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Vol. 15, No. 7

From the Beaches to the River District downtown Fort Myers

FEBRUARY 19, 2016

Trae Pierce And Band Will Play At Bruce Gora Sunset Concert

Grammy Award winners Trae Pierce & The T-Stone Band kick off the 2016 Bruce T. Gora Sunset Concert on Sunday, February 28 at 5 p.m.

Now in its sixth year, the concert series honors the memory and many community contributions of Gora, musician, photographer, architect, and longtime Alliance board member and supporter.

Pierce was born and raised in Miami and began playing music at the age of 7. His first instruments included the piano and guitar before he found his calling on the bass guitar at age 9. After playing with many local bands, groups, and at churches, he went on the road at 13, sharing stages with the Blind Boys of Alabama, Sugarfoot & The Ohio Players, Dr Hook featuring Ray Sawyer, Emmylou Harris, Susan Tedeschi, James Brown and Peter Gabriel among others. In addition, he has produced and recorded with artists such as Flo-Rida, Jodeci, Flava Flav, Ce Ce Peniston, Lextus,



Trae Pierce

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Escape Familiar Home by Tony Myles

Annual Artists Studio Tour At The Alliance

The public is invited to spend the day exploring artists' studios on February 27 during the Alliance for the Arts' 5th annual Artists' Studio Tour. The day-long event allows art lovers to spend time with local artists in their studios and homes. It's one thing to see art in an exhibit, or even talk to artists about their work, but it's an altogether different experience to step into an artist's world.

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Tickets On Sale For Grande Dames Tea

Tickets are now on sale for the Grande Dames Tea presented by the PACE Center for Girls of Lee County.

The tea, honoring Betty Anderson of Fort Myers, Rusty Brown of Fort Myers and Dr. Geraldine Burchard Nobles of LaBelle, will be held Tuesday, March 22, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.

Michael Jung, The News-Press Media Group president and publisher, will serve as master of ceremonies.

Seats are \$60 per person and may be reserved online at www.pacecenter.org/lee or by calling 425-2366, ext. 2315. Table sponsorships are also available. Attendees are encouraged to wear their favorite tea party hat.

Chair of the Grande Dames Tea is Deanna Hansen, with Mary Fischer as co-chair. Both women are members of the PACE Lee Board of Directors.

"These three outstanding women come



Betty Anderson

from varied backgrounds and are sure to have some insightful advice for the audience and the PACE girls," said Hansen.

"Our theme of The Wisdom of Age – Honoring the Female Spirit is so appropriate because each of these women has much to share from her own life's journey," Fischer said.



Dr. Geraldine Burchard Nobles

This is the eighth year of the Grande Dames Tea. Previous honorees have included Berne Davis, Eleanore Kleist and the late Barbara B. Mann in 2009; Jeanne Bochette, Helen Hendry and the late Veronica Shoemaker in 2010; Myra Daniels, Kathleen Nealon and the late Mimi Straub in 2011; Michel Doherty, Mavis



Rusty Brown

Miller and Anna "Boots" Tolles in 2012; Thelma Hodges, the late Helen O'Rourke McClary and Ettie Francis Walsh in 2013; Barbara Norris Brown, the late Sarah Sciple and Margaret Sirianni in 2014; and Sharlene Hamel Dozier, M. Jacqueline McCurdy and Melvin Morgan in 2015.

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Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

Parker's Book Store Had It All



by Gerri Reaves, PhD

For anyone who loved the old-style stationery and office-supply stores, this circa-1970 photo is an alluring trip to the recent past, specifically to Parker's Book Store on Hendry Street.

Oh...to wander the maze of shelves loaded with pens, post-cards, typewriters, school supplies, picture frames, books, endless reams of paper, and even a globe.

Notice the extra stock stacked on top of the wall shelves and nearly reaching the ceiling.

That jam-packed merchandise sends that seductive message of all good office-supply stores: "These products will organize your life, get things done, and make life easier."

At the time the photo was taken, the long-running business was in its last phase and at its final location, the Leon Building in a storefront now occupied by a section of a cigar bar.

Suzanne Sutton remembers Parker's very well. While still in high school in 1970, she had a part-time job in a law office in the Collier Arcade. Once she started college, she continued working there.

Her position as a secondary receptionist and "runner" involved occasionally running a block to Parker's.

She says the circa-1970 photo was taken from the front entrance. The cash register was located just out-of-frame on the right, and the rear glass doors open onto Patio de Leon.

She notes the store's marketing-savvy, strategically placed picture frames and desk lamps right up front to catch a shopper's eye while she searches for the "humdrum supplies that were actually on that day's shopping list!"



This circa-1970 photo was taken from the front entrance of Parker's Book Store in the Leon Building on Hendry Street
courtesy Southwest Florida Historical Society

Sutton often bought Tutblanx at Parker's, which computers have apparently made obsolete.

Tutblanx were standard legal forms for mortgages, deeds, quitclaims and other legal documents.

She says you popped them in the typewriter with carbon paper and filled out the blanks.

The store's names – including Parker's Book Store, then Book and Music Store, and lastly, Office Equipment – do not reflect the wide range of merchandise and services it offered for more than eight decades.

James B. "JB" Parker came to Fort Myers from Georgia in 1905 when he was about 20 years old, first working as a bookkeeper in R.A. Henderson's Cash

Store. He started the business in 1910 on Hendry Street near the courtyard entrance. Between then and the closing of the business over 80 years later, it had several downtown locations.

After the Earnhardt Building was completed in 1914, ithe book store became one of the first tenants, advertising talking machines, musical instruments, sheet music, cameras and photo supplies.

In the 1920s, the store was a licensed Edison dealer and sold the Edison phonograph – even on the installment plan! The renowned inventor visited the store to listen to his favorite recordings.

Also in the late 1920s, the store started selling sporting goods and had contracts to supply office furniture to regional schools and other public buildings.

By the early 1930s, the store moved to the Leon Building on Hendry, where it remained until it closed in the early 1990s – oddly enough, just a few storefronts north of the original location.

Over the years, the store had something for everyone: school books, office fixtures and supplies, magazines, calendars, newspapers, greeting cards, gifts and even picture-framing service.

After Parker died in 1947, his son carried on the business.

Walk down Hendry Street to see the former location of Parker's, where you could dash in for a legal form, greeting card, fountain pen, or book.

Then walk a few more blocks to the Southwest Florida Museum of History at 2031 Jackson Street to see the antique cash register that once resided in Parker's Book Store.



The former Parker's storefront is now a section of a cigar bar
photo by Gerri Reaves

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Fort Myers Art:

Staged Reading At Theatre Conspiracy



by Tom Hall

Fay Ellen Graetz has written a two-act play called *The Pact*. It's about a couple who sell everything to live aboard a boat in a backwater boatyard with intentions of sailing the

Caribbean. But the vessel needs some work and questions abound. Can they get it seaworthy before their wanderlust dissipates? Before their money runs out? Before their marriage is scuttled? Find out at the Foulds Theater inside the Alliance for the Arts on Monday, February 22. That's when Theatre Conspiracy will hold a staged reading of the play.

Anne Dodd directs an all-star cast that consists of Patrick Day, Jason Drew, Todd Fleck, Jennifer Grant, Mark Haffner and Kathleen Moyer.

Day is an engineer by day and thespian by night. He was last seen on the Lab Theater stage playing *Comet In The Eight: Reindeer Monologues*. Before that, he was the bubbly Eduardo



Mark Haffner as Chris in Lab Theater's production of *The Velocity of Autumn*

in *Happy* and Emperor Joseph in *Amadeus*. He has performed at the Herb Strauss Theater on Sanibel, Theatre Conspiracy in Fort Myers, and Cultural Park Theater in Cape Coral. Some of Patrick's favorite roles include Greg in *Sylvia*, George Hay in *Moon Over Buffalo*, David Kahn in *Social Security*, Serge in *Art*, and Matthew Perry in *A Little Murder Never Hurt Anybody*.

Jason Drew gave memorable performances as Julian Berniers in Theatre Conspiracy's production of Lillian Hellman's *Toys In The Attic* and as Cliff

Bradshaw in Lab Theater's blockbuster revival of *Cabaret*.

