missing. 3. Tail is shorter. 4. Flower pot is missing. 5. Loosening tag is missing. 6. Tongue is smaller.

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!



"Another good thing about snow—Dad can't
get out an' cook any
in the backyard."

Graft

PICSEL

Clench

PRAGS

Distill

FERNIE

Highest

TOTUMS

TODAY'S WORD

answer on page 27

PUZZLE ANSWERS**SUDOKU**

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

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3. Refine; 4. Utmost

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*NS 12/18 CC 12/25

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*RS 3/21 CC TFN

HELLE'S CLEANING SERVICES

Residential Cleaning to Satisfaction

Sanibel & Captiva • 239-565-0471

Sanibel Lic. #11412 Lee Co. Lic. #051047

*NS 1/4 PC TFN

SCARNATO LAWN SERVICE

Lawn Service, Shrubs and Tree Trimming

Weeding, Installation of Plants, Trees and

Mulch (one month free service available)

Joe Scarnato (239) 849-6163

scarnatolawn@aol.com

*RS 1/25 BM TFN

★ ★ ★ CLASSIFIEDS ★ ★ ★ CLASSIFIEDS ★ ★ ★

HELP WANTED

PART TIME CLEANING HELP NEEDED

No experience required. Variable days of the week. Hours vary between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., \$13. - \$16. per hour. Sanibel resident preferred.

Contact Darwin Ford of the West-End Paradise, Small Inn, at 239-472-9088.

*NS 12/18 CC 12/25

LOVEBOAT ICE CREAM NOW HIRING

Loveboat Ice Cream is looking for hard working employees to add to our company roster for this upcoming season. Part-time, 16 & up. Apply Within. 1700 Periwinkle Way. Located in Jerry's Plaza.

*NS 12/18 CC 12/18

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Volunteers needed for light general maintenance. Call (CHR) Community Housing & Resources, Inc. 472-1189.

*NS 11/1 NC TFN

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum needs Education and Great Hall volunteers. No experience necessary, will train. Please contact Melanie at (239) 395-2233 ext 11.

*NS 7/11 NC TFN

HELP WANTED

RETAIL SHOP ON SANIBEL

Sales person with interest in antiques. Basic computer knowledge and record keeping, year round position. Approx.30 hrs. a week some weekends. Send resume or info. to e.georgene@gmail.com

*NS 12/11 CC 1/1

JERRY'S FOODS WAITRESSES OR WAITERS

Looking for experienced Waitresses or Waiters with open availability Monday through Sunday. If interested call and ask for Kim 472-9300.

*NS 5/29 CC TFN

HAIR STYLIST BOOTH RENTAL AVAILABLE

Join our Professionals at the New McGregor Salon. Increase your income, be your own Boss. Positive, friendly, comfortable atmosphere. Close to FMB & Sanibel. Located in the busy, McGregor Pointe Shopping Center near K-mart. For Info call Anita 239-233-9882

*RS 3/13 CC TFN

VEHICLES FOR SALE

GOLF CART FOR SALE



Street legal, "gas" powered. \$6,500. 239-209-6500

*NS 7/17 BM TFN

BOATS - CANOES - KAYAKS

DOCKAGE

Hourly, Daily, Weekly and Monthly.

Captiva Island 472-5800

*RS 1/4 NC TFN



GARAGE • MOVING • YARD SALES

GARAGE MOVING SALE

Sat. Dec. 19 & Sun. Dec. 20 8 a.m. - 3 p.m.,

9012 Mockingbird Drive, Sanibel Treadmill, Tools, Furniture, Dishes, Xmas Decorations, Home Decor, Gas Grill, Lots of Framed Artwork and Lots of Misc.

*NS 12/18 CC 12/18

YARD SALE

YARD SALE SUNDAY DEC. 20 LOTS OF TREASURES PRICED TO SELL PERIWINKLE AND FITZHUGH STS 9 AM TILL NOON

*NS 12/18 CC 12/18

Shore Fishing:



Don't Harm The Fish by Capt. Matt Mitchell

Landings 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.

• If you want a picture with the fish, support it as you lift it out of the water – and do it quickly.

• Before releasing, revive the fish while holding it in the water; moving it slowly back and forth so water goes over its gills. The fish will let you know when it's ready to swim off.

• Florida just recently changed the regulations on fishing from shore. Florida residents as well as out of state visitors need a fishing license to fish from shore.