A graduate of Indiana University and former member of The Ensemble of Artists at The Bloomington Playwrights Project in Bloomington, Indiana, Todd Fleck starred opposite Stella Ruiz and along with Patrick Day in last summer's *Happy*. He has previously played Brick in *Cat On A Hot Tin Roof*, Marty Pascal in *The House Of Yes* and Larry in *Relatively Speaking*. He has appeared in independent and feature films, and has also worked on TV shows for The Discovery Channel and The History Channel while residing in Chicago.

Theatre Conspiracy audiences will remember Jennifer Grant from *The Whale*.

Mark Haffner just completed a run as son Chris in Lab Theater's production of Eric Coble's *The Velocity Of Autumn*. He is an Emmy Award winning music, video and entertainment professional working for over 25 years as a writer, producer, songwriter, singer, voice actor and creative director for TV, film and radio ad programs. He studied jazz composition, piano and sax at North Texas State University and completed his BBA in Music Business at Belmont University in Nashville. Prior to moving to Southwest Florida to raise his three children, he established his career in San Francisco and Los Angeles working with broadcast and film clients worldwide. He has recorded his original music works with the Seattle Symphony and composed the theme for *The Magical World*

Of Disney on the Disney Channel. Haffner advanced his acting skills through voice-acting by working with and learning from some of the world's top voice actors in LA. Though he has worked extensively on dramatic and narrative storytelling projects in film and television, *The Velocity Of Autumn* marked his reintroduction to the theatrical stage since being a student actor and performer.

Kathleen Moyer is an accredited public relations professional, specializing in content marketing and storytelling for businesses, individuals and projects. Local audiences will remember her roles in last year's production of *Mr. Burns A Post-Electric Play* at Theatre Conspiracy and opposite Todd Fleck as the incomparable Jackie O in *House Of Yes*. Moyer is no stranger to staged readings, either, having directed *Huddle House Secrets* for Lab Theater in January of 2015.

There will also be a talk-back after the reading.

The Alliance for the Arts is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard, just south of the intersection with Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers. The reading starts promptly at 8 p.m. Tickets are just \$5 at the door.

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.*

King Of The Tall Tale To Perform In Fort Myers



Bil Lepp

submitted by Mary Lou Williams

Bil Lepp is coming to Fort Myers for the first time on Thursday, February 25. Lepp is a nationally renowned storyteller and five-time winner of the West Virginia Liars' Contest. Lepp's outrageous, humorous tall tales have earned the appreciation of listen-

ers of all ages and from all walks of life. He is the award-winning author of three books of stories, one novel, and eight audio collections. His numerous awards include the Storytelling Circle of Excellence Award and the Parents' Choice Gold Award for his first children's book, *The King of Little Things*. He has performed 13 times at the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesborough, Tennessee, at the Smithsonian Folk Life Festival and on Comedy Central. Lepp's family-friendly tall tale performances are so hilarious that words can't do them justice. You have to see them to believe them (or disbelieve them).

"With Lepp, the sorry low-down lie becomes a grand and glorious creation, a verbal sculpture in which a hundred small fibs, stretchers, falsehoods and prevarications are piled together, shaped and molded into one stunning awe-inspiring cathedral of flapdoodle and bull," said Bob Wells, *Duke Divinity Magazine*. Before becoming a full time liar, Lepp had a career as a minister. He now lies religiously. To find out more about him, visit his website at www.leppstorytelling.com.

Lepp's storytelling performance will be held at the Alliance for the Arts, 10091 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers on Thursday, February 25 from 7 to 9 p.m. Tickets will be on sale at \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members and \$5 for those under 18. To purchase tickets, call 939-2787 or visit www.artinlee.org. Seating is limited.*

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Mrs. Edison's Hymn Sing Attracts Huge Crowd, Benefits Hungry



Mrs. Edison's Hymn Sing Organizer Sam Galloway, Jr. and Community Cooperative CEO Tracey Galloway



Minister of Music Roger Peterson leads the audience in song



Marc and Lori Collins of Fort Myers

More than 2,000 people attended the 27th annual Mrs. Edison's Hymn Sing on Tuesday, February 9, and helped feed the hungry while listening to music at First Presbyterian Church in downtown Fort Myers.

The sing was sponsored by the Galloway Family of Dealerships to honor the work of Mrs. Mina Edison, wife of inventor Thomas Edison.

Those who attended donated more than 2,000 pounds of canned goods to



Kathy Galloway and Dena Geraghty benefit The Soup Kitchen of Community Cooperative.

"We are so thankful to the people of our community who stepped up in this time of great need. It truly shows the impact that a few people can make in the lives of many," said organizer Sam Galloway, Jr. He said the food will be distributed immediately to those in need in Lee County.

Attendees sang hymns with the 60-member Sanctuary Choir of First Presbyterian Church and friends, listened to soloists, and heard a song called



Soloists Beth Filiowich and Michael Broyles sing City of Palms



D'Neria Major of Spiritual Voices sings a solo

Miracle Man, written about Thomas Edison by Icomposer George M. Cohen. The song was re-discovered by Galloway during his many travels. Another highlight was *Edison's Phonograph Polka*, played by pianist Barbara Peterson and organist Eddygrace Bernhard.

Mrs. Edison's Hymn Sing is the first of three annual concerts presented by First Presbyterian Church and sponsored by the Galloway Family of Dealerships to benefit The Soup Kitchen of Community Cooperative. The second is First Celebrates Freedom in July for residents who remain in Southwest Florida during the summer. The third concert is the Christmas Carol Sing in December.✽



Ushers Ron Nicholson of Fort Myers and Roseanne Constantinople of Cape Coral



Ushers Harriet Hart of Fort Myers and Mickey Callahan of South Fort Myers



Rev. Paul deJong and his wife Sheryl

Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk

The 5th annual Southwest Florida Pancreatic Cancer Research Walk will be held on Saturday, February 27 at Florida SouthWestern State College. Registration opens at 8:30 a.m., and the walk begins at 9:30 a.m. One hundred percent of every dollar raised goes directly to research.

To register to walk, make a donation, become a sponsor or volunteer at the event, visit 2016SouthwestFloridaWalk.kintera.org.✽

Galloway Soup Kitchen Benefit

Sponsorships and tickets are now available for the 13th annual Sam Galloway Jr. & Friends Soup Kitchen Benefit to be held at Sam Galloway Ford on Thursday, March 10. The evening will begin with cocktails at 6 p.m., with dinner and live entertainment to follow at 7 p.m.

The funds raised at the event will support Community Cooperative, the umbrella agency for the Community Cafés and Markets, the Soup Kitchen, Meals on Wheels, Healthy School Pantry and Food Literacy in Pre-School (FLIP) programs, Mobile Food Pantries and Social and Education Resource Centers for our hungry and homeless residents in need.

"This is our 13th year of dear friends joining together to help those in need in our community," said Sam Galloway, Jr., founder of the event. "Hunger and homelessness continues to be a serious problem right here in our own backyard. We should not have working families living in cars and hotels or veterans living on the streets."

According to Stefanie Ink-Edwards, director of Development and Marketing at Community Cooperative, the need for emergency food and housing programs continues to grow. "We are seeing more working poor families who just can't make ends meet and a growing senior population who struggle to maintain their independence due to declining health and limited incomes," she said.

To purchase a ticket or table for the event, contact Nicole Rieg at Nicole@CommunityCooperative.com or visit www.CommunityCooperative.com.✽

Fashion Show Fundraiser

The Fort Myers Beach Community Foundation will present a Spring Luncheon Fashion Show entitled Friends, Fun And Fashion at South Beach Grille on Saturday, March 19 at 11 a.m. Fashions will be provided by Local Color.

Tickets are \$35. All proceeds to benefit local Beach projects and charitable organizations. For ticket information, call 765-1723.✽

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MasterChef finalist Derrick Peltz should watch his back when judging the 11th annual Imagine Gala Celebrity Chef Cookoff, as chefs Ben Voisin, James Fraser, David Rashty and Fabrice Deletrain plan a food fight

Imaginarium Cook-Off Is March 12

MasterChef finalist Derrick Peltz will be a judge as four of Southwest Florida's finest chefs whisk, chop and improvise their way to glory in the Celebrity Chef Cook-off at the 11th annual Imagine Gala from 7 to 11 p.m. on

Saturday, March 12 at the Imaginarium Science Center, 2000 Cranford Avenue in Fort Myers. The Imagine Gala made a record \$100,000 last year to benefit the Imaginarium and the Southwest Florida Museum of History.