SANIBEL BICYCLE CLUB
New Members Always Welcome
www.sanibelbicycleclub.org

Top 10 Real Estate Sales

Development	City	Year Built	Square Footage	Listing Price	Selling Price	Days On Market
Metes And Bounds	Sanibel	1965	2,922	\$3,995,000	\$3,650,000	259
Isola Bella	Miromar Lakes	2006	4,890	\$2,950,000	\$2,840,000	26
Metes And Bounds	Sanibel	1955	3,266	\$1,995,000	\$1,900,000	29
Shell Harbor	Sanibel	1972	3,050	\$1,495,000	\$1,400,000	377
Oak Knoll At Bonita Bay	Bonita Springs	1993	4,778	\$1,490,000	\$1,282,000	109
Devonwood	Fort Myers	1999	4,874	\$1,070,000	\$950,000	83
Brynwood	Fort Myers	1971	8,500	\$875,000	\$860,000	8
Carillon Woods	Fort Myers	1995	5,871	\$889,000	\$840,500	185
Island Shores	Fort Myers Beach	1956	3,156	\$895,000	\$810,000	272
Hendry Creek	Fort Myers	1988	2,566	\$697,000	\$650,000	33

Courtesy of Royal Shell Real Estate

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

SUDOKU

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.

answer on page 27

Pets Of The Week

Hi, my name is Becky, and I am a 3-year-old, black spayed female Labrador Retriever Mix. I'm an awesome, all-around great girl! I love to play with other dogs and adore the company of humans. I get so excited when it's my turn to go outside. I immediately take care of business then race around the yard with a huge smile on my face. I've even been known to cannon ball into the wading pools. I exude happiness from the tip of my tail to the end of my nose. I'll put a smile on your face and tug at your heartstrings to convince you that this good dog deserves a good home!

Adoption Fee: \$75 (includes a free gift while supplies last during Animal Services Home 4 The Holidays Adoption Promo)

My name is Trixie, and I am a 10-month-old brown with White tabby domestic short hair spayed female. All the volunteers and staff at the shelter love me so that should tell you something! I'm friendly and love to be petted. I'm just an all-around great little lap cat who has been at the shelter since September. I would love to find my forever family and be Home 4 The Holidays!

Adoption Fee: \$50 (includes a free gift while supplies last during Animal Services Home 4 The Holidays Adoption Promo)

For information about this week's pets, call 533-7387 (LEE-PETS) or log on to Animal Services' website at www.LeeLostPets.com. When calling, refer to the animal's ID number. The website updates every hour so you will be able to see if these or any other pets are still available.

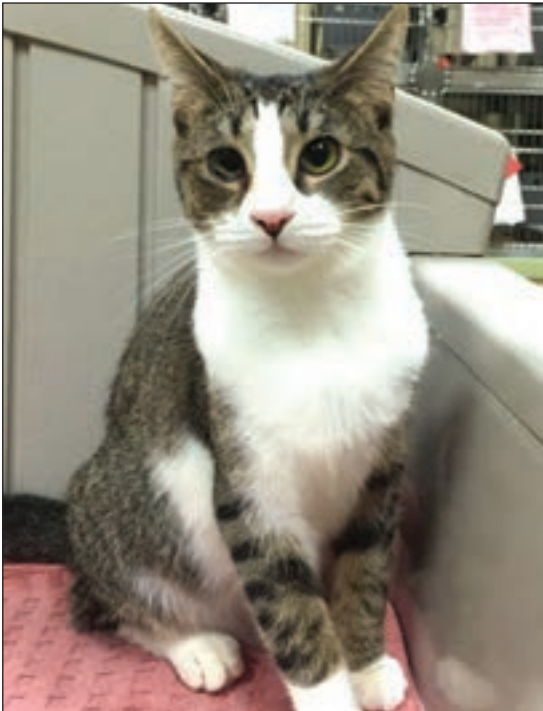
The shelter is open for adoptions from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The shelter is located at 5600 Banner Drive in Fort Myers, next to the Lee County Sheriff's Office off Six Mile Cypress Parkway.

All adoptions include spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, rabies vaccination and county license if three months or older, flea treatment, worming, heartworm test for dogs six months and over, feline AIDS and leukemia test for cats, training DVD, 10-day health guarantee, and a bag of Science Diet pet food.