For this special engagement, Peltz returns home to Fort Myers as celebrity judge. Contestants are chefs James Fraser, David Rashty, Fabrice Deletrain and Ben Voisin, doing battle, armed with a special Fresh From Florida pantry and a surprise ingredient that will serve up magic or mayhem. Attendees will help determine the fate of the gourmet gladiators as they sample the goods and vote electronically for their favorite appetizer.

Chef Fraser is a Johnson & Wales culinary school grad whose CV includes tenures in restaurants in Paris, Italy and India. For the past 10 years he has been an instructor for Florida Gulf Coast University's Resort and Hospitality Management program.

The International Culinary Center in New York City is Chef Rashty's alma mater, and he's got 3-star Michelin restaurants on his resume. Chef de Cuisine at Pink Shell Beach Resort and Marina, Rashty has worked under such prestigious names as Daniel Boulud and Jean Georges.

Chefs Deletrain and Voisin represent team Fathoms, the Cape Harbour eatery, and are the masterminds behind Black Salt Culinary catering. Deletrain studied at L'École de Paris des Métiers de la Table, and he worked with Michelin three-star chef Guy Savoy for eight years. Before that, Voisin was executive chef at Montpelier Plantation and Beach on the Caribbean island of Nevis. Previously he managed 20 kitchen teams as executive sous chef at La Manga Club Hotel Principe Felipe in Spain. Voisin is also executive chef at Fathoms' neighbor, The French Press.

Peltz can't resist getting into the action and will create his very own Fresh From Florida-inspired appetizer for the crowd to sample. Food will be passed throughout the evening and 14 speakers throughout the building will broadcast plenty of smack talk and play-by-plays of the competition, along with announcements regarding the live and silent auctions. Auction items last year included a Steamboat Springs getaway and a Caribbean vacation.

Gala tickets are available at ISC2016.gesture.com.✴

Deputy Named 2016 Honorary Grand Marshal



Deputy Michael Zazwisky

Rotary Club of Fort Myers South announced that its nominee – Lee County Sheriff's Officer Deputy Mike Zazwisky – has been chosen by the Edison Festival of Light Committee and program sponsor Goldstein, Buckley, Cechman, Rice & Purtz as the Honorary Grand Marshal of the Grand Parade of Light, set to take place on Saturday, February 20.

Zazwisky was chosen from a list of candidates including Take Stock In Children Mentor of the Year Gary Avin and Big Brothers, Big Sisters Board member Ben Simmons. The public placed online votes to determine the Honorary Grand Marshal.

After being recognized as its 2015 Law & Order Ball Officer of the Year, Zazwisky was chosen for his Fighting Holiday Hunger initiative that resulted in



food for nearly 3,000 families.

"Deputy Zazwisky truly demonstrates what our profession is all about," said Sheriff Mike Scott. "Not only has he done wonderful things for the community when it comes to feeding the hungry, he also developed a juvenile arrest monitoring system that is being modeled throughout our agency."

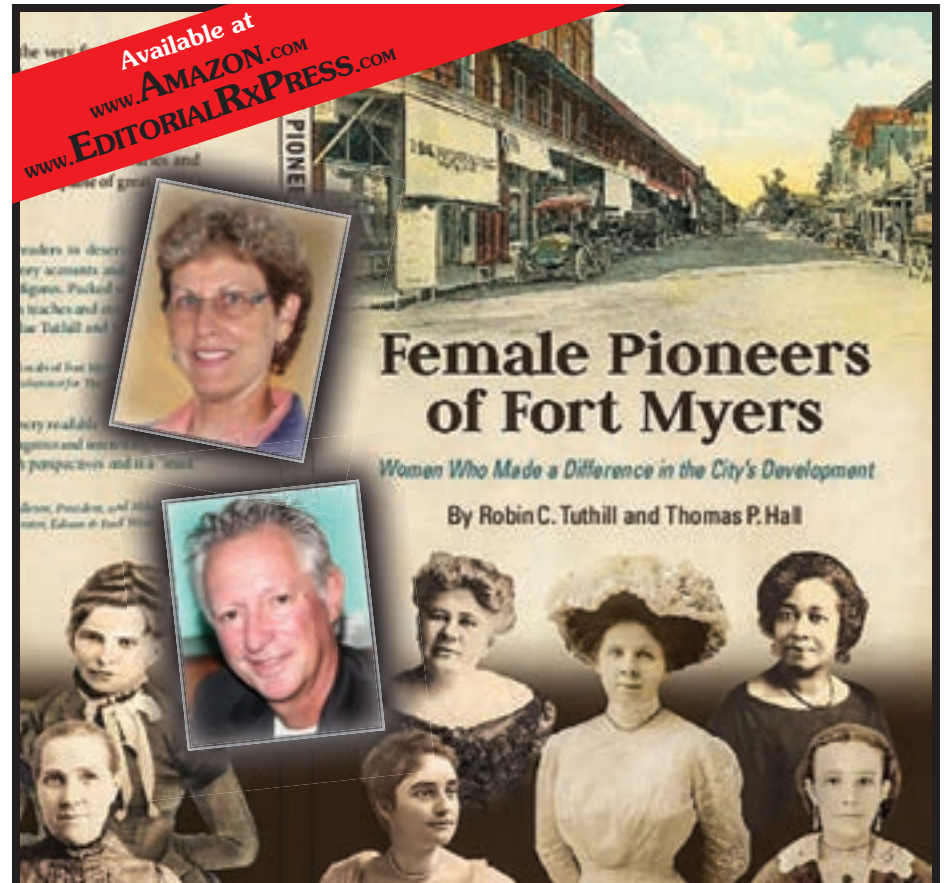
Zazwisky is a 12-year veteran of the Lee County Sheriff's Office currently assigned in the North District of Lee County. Throughout his professional career and personal life, he has been serving those in the community. Because of Zazwisky's instrumental role in helping and improving his community, the Rotary Club of Fort Myers South determined he was also a great candidate for nomination for Honorary Grand Marshal of the Edison Parade.

The Grand Parade of Light is a two-hour extravaganza featuring local and national marching bands, unique floats and giant balloons, local government and law enforcement officials and more. The parade, which has gained recognition as the largest night parade in the southeast, brings the entire community out in celebration of the life and achievements of winter resident, Thomas Edison.

Beginning at Fort Myers High School at 7 p.m. and concluding in the downtown River District, the parade will be followed by a Grand Parade Party and concert on the river, with live entertainment the day of the parade. The fun begins at 11 a.m. To learn more about the Edison Festival of Light, visit www.edisonfestival.org or call 334-2999.✴

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"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*

From page 1

Bruce Gora Sunset Concert

Bizzy Bone of Bone Thugs & Harmony, K-Ci & Jo Jo, Phil Collins, Peter Gabriel, Randy Travis, Lou Reed, E-Town Livem and the Mighty Clouds of Joy.

Pierce has appeared on several national television shows, including *The Jay Leno Show*, *The Wayne Brady Show*, *David Letterman*, *Conan O'Brien* and *Regis & Kelly*. His movie credits include *Fighting Temptations*, *Brother Bear* and *HOP*, which is in theaters now. He has earned four Grammy Awards, three Dove Awards, an NAACP Image Award and in 2010 he was inducted into the Alabama Hall of Fame.

Heavily influenced by Stanley Clarke, Marcus Miller, John Patitucci, and Victor Wooten, Pierce has expanded his talents to the next level and is currently working on a bass-oriented solo project featuring some of the friends made during his 30 years of touring and playing music.

He still tours with The Blind Boys of Alabama and Sugarfoot's Ohio Players and is known for sporting a top hat on stage and wowing crowds with his blistering riffs played on slide bass, as well as playing/singing talk box bass.

Guests are encouraged to picnic on the lawn with coolers, blankets and lawn chairs and bring their own beverages and food.

The series continues on March 20 with The Resolvers from Deerfield Beach. They have quickly become a premier alternate reggae act in the South Florida music scene.



The audience at a previous concert



The concerts are held outdoors

Gates open at 4 p.m. and the concerts begin at 5 p.m. General admission tickets are \$20. Pre-sale tickets are \$15 for members and are available at the Alliance for the Arts, located on the

corner of Colonial and McGregor in Fort Myers. Call 939-2787 or buy online at www.ArtInLee.org. Proceeds will benefit Alliance education and outreach programs.✱

From page 2

Parker's

For information, call 321-7430 or go to swflmuseumofhistory.com. Museum hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

Be sure to visit the Southwest Florida Historical Society's research center and learn more about the town's historic businesses.