The adoption package is valued at \$500.✱



Becky ID #645062



Trixie ID #640079



Emergency.....	911
Lee County Sheriff's Office	477-1200
Florida Marine Patrol	332-6966
Florida Highway Patrol	278-7100
Poison Control	1-800-282-3171
HealthPark Medical Center.....	1-800-936-5321
Ft. Myers Chamber of Commerce	332-3624
Foundation for Quality Childcare	425-2685
Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce.....	454-7500
Fort Myers Beach Library	463-9691
Lakes Regional Library	533-4000
Lee County Chamber of Commerce.....	931-0931
Post Office.....	1-800-275-8777
Visitor & Convention Bureau	338-3500

ARTS	
Alliance for the Arts	939-2787
Arts For ACT Gallery & Studio.....	337-5050
Art League Of Fort Myers	275-3970
Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall.....	481-4849
BIG ARTS	395-0900
Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre	278-4422
Cultural Park Theatre.....	772-5862
Edison Festival of Light	334-2999
Florida Repertory Theatre at the Arcade	332-4488
Florida West Arts	948-4427
Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers	288-2535
Gulf Coast Symphony	489-1800
Harmony Chorus, Charles Sutter, Pres	481-8059
Naples Philharmonic	239-597-1111
The Schoolhouse Theater	472-6862
SW Florida Symphony	418-0996
Theatre Conspiracy	936-3239
Young Artists Awards.....	574-9321

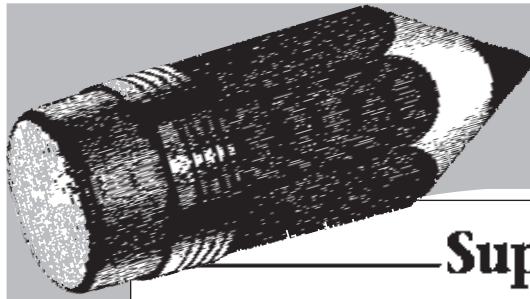
CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS	
Angel Flight	1-877-4AN-ANGEL
Animal Refuge Center	731-3535
American Business Women Association	357-6755
Audubon of SWFL	339-8046
Audubon Society	472-3156
Caloosahatchee Chapter DAR.....	482-1366
Caloosahatchee Folk Society	321-4620
Cape Chorale Barbershop Chorus.....	1-855-425-3631
Cape Coral Stamp Club	542-9153
duPont Company Retirees	454-1083
Edison Porcelain Artists.....	415-2484
Embroiderers Guild of America - Sea Grape Chapter	239-267-1990
FM UDC Chapter 2614 - United Daughters of the Confederacy	728-3743
Friendship Force Of SW FL	561-9164
Garden Club of Cape Coral	239-257-2654
Horticulture and Tea Society	472-8334
Horticultural Society	472-6940
Lee County Genealogical Society	549-9625
Lee Trust for Historic Preservation	939-7278
NARFE(National Active & Retired Federal Employees	482-6713
Navy Seabees Veterans of America	731-1901
Paradise Iowa Club of SWFL	667-1354
Sons of Confederate Veterans.....	332-2408
Southwest Florida Fencing Academy.....	939-1338
Southwest Florida Music Association	561-2118

Kiwanis Clubs:	
Fort Myers Beach.....	765-4254 or 454-8090
Fort Myers Edison	694-1056
Fort Myers South	691-1405
Gateway to the Islands.....	218-5768
Iona-McGregor	482-0869

Lions Clubs:	
Fort Myers Beach.....	463-9738
Fort Myers High Noon	466-4228
Estero/South Fort Myers	898-1921
Notre Dame Club of Lee County	768-0417
POLO Club of Lee County	477-4906
Rotary Club of Fort Myers	332-8158
Sanibel-Captiva Orchid Society.....	472-6940
United Way of Lee County	433-2000
United Way 211 Helpline (24 hour).....	211 or 433-3900

AREA ATTRACTIONS	
Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum.....	395-2233
Burrough's Home	337-9505
Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium.....	275-3435
Edison & Ford Winter Estates	334-3614
Fort Myers Skate Park	321-7558
Imaginarium Hands-On Museum & Aquarium	321-7420
JN "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge	472-1100
Koreshan State Historic Site	239-992-0311
Langford Kingston Home.....	239-334-2550
Ostego Bay Foundation Marine Science Center	765-8101
Skatium	321-7510
Southwest Florida Historical Society	939-4044
Southwest Florida Museum of History	321-7430
True Tours	945-0405

To be listed in calling card email your information to: press@riverweekly.com



BEACH CHAIR PASTIME

answers on page 25

Super Crossword

FROM END
TO BEGINNING

ACROSS

- 1 With a leg on either side of
6 "What thou?"
14 Curl
20 Be afraid to
21 Stock market worker
22 Pasta piece
23 Province capital on the Yellow River
25 Over there
26 Old-time actress
27 Countless years
28 Aves. and birds
29 Jima
31 See 50-Down
32 Lasty tidbit
35 Director of the Humphrey Bogart film "Sahara"
38 Reduces to bits, as a potato
41 Chief ore of lead
43 Luau necklace
44 Fooleraw
45 Chair part
48 Winner's sign
49 "So long!"