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: The Archives of the Southwest Florida Historical Society, The Fort Myers Press, and *Pages from the Past* by Prudy Taylor Board and Esther B. Colcord.✱

Guided Hike At Pine Island Flatwoods



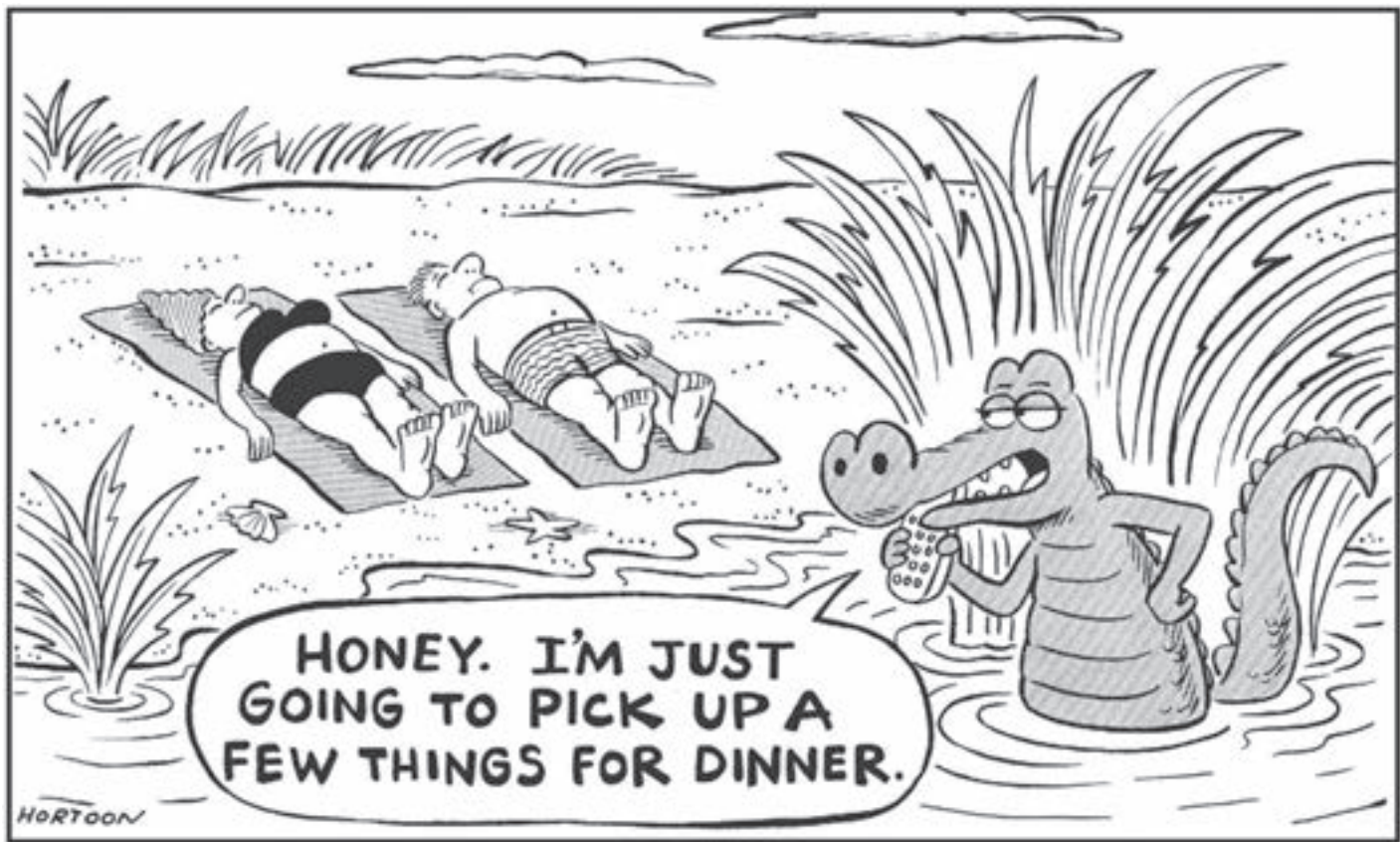
Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve is home to gopher tortoises

A Lee County volunteer naturalist will lead a free mile-long nature walk at Pine Island Flatwoods Preserve at 9 a.m. Saturday, February 27. The Preserve is located at 6351 Stringfellow Road, St. James City.

The 90-minute walk traverses a longleaf pine flatwoods 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 closed toe shoes or boots that can get wet. Call 707-8251 for more information.✱

HORTOONS



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BOWIE by Eric Riemenschneider

From page 1

Alliance Artists Studio Tour

The self-guided tour begins at 11 a.m. at the alliance, where ticket holders receive a program and map to the studios. The tour concludes with a reception at Marcus Jansen's Unit A Studio from 3 to 4 p.m. This is an educational and inspirational way to meet artists and fellow art patrons while supporting arts and educational programming.

The studios are within a two-mile radius of the alliance. Featured artists include: César Aguilera (multimedia); Jayne Baker (jeweler); Mila Bridger (photographer); Aida Bukovica (interior design consultant); Carolyn Gora (fiber/mixed media); Tony Myles (photographer); Eric Riemenschneider (painter); Ava Roeder (fiber/mixed media); and Dale Weber (mixed media).

On-site studio artists include David Acevedo, Paul Rodino, Xavier Brignoni, Jeffrey Scott Lewis, Mark Holman, Nick Orlando and Diana Ripoll, all part of Union Artist Studios; Veron Ennis at VEMA; and Patrick Conolly and Barbara Piontek at Studio 204.

Participating artists

César Aguilera – Born in Quito, Ecuador, Aguilera navigated his childhood by virtue of creative observation, learning from his first curiosities onward that imagination and ingenuity have critical roles to play within human experiences of life. Exploring these roles has led to a lifetime of experimental works and has taken him through a vast spectrum of mediums, techniques, materials and subject matter. Although his approach is always in flux, his objective remains constant: to use art as a means of finding solutions to problems that plague our world and the societies that inhabit it.

Jayne Baker – Baker began her artistic career at age 12, selling macramé bracelets and necklaces to her classmates. After high school, she began modeling and living in Chicago, married Brian, and moved to south Fort Myers in 1981. They opened the award-winning Mad Hatter Restaurant on Sanibel Island, then later Jayne's Victorian Garden Café in Fort Myers. Baker's love of art and nature spurred her to create unique organic and natural Jayne's Victorian Garden food products as well as garden art and jewelry gift items for many years, selling locally and internationally.

Recently relocated to her home and studio in the Edison Park area, Baker now is concentrating on repurposing, reusing, recycling and upcycling. In the 30-plus years of living in Fort Myers, she has accumulated a collection of vintage



By Mila Bridger

glass, beads, metals, gemstones, crystals, seashells and other found items that she transforms into works of art ranging from funky to elegant.

Baker is currently showing her vintage beads, metals, gemstones and crystal necklaces, earrings and bracelets at the Alliance Gift Shop. She is also busy creating vintage crystal and glass-adorned stepping stones, bead- and shell-topped pillboxes, recycled garden furniture, shell mirrors and jeweled frames.

Mila Bridger – Originally from Poland, this internationally acclaimed photographer has a unique flair of European Expressionism. A nomadic spirit, her artistic sensibilities have been forged by immersion into countless foreign cultures and societies. Her conceptual anthologies, her exotic and creative portraiture and collaborative artistic projects with celebrities, musicians, entrepreneurs and other artists, have been displayed and published internationally and domestically.

Aida Bukovica – This interior design consultant's passion is to understand the essence of the client and to create surroundings that match their lifestyle.

Carolyn Gora – This native Floridian from St. Petersburg is a graduate of the Florida public school system. She has a BA and an MA in art education from the University of South Florida. She started teaching art in 1973 and has taught elementary through high school art and, as an adjunct, at FSW (ECC), University of South Florida and Florida Gulf Coast University. She was a Lee County Golden Apple Teacher, Lee County Middle School Art Teacher of the Year and Florida Middle School Art Teacher of the Year. She is on the board of the Alliance for the Arts and a member of the City of Fort Myers Public Art Committee and the Events Committee and volunteers for a variety of non-profit organizations.

Since retirement she has been working in mixed media with an emphasis on watercolor and fiber. She collaborates with artist and friend, Ava Roeder, to create artworks as CAVA. Their piece *Art in Flight in Black and White* is on display at the Southwest Florida International Airport.

Tony Myles – Working exclusively with the medium of film, cinematic photographer Myles brings a unique

approach to his imagery. He translates over twenty years as a professional cinematographer within the film industry into a photographic methodology that is as structured, planned and executed as a motion picture production. He employs the literal art of photography as a plastic medium, to create stylized narrative images that are essentially movies without motion. Myles's work is a stark contrast to modern digital imaging and is a visceral and consciously antithetical commentary on contemporary photographic trends and techniques. His motion and still imagery have been featured in album artwork, exhibited in galleries, screened theatrically, televised internationally and have earned a diverse fanbase.

Eric Riemenschneider – Riemenschneider graduated from Ringling College of Art and Design with a BFA in illustration. He is the recipient of several awards including Southwest Florida's Best Up and Coming Artist, the Angels of the Arts Award, All Florida Best in Show, Lee County Golden Apple Teacher, Lee County Arts Teacher of the Year, and the Robert Rauschenberg Scholarship. He paints large scale oil paintings and creates mixed media digital designs. Yohana de la Torre, publisher of *Gulf Coast Times* stated, "His art has been a lifelong exploration of the human spirit. Through his work, he captures the essence of the individuals with a unique point of view."

His work has been exhibited in the Robert Rauschenberg Gallery, Space 39, Tincture Gallery, Selby Gallery, Alliance for the Arts, BIG ARTS, Howl Gallery, Franklin Gallery, Yabo, Cru and a solo show at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center.

Riemenschneider was born in Akron, Ohio and later lived in New York City. He moved to Sanibel Island 20 years ago, where he met and married Sanibel resident, Katie. Married for 18 years, they have three sons. His home studio is near downtown Fort Myers in the vicinity of the historic Edison Home.

Ava Roeder – Roeder grew up on a farm in upstate New York where she knew the natural environment best. The deep rooted feelings and experiences she remembers as a child still have a great influence on her choice of subject and



Jewelry by Jayne Baker

media. Roeder has a master of science degree in art education from the State University of New York. She was one of the founding faculty members of the Center for the Arts at Cypress Lake High School and the director of the visual arts program. She is on the board of the City of Fort Myers Public Art Committee and Lee County Alliance for the Arts and volunteers at Lee Memorial Hospital in the Art in Health Program.

After 39 years in the classroom, now with time on hand, Roeder is rediscovering her artistic self, working in the studio, enjoying the rhythm of making art, and hobnobbing with the many talented people in our community.

Dale Weber – Weber works with found objects that no longer serve their original purpose. He only selects discarded material that shows a potential to evolve. For this reason, he prefers the term re-invented rather than recycled. He believes that although the subject defines itself, the artist redefines the subject. By careful juxtaposition, commonplace objects enter into dialogues expressing his personal views that range from the philosophical to the whimsical. Each assemblage is as unique as the material used.

His award winning 2D and 3D artwork offers a new perspective on the importance of everyday life. In his search for the significant hidden within the insignificant, Weber reveals a new dimension of the mundane. His art is a metaphoric vehicle for the overlooked, abandoned, and forgotten elements in today's society. In his own words, "Everything and everyone deserve a second look; a second chance. My goal is for us to re-evaluate our surroundings. Awareness is the first step of change."

Tickets are \$25 for alliance members and \$35 for non-members and are available at ArtInLee.org. Alliance members receive 10 percent off lunch at Cristof's on McGregor.

The Alliance for the Arts supports artists and arts organizations in the area as the state designated Local Arts Agency for Lee County. The alliance campus and galleries 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, located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard just south of Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.*


Along The River




Music Walk is held in the historic River District on the third Friday of each month

On Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., **Shell Point Retirement Community** will hold its annual **Art Show & Sale**. Come experience and purchase from a brilliant display of artistic talents of media including painting, pottery, sculpture, stained glass, photography, woodworking, lapidary, three-dimensional paper art and fiber art. Take in the ambiance of Shell Point's beautiful Island Park, where artists will be present to discuss their media and the creativity behind their art form. New this year, food trucks will be on property for guests to dine in a stunning setting, while being captivated by the natural and artistic beauty this unique event has to offer. Cash or checks only are accepted for purchases. The Shell Point Art Show & Sale takes place at Island Park, 1000 Cellana Court. Shell Point is located at 15101 Shell Point Boulevard, Fort Myers. For more information, call 454-2152 or go to www.shellpoint.org.

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The Mersey Beatles – along with Julia Baird, John Lennon’s sister – will be at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center during Music Walk

On Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., the **Edison Festival of Light** presents **Crafts on the River & Vintage Market**.

Centennial Park is transformed into a craft lovers dream with 100 exhibitors displaying their hand crafts during the three-day Edison Festival. The annual Crafts on the River is non-juried, and open to local and national artisans and crafters. The festival delights in old, new and unique items that come from all over the world. Original designs are displayed by nearly 100 artists in an informal atmosphere that encourages visitors to talk with the artists about their work and, in some cases, see them in action. Mediums include drawings, paintings, graphics, sculpture, crafts, jewelry, photography and edible art. The range of assorted size, subject, media and price provide something for everyone.

Stroll the green space along the Caloosahatchee where the festival takes place prior to the Grand Parade.

Centennial Park is located at 2000 West First Street in downtown Fort Myers. For more information about the Crafts on the River & Vintage Market, call 334-2999 or go to www.edisonfestival.org.

On Friday evening beginning at 7 p.m., **Music Walk** returns to downtown Fort Myers.

The River District comes alive every month with live music on the third Friday in the historic River District. More than a dozen participating venues feature music by local and regional talent. Restaurants, bars, art galleries and shops showcase a wide range of music during Music Walk. From jazz and blues to rock, drums and more, each month brings great music and new energy to the historic bricked streets of downtown.

For more information, call 1-855-RDA-EVENTS (732-3836) or go to www.fortmyersriverdistrictalliance.com.

During Music Walk, the **Mersey Beatles, Four Lads from Liverpool**, stop at Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center as part of their U.S. debut tour. The concert starts at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$39 for general admission or \$59 for VIP seating.

This all Liverpool born Beatles' tribute band was the resident band for a decade at the world famous Cavern Club, where The Beatles got their start. These childhood friends have played in 20 countries, selling out shows worldwide, but never on U.S. soil.

Julia Baird, author, director of the Cavern Club, philanthropist, teacher and John Lennon's sister, will be in attendance and signing copies of her book, *Imagine This: Growing Up with My Brother John Lennon*, at the general merchandise table before, during and after the show. This is Baird's third tour with the band.

The Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center is located at 2301 First Street, Fort Myers. For more information, call 333-1933 or go to www.sbdac.com.

On Saturday, February 20 at 11 a.m., head to Edwards Drive in downtown **Fort Myers for the Edison Festival of Light Parade Celebration**.

One of the best ways to beat the traffic and get a prime spot for the Grand Parade is to come early for an entire day of festivities. The parade celebration includes all-day entertainment and music plus fireworks to kick off the signature event of the season with a bang. There will also be food, music and crafts. There's excitement and amusement right up until the Grand Parade.

The Community Stage is located in the boat ramp along Edwards Drive in Downtown Fort Myers (across from Harborside Event Center). Tickets are not required.

Performance schedule:
 11 a.m. Bayshore Cloggers
 11:30 a.m. Nabbies School of Performing Arts
 12:30 p.m. Kellyn Celtic Arts
 1 p.m. Silver Foxes
 1:30 p.m. Country Rhythm Cloggers
 2 p.m. Hot Flashz
 3 p.m. Ricky Manning
 Also on Saturday, the 5K race begins at 5:45 p.m. and the Grand Parade begins at 7 p.m. at Fort Myers High School. It travels along Highway 41 to downtown.
 For more information, call 334-2999 or go to www.edisonfestival.org.✪

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

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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.

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 10 years and its enduring popularity is a testament to its exceptional, friendly service.

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



Grab a handcrafted Island Mojito from Doc Ford's Rum Bar & Grille Fort Myers Beach

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.

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.