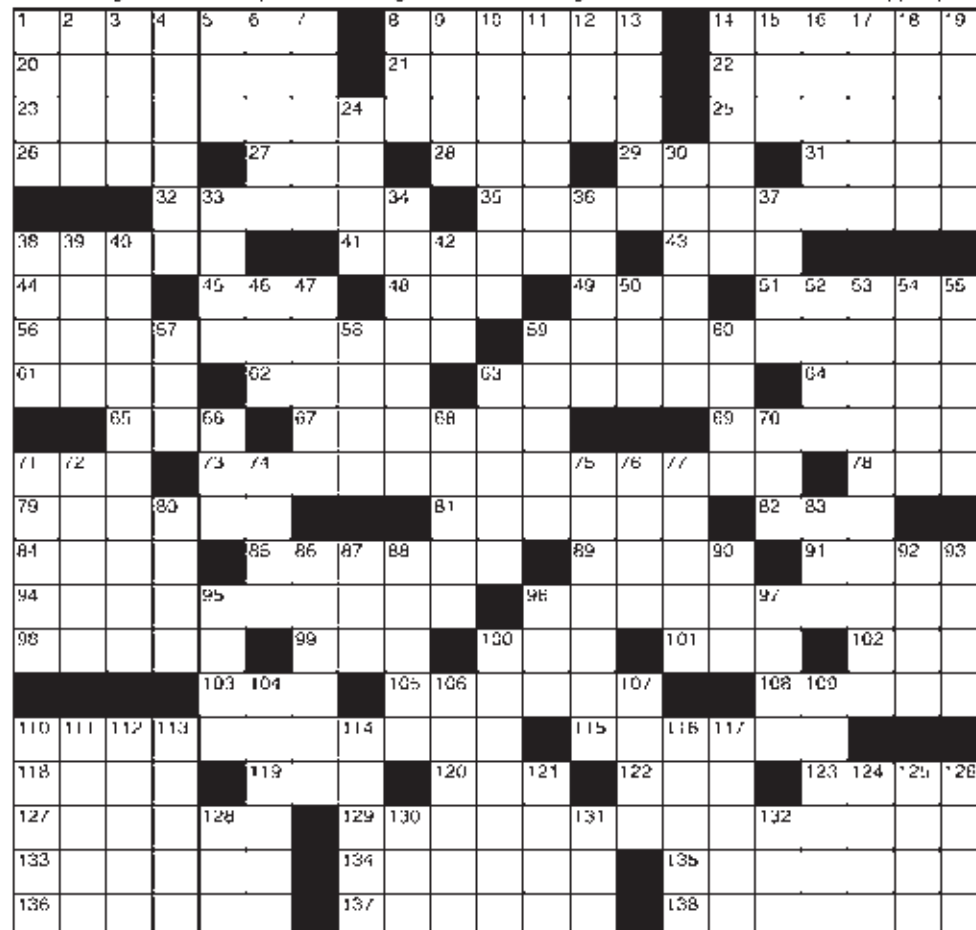
- 51 The Beatles' "Be"
56 Greek philosopher known for paradoxes
59 "Avatar" actress
61 Ribald
62 Word after church or film
63 Of the back
64 Cotton machines
65 Yale alum
67 "La Luge" painter
69 Penguin of Antarctica
71 Mo. to Miami
73 European country capital
78 Piloted
79 Not hidden
81 Without delay
82 Lanka
84 Stadium row
85 Kia sedan
89 Stare open-mouthed
91 Eagerly excited
94 An art-filled attraction in Georgia
96 Israel
97 Philharmonic director
98 Extrapolate

- 99 Euro div.
100 Deep blue
101 Subpar mark
102 Gridder
103 Put a question to
105 Alma — (home schools)
108 Space of the screen
110 Sorority founded at Howard University in 1920
115 Rigid beliefs
118 "Lids up"
119 Parly game
120 Managed care gp.
122 Luc's "yes"
123 Word-of-mouth
127 London native, e.g.
129 Shooter allowing for an adjustable focal length
133 Altman of film
134 Taking Rx drugs
135 Natural abilities
136 Warmings
137 High status
138 Big hawks