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

Craft And White Elephant Sale

Palmetto Palms RV Resort will hold a public craft and white elephant sale on Saturday, February 20 from 8 a.m. to noon. The RV Resort is located at 19681 Summerlin Road in Fort Myers. Coffee and donuts will be available.✱

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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, Proistamenos 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.com

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@embarkmail.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.peacecommunitychurch.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 services at 8:30 and 10:30 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.saintnicholasmonastery.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 Barras@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.newchurchflorida.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

1120 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✽



Jerry Nanfelt, Ruth Battles, Sara King and Betty Jean Young
photos by Troy Wells/Shell Point Retirement Community



Marvin Ball, David King and Peter Nanfelt with complimentary desserts from Norman Love Confections ored by FineMark National Bank & Trust.



Betty and Walter McCollum and Jewell Whitson



Shell Point resident Albert Myers applauds inspirational music by entertainer Elisabeth Von Trapp

Shell Point Annual Gala Celebration

More than 1,200 residents attended Shell Point Community's annual gala on January 29 to celebrate the non-profit's 48th anniversary.

President Peter Dys talked about progress over the past year and highlighted plans for growth and development designed to meet the needs of current and future residents.

Jeff Cory, executive director of the Legacy Foundation at Shell Point, recognized inaugural members of the



Elisabeth Von Trapp serenades the crowd. She is the granddaughter of Maria and Baron Von Trapp, whose love story inspired *The Sound of Music*.



Shell Point President Peter Dys celebrated community successes during the past year and highlighted future plans for growth and development

society's 108 key donors whose 2015 contributions positively impacted the Shell Point community and its residents.

Elisabeth Von Trapp, granddaughter of Maria and Baron Von Trapp, whose love story inspired *The Sound of Music*,



Norman Love Confections handcrafted decadent desserts for the occasion

entertained the guests.

FineMark National Bank & Trust sponsored the handcrafted, decadent desserts from Norman Love Confections.✱

OBITUARY



JAMES JOSEPH SMULLEN

James (Jim) Joseph Smullen III of Fort Myers and Elk Rapids, Michigan passed away quietly in palliative care at Muson Hospital in Traverse City, Michigan on February 4, 2016. Jim was born in Chicago, Illinois on November 24, 1934 to Dr. and Mrs. (Jean Colacicco) James J. Smullen II. He was the first of five children. In his younger years, Jim moved with his family from Chicago to Wisconsin Rapids, Wisconsin where he eventually graduated from Lincoln High School in 1952.

During his younger years, Jim was an excellent marksman and won the Wisconsin Rifle and Pistol Association Small Bore Championship when he was

age 17. Jim was also an accomplished swimmer competing at the state level and winning many medals for his team.

After high school, Jim attended Lawrence College in Appleton, Wisconsin where he met and fell in love with Sheila Schwandt. Jim received his BA degree in 1956 and entered the army immediately following his graduation. He was assigned to basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri. Subsequently, Jim was assigned to the main Army Recruiting Station in Chicago, Illinois.

In June of 1957, Jim married Sheila in Campbellsport, Wisconsin and together they moved to Wilmette, Illinois. One year later, Jim finished his time in the service and began his career in the marine insurance field. Over the years, Jim moved from Chicago to Cleveland, Detroit, and finally to Philadelphia, receiving a promotion with each move. His final position was that of Regional Marine Manager for the Insurance Company of North America (now CIGNA). It is from this position that he retired in December of 1995.

After retirement, Jim moved to North Fort Myers and began spending his summers in Elk Rapids, Michigan near his daughter Jeanne (Lynn) Marshall and his granddaughter Maggie. Jim loved boating, reading, spending time on the water and spoiling his granddaughter.

Jim was predeceased by his parents James J and Jean Smullen, his sister Annette (Duane) Atwater, and his wife Sheila. He is survived by his brothers, Bill (Kathy), George (Lori) and Peter (Linda) Smullen, his brother-in-law Duane Atwater, numerous nieces and nephews, his daughter Jeanne (Lynn) Marshall and his granddaughter Maggie Marshall.

Funeral services will be held Saturday, February 13 at 11 a.m. at Twohig Funeral Home, 109 West Main Street, Campbellsport, Wisconsin. Rev. Paula Anderson will officiate and burial in Union Cemetery, Campbellsport, Wisconsin, will follow.

The family has requested that in lieu of flowers, memorial contributions be made to Munson Hospice or The National Kidney Foundation. www.twohigfunerals.com.✱

From page 1

Grande Dames Tea

The Grande Dames Tea was originated by PACE Center for Girls of Lee County to honor women who have played major roles in Southwest Florida history through decades of service, philanthropy and helping others.

The agenda for the tea will include interaction between the PACE girls and the three Grande Dames, in a question and answer format that Hansen and Fischer said "is sure to be thought-provoking and poignant."

PACE Center for Girls, Inc., is a non-residential delinquency prevention program targeting the unique needs of girls, age 11 to 18, facing challenges such as physical and sexual abuse, domestic violence, substance abuse, foster care, neglect, death of a parent, family history of incarceration and declining grades.

PACE is a Florida-based, not for profit organization, and the only statewide prevention program for adolescent at-risk girls in the nation. In the past year, the Lee County program provided 106 girls with education, counseling, training and

advocacy resulting in 96 percent having no involvement with juvenile justice within one year of leaving PACE, 93 percent improving their academic performance and 76 percent remaining in school or obtaining employment three years after leaving PACE. As a result, PACE reduces the significant long term costs associated with teen pregnancy, substance abuse, unemployment and long term economic dependency.

PACE accepts referrals from the juvenile justice system, the Department of Children & Families, school personnel, community services agencies, parents, family members, friends and self-referrals.

For information about the Grande Dames Tea or to become a sponsor, contact PACE development manager Sara Garner at 425-2366, ext. 2312, or visit www.pacecenter.org/lee.✱

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Redfish Action Getting Better



by Capt. Matt Mitchell

Water releases from Lake Okeechobee along with red tide were once again in the headlines this week. With all this bad stuff in the news about our water

quality, fishing action, contrary to popular belief, was good. After being on the water every day this week, I'm still yet to see any effects of the red tide or dead fish anywhere in Pine Island Sound. The dead fish washing up on the beach are the result of prevailing onshore west winds blowing them in from offshore.

Water color back inside the "Ding" Darling Refuge and from Blind Pass north looks to me like it's actually starting to clear up somewhat from how it looked last week. With the majority of the nasty brown water flowing out around

Lighthouse Point, I've been getting away from the worst of it by heading north. No matter where you go in the sound, it's certainly not the clear water that we are all used to seeing in February, but when you compare it to the nasty brown iced tea looking water in San Carlos Bay, it's much better. Luckily, Pine Island Sound is a large, long body of water and by just running a few miles, water conditions do change for the better.

Cold water was a bigger issue for anglers this week, with water temperatures still in the low 60s. During the cold mornings, sheepshead, not surprisingly, have been the fish of choice. Jig heads with chunks of shrimp caught sheepshead after sheepshead. Average morning trips this week produced 20 plus keepers with the majority of these fish being caught close to home in the way back mangrove creeks.

When fishing these deep water creeks for sheepshead, look for and concentrate your efforts in the fast moving current. Many of the more productive creeks have a hard sandy bottom with broken shells. Look for big dead trees or overhangs with lots of submerged structures in one of these creeks and the sheepshead will be stacked up. One such dead tree has been



Kevin Murray with a redfish he caught this week while fishing with Capt. Matt Mitchell

my go-to spot for the past few weeks. Sheepshead are throughout these whole creek systems but this one honey hole is a feeding station where the sheepshead must just graze, and it always seems to hold the bigger fish.

Redfish action has picked up in the middle sound with reds of all sizes being caught in the mix. Over the past few weeks, I had only been finding a few reds here and there mixed in with the sheepshead back in the creek systems. Usually this time of year, these same creeks are just loaded up with rat reds. So far this winter, that has not happened yet.

The redfish I located this week were

much better size than our usual winter rat reds, ranging anywhere from 20 to 30 inches. I caught these bigger fish during the low incoming tide and they were all out from the mangroves in deeper, natural channels. We never got on a wide open redfish bite but if you put in your time you could catch four or five slot sized or better fish in just over a hour. These redfish all ate either live shrimp or chunks of shrimp bumped slowly on the bottom, or even just soaked. The big redfish of the week was caught by Kevin Murray and measured just shy of 30 inches.

Seeing how bad the color of the water looks as you drive across the causeway or go to the beach is just depressing. Some good news, though, is that only a few miles down the sound, things are a little more normal. Water conditions continue to improve the further away from the mouth of the river you get. There is nowhere in the sound that is not somewhat affected by these water releases but the further north you get, the lesser the effects are.

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.✱

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.

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Dave Doane

CROW Case Of The Week:

Common Loon,
The Great
Northern Diver

by Patricia Molloy

The common loon (*Gavia immer*) is famous for its haunting cries from the water. "Woo-oooo!" But these specialist fish-eating ducks actually have a wide repertoire of vocalizations that

vary depending on the message they are trying to convey.

Wails between male and female partners may be saying, "Over here, honey!" Calls, described as laughs, are used to convey things like, "Danger. Will Robinson! Human approaching." Yodels are utilized by males only – with bodies flat against the water's surface and necks extended – and are likely a loon's way of saying, "Back off, pal! I was here first."

In early July, a female common loon, patient #16-31, was admitted to CROW on Sanibel after being found down and lethargic. Upon presentation, no physical injuries were detected. Blood work was performed which indicated that the quiet bird was severely anemic.



The female common loon relaxes during one of her daily tub-time sessions

After a week of rest in ICU along with nutrient-rich food, the patient's health improved. She was moved outside to a secluded enclosure that will allow her time to improve her strength and stamina in a more natural environment.

The wildlife specialists at CROW will continue to monitor the progress of this exceptional bird. They are hopeful that the loon will soon be well enough to return to her summer breeding grounds in the Northern U.S. and Canada. There, her rather drab winter feathers will turn into the characteristically stunning black-and-white summer breeding plumage and

her black eyes will become a glittering red.

After spending a busy summer breeding, nesting and raising little baby loons on a picturesque northern lake, she will likely return to the gentle gulf waters of Sanibel for a well-earned winter break.

The area's rich wildlife cannot afford its own medical insurance. To help CROW treat sick and injured pelicans, gopher tortoises, bunny rabbits and of course, this extraordinary common loon, go to the clinic's website (www.crowclinic.org) and make a donation.

If you prefer a more hands-on approach, consider volunteering your

time to feed native and migratory patients. Training is provided. Contact Volunteer Coordinator JoEllen Urasky at 472-3644 ext. 229.

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.

LCEC United Way
Fishing Tournament

The 20th annual LCEC United Way Fishing Tournament will be held on Saturday, April 16. This tournament has raised over \$365,000 for the United Way since it began. Anglers come from throughout the state to participate in this tournament, which also features food and a raffle with hundreds of prizes.

It is being held at some of Southwest Florida's best fishing locations – Pine Island Sound, Charlotte Harbor and surrounding waters. The cost per person is \$65 before April 13 and \$75 thereafter.

A mandatory captains' meeting will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 15 at D & D Matlacha Bait and Tackle. All participants will receive a commemorative long-sleeve shirt and a barbecue meal. Meals for guests and non-fisherman can be purchased for \$5 during weigh-in.

For details on prizes, donations and entry into the tournament, visit www.uw.lcec.net/fish.html, email fish@lcec.net or call Dana Nicloy at 656-2122.

Wild Turkey Strand Walk

On February 20, a Lee County volunteer naturalist will guide a free 1.4-mile nature and history walk at Wild Turkey Strand Preserve at 9 a.m. The Preserve is located at 11901 Rod and Gun Club Road, Fort Myers.

It occupies portions of the former Buckingham Army Airfield, the state's largest air-

field training base during WWII. It is also located within the boundaries of Lee County's designated aquifer recharge area.

The 90-minute walk is on a fully accessible trail, and a picnic shelter and restroom are on-site. Because of recent rain, walkers are asked to wear closed toe shoes suitable for wet conditions.

No reservations are required and no dogs are permitted in this preserve. Call 707-3325 for more information.

Edible Gardening Class Series

Learn the biggest edible gardening mistakes, why gardens fail and how to fix these problems. Karen Harty, executive director of Grow A Gardener Inc. and Lee County Master Gardener, will be explaining how to beat the challenges of edible gardening in Southwest Florida. She has been edible gardening for 40-plus years and grows her own food year-round on the quarter acre surrounding her home.

Classes will be held in an outdoor classroom (with roof) at ECHO, located at 17391 Durrance Road, in North Fort Myers. The series of four classes will run from 2 to 4 p.m. with the following schedule: Crash Course in Veggie Gardening (Monday, February 29); How to be an Organic Gardener in SW Florida (Tuesday, March 1); Growing Tomatoes in SW Florida (Wednesday, March 2); Veggie Gardening in Containers (Thursday, March 3).

The series costs \$60 and includes a tour of ECHO on Thursday. Single classes are also available for \$20, which includes a donation to ECHO but not the ECHO tour. Registration is required. Call or text Karen at 610-530-8883 or email karenlharty@gmail.com to register or with questions.

Yacht Club
Meeting

The monthly meeting of the Fort Myers Beach Yacht Club will be held on Wednesday, February 24 at the American Legion Post 274 on San Carlos Island, 899 Buttonwood Drive in Fort Myers Beach.

Dinner is available for \$12 per person. Social hour begins at 6 p.m., dinner at 7 p.m. and the membership meeting is from 8 to 9 p.m. Potential new members wishing to attend any or all portions of the meeting are invited to call Membership Chairperson Pete Oiderma at 463-6240 for required reservations and additional information.

Learn more online at www.FMBYachtClub.org.

Community
Lecture

The Wednesday Morning Live! Community Lecture Series continues with *Fourth Down In Dunbar* by author David Dorsey on Wednesday, February 24 at Covenant Presbyterian Church in Fort Myers.

The lecture is free and open to the public. The one-hour lecture begins at 10 a.m. preceded by a continental breakfast at 9:30 a.m. Advance registration is not required. The lecture will be held at Covenant Presbyterian Church, 2439 McGregor Boulevard. Call 334-8937 or go to www.covpcfm.com for more information.

Plant Smart

Sevenyear Apple

by Gerri Reaves

Sevenyear apple (*Genipa clusiifolia*) is an evergreen shrub or small tree native to South Florida's seacoasts.

It's slow-growing and usually reaches about 10 feet high, but sometimes as high as 20. Wide-branching in form with pale bark, it can be multi- or single-trunked.

Wildlife-friendly and storm-resistant, it is useful as a buffer, hedge, or screen.

Other reasons to include it in the landscape? It is the larval host for the *Tantalus sphinx* moths and a nectar plant for the mangrove skipper, other butterflies and hummingbirds.

The tree's common name is misleading, for the fruit ripens in less than a year, not seven.

Egg-shaped and two to three inches long, the fruit ripens from green to yellow, and then develops spots, turns black, and shrivels.

The fruit is loved by some people and hated by others, but wildlife appreciate it, particularly mockingbirds, who suck out the interior and leave hollow skins on the tree.

Eat the fruit only after it turns black, and consume only the jelly-like pulp, not the seeds, which can make you ill.

The shiny leaves are up to six inches long with paler undersides and a leathery feel. Spatula-shaped and under-curved,

or recurved, they cluster near the branch ends in erect whorled bunches.

Like its relative, the gardenia, this tree has very fragrant flowers. Star-like and tubular, they have white pink-tipped petals and measure about an inch and a half across. They bloom mainly in spring and summer but can appear anytime.

Sevenyear apple is dioecious, meaning that the male and female flowers bloom on separate plants.

Give it a well-drained spot in full sun to partial shade. It is tolerant of salt spray but not salt-water inundation more than occasionally.

Propagate sevenyear apple with the many seeds in the fruit or with cuttings. This plant typically has no serious pest problems.

The fruit has a variety of culinary uses, such as making sherbet and commercial pectin. The juice is used as a blue-purple fabric dye.

The wood is used to make tools and a wide variety of other objects.

Plant Smart explores the diverse flora of South Florida.

Sources: *500 Plants of South Florida* by Julia F. Morton, *Native Florida Plants* by Robert G. Haehle and Joan Brookwell, *The Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida* by Gil Nelson, *Trees of Everglades National Park and the Florida Keys* by George B. Stevenson, earthweeds.com, fnps.org, and lee.ifas.ufl.edu.

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



Sevenyear apple, a native of South Florida's coasts, is wild-friendly, salt-tolerant, and wind-resistant

photo by Gerri Reaves



Little blue heron photos by Meg Rousher

Bird Spotting In Lakes Park

A Morning Meander at Lakes Park with a bird patrol guide is scheduled for Saturday, March 5 at 8



Piping plover

a.m.