DOWN

- 1 Carving tool
2 Funny Mori
3 Very in Paris
4 Label again
5 Gerund suffix
6 One napping
7 Communal character
8 Erwin of film
9 Parables paths
10 Game with five dice
11 Thomas who founded GL
12 VIP in D.C.
13 Attribute
14 "home?"
15 Jeering shout
16 Sonata movement
17 Cow dangler
18 Appeal earnestly
19 On — Irina
24 Blood type, informally
30 Polish labor leader Lech
33 Major city of Norway
34 Shirley's sitcom friend
36 Toil away
37 "To a Mockingbird"
38 Motorola cellphone
39 nking
40 magico

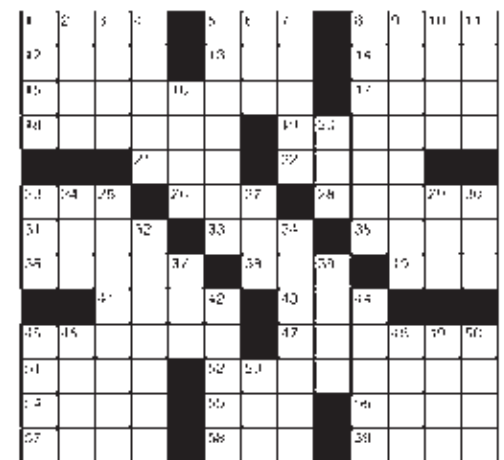
- 42 Meadowland
46 String after D
47 Maestro Soli
50 With 31-Across, hubby's assent
52 Verge
53 Red braking signals
54 Many a novel
55 Stunned with a gun
57 Once loved by Popeye
58 Lustful look
59 Stoned masked swordsman
60 Jar —
63 Formal hats
66 Suffix with final or moral
68 Romney's 2012 rival
70 "Kapital"
71 Actress Gwyneth
72 Kitchen bulb
74 Mil. truant
75 Vigilant
76 Harl. cry ("Taxi")
77 Slightly warm
80 "Dies" (hymn)
83 "Norma —"
86 Wolf down
87 Grenade filter
88 "Open up!" follower
90 Propylender
92 Redding of song
93 Like slightly spoiled meat
95 Ensnare
96 Closing letter
97 Little plateau
100 Talk like Porky Pig
104 Railroad switches
105 In the house
107 Before long
109 Related compound
110 Bicolor beast
111 Flynn of film
112 Family group
113 Daisy cousin
114 Clowns
115 Enthusiasm in thin layers
121 Aged, once
124 Uncertain of philosophy
125 Culturally pretentious
126 Maiden
128 Meal scrap
130 Ottawa loc.
131 That to Joan
132 High, snow-capped peak



King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Too
5 Legislation
8 Use scissors
12 Picnic hamper
13 How rock
14 Mexican entree
15 Water
17 Microwave
18 Classy
19 Mock
21 Med. research org.
22 Unescorted
23 \$ dispenser
26 Calendar abbr.
28 Once more
31 Child of the streets
33 Name
35 Sicilian spouter
36 Praise highly
38 Conger or moray
40 Early bird?
41 Fye part
43 Deteriorate
45 Official emissary
47 Puts on a pedestal
51 Vacat oning
52 Go to court
54 Apport on (out)
55 One of the Stooges
56 Chills and fever
57 Raised
58 Moreover
59 Put into words
7 Mary-Louise Parker series on Showtime
8 Warehouse's purpose
9 Steer
10 On the rocks
11 Corn recipe
16 Puzzle diagram
20 Greek H
23 Shock and —
24 Tariff
25 Ease
27 Promot
29 Gerund suffix
30 Complain constantly
32 Made an excursion
34 Scolded
37 Eng. class purpose
39 California city
42 Alabama city
44 Frat party garb
45 Mary's follower
46 Basic accessory
48 Indian style of music
49 Needle case
50 Origin
53 Electrical particle



- 55 One of the Stooges
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46 Basic accessory
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50 Origin
53 Electrical particle

DOWN

- 1 Met me ody
2 Rock drummer Ulrich
3 Letter starter of yore
4 Whopper topper
5 Couldn't stand
6 Illustrations

MAGIC MAZE ● HOW LOW CAN YOU GO?

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions: forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Bellow
Below
Fallow
Fellow

Flow
Follow
Glow
Hallow

Hollow
Mellow
Pillow
Shallow

Slow
Swallow
Tallow



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Caribbean Rim!

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<div data-bbox="302 1766 383 1847">  </div> <p>Visit Us Online @ www.DocFords.com Live Music & Happy Hour Available - Details online!</p>		



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