Meet at Shelter A7. Enter Lakes Park from Gladiolus and turn right. Drive to the end of the road and continue through the parking lot. Shelter A7 is located near the train station.

This easy walk along clear paths offers an opportunity to see birds in native vegetation with experienced guides pointing

out the many species in this birding hot spot and crucial nesting area for many birds.

Wear comfortable shoes and dress to be outside. Bring water, sunscreen and binoculars.

Lakes Regional Park is located at 7330 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers. For more information, call 533-7580 or 533-7576.

This tour is provided in cooperation with Lee County Parks and Recreation. It's free with paid parking. Go to www.birdpatrol.org.

Early Everglades Environmentalists Topic At Festival

The people who ensured that parts of South Florida would be saved from development will be the topic of a talk on Wednesday, February 24 during the Marjory Stoneman Douglas Festival at the Museum of the Everglades.

This is the 100th anniversary of the National Park Service but it is also the centenary of Everglades National Park, which was established as Royal Palm State Park in 1916 by some very active women, headed by May Mann Jennings. Her commitment led to Earnest Coe lobbying for the creation of a national park with help from Marjory Stoneman Douglas herself. Legislation was pushed through Congress in 1934 by Ruth Bryan Owens, the first female representative



Local historian Marya Repko from Florida.

Local historian and author Marya Repko will make an illustrated presentation at 1 p.m.

For a full schedule of festival events, log onto www.evergladesmuseum.org or call 695-0008.*

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Dark water making its way up the beach along West Gulf Drive Sunday February 14

photo by Jim Anderson

Governor Orders Lake Okeechobee Flows Directed South

by Jeff Lysiak

As a result of a historic emergency meeting of a half dozen mayors representing Lee County communities distressed over the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers decision to pump water from Lake Okeechobee into the Caloosahatchee last week, Gov. Rick Scott on Thursday requested that the Army Corps "take immediate action" to relieve the flooding of the Everglades Water Conservation Areas.

In a letter dated February 11 to Jo-Ellen Darcy, assistant secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Gov. Scott requested that the Army Corps raise the level of the L-29 canal to 8.5 feet in order for "substantial volumes of water" to be moved from Water Conservation Area 3 to the Everglades National Park through Shark River Slough.

"Moving water south out of the water conservation areas will prevent the die-off of wildlife whose habitat is currently flooded due to the heavy rainfall and also allow us to move more water from Lake Okeechobee south, relieving pressure from discharges to the estuaries," Gov. Scott's letter reads, in part. "We have communicated with stakeholders along Tamiami Trail, the Fish and Wildlife Service, the Everglades National Park, the South Florida Water Management District, the Miccosukee Tribe and many others. They are supportive of this action."

Sanibel Mayor Kevin Ruane reacted positively to the news of Gov. Scott's action. "We applaud Gov. Scott's request to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for immediate action," Ruane said. "The solutions we are pursuing require action by all levels of government, local, state and federal. The engagement by Gov. Scott is a positive step we appreciate."

On February 10, Ruane – along with Bonita Springs Mayor Ben Nelson, Cape Coral Mayor Marni Sawicki, Estero Mayor Nick Batos, Fort Myers Mayor Randy Henderson and Fort Myers Beach Mayor Anita Cereceda – gathered at Bonita Springs' City Council chambers for an emergency session. Their discussion focused on both immediate and long-term requests of the governing agencies with jurisdiction over Lake Okeechobee, including the Army Corps and the South Florida Water Management District, as well as funding requests for relief efforts at the state and

wildlife, plants and history including the background of the local shrimping industry. Experience the life of a 19th century sailor for two and a half hours as you sail the waters between Estero Island and Sanibel. Partial proceeds will benefit Fort Myers Beach Lions Foundation, where 100 percent of earnings go back into the community.

Reservations are required; call 245-7383 or visit CaptainBubbys.com for more information or to make reservations. A minimum of 12 passengers must be booked for a sailing to occur. Space is limited to 40 guests. Groups are welcome. Cost: \$75 per guest*. Gratuities to guides and crew are not included.*

Tall Ship Returns For Shrimp Festival

Captain Bubby's IsLAND Tours has partnered with The Tall Ship Lynx to offer a sailing experience that is enjoyable, informative and gives back to the local community. From March 1 to 6, cruise with Captain Bubby, a Florida Master Naturalist, aboard *The Lynx* and experience area sights and sounds from the deck of this 1812 replica of a privateer. He will share his knowledge of the area's

federal levels for CEPP (Central Everglades Planning Project), EAA (Everglades Agricultural Area) and watershed storage projects.

"It is unconscionable that back pumping into Lake O for any reason would be permitted while devastating massive releases are being justified by the current level of the water in the lake," Ruane explained prior to the meeting. "We demand all back pumping into the lake be immediately stopped."

The state's Department of Environmental Protection and the state Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission also issued orders late last week which would "deviate from permitted water management practices" and allow the Army Corps to grant Gov. Scott's request. The move would also improve salinity conditions in Florida Bay, according to a resolution issued by FWC.

As a result of record amounts of rainfall throughout the new year, Lake Okeechobee has risen to nearly 16 feet. Fears of flooding and/or failure of the lake's protective levees triggered the Army Corps decision to open the dikes to allow maximum amounts of water – estimated at more than 3.5 billion gallons per day – to flow out of the lake and into the Caloosahatchee to the west. Approximately 2 million gallons of lake water per day was being released to the east, into the St. Lucie River.

On Friday, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission issued a resolution allowing the Army Corps to move more water south through Shark River Slough to ease the effects of flooding in Southwest Florida.

"Discharges to the estuaries are contributing to impacts to the natural resources of those estuarine ecosystems. Those estuaries provide fishing, boating, sightseeing, seafood harvesting and other important tourism-related economic benefits," the FWC document states. "Immediate action is necessary to deviate from permitted water management practices in order to move significant volumes of flood water out of the Water Conservation Areas through Shark River Slough, and subsequently provide opportunities to move more water south out of Lake Okeechobee, relieving pressure on the Caloosahatchee and St. Lucie estuaries."

On February 12, Ruane thanked the district for taking action on the water releases.

"We commend the South Florida Water Management District for ceasing the 'back pumping' into Lake Okeechobee," he added. "Our efforts to improve communications and work together towards solutions is our collective top priority and focus at this time. We appreciate the efforts of our residents who responded to the call to cease the back pumping. We work best when we speak with one voice."

The six Lee County mayors plan on conducting public meetings every month to discuss both long- and short-term solutions to resolving South Florida's ongoing water storage dilemma.*

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Lee Memorial Health System Celebrates Centennial This Year



Lee Memorial Hospital, located at Victoria and Grand avenues, Fort Myers
photos courtesy of the Southwest Florida Historical Society

Lee Memorial Health System marks 100 years of caring for the community in 2016. Its birth can be traced to one of the most colorful events in Florida history. It involved 150 men working by the light of a bonfire, a shotgun-toting county commissioner and a 3-2 vote by the Lee County Commission in 1914.

All those things led to the creation of Lee County's first hospital, which opened on October 3, 1916 as a two-story, wood frame facility with four rooms, 15 beds and no air conditioning. The system has grown with the community to now include 1,426 licensed beds in four acute care hospitals, two specialty hospitals including Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida, multiple outpatient centers, walk-in clinics, primary care and specialty physician practices.

The wood to build the first hospital was acquired by those 150 men when they disassembled the county's first courthouse. The county wanted to build a new courthouse and the county commission voted to do that. But a faction opposed it and sought a court injunction to stop the project. County commissioner Bill Towles, though, gathered 150 men, who worked by the light of a bonfire as the commissioner held a shotgun and sat nearby. The old courthouse was torn down on October 26, 1914.

Two years later, that courthouse lumber became the first Lee Memorial Hospital. The original hospital was located at the corner of Victoria and Grand avenues in Fort Myers. The 1910 census listed Lee County with 6,294 residents. Today, the health care system employs 11,800 people and has become a regional health care resource for many families through Southwest Florida.

The system had a float in the Edison Festival of Light Junior Parade on February 14, and will have a float in the Grand Parade on February 20. It will also host HealthFest 2016 on February 21 at CenturyLink Sports Complex, in conjunction with the Minnesota Twins' Open House.

Here are some highlights of the system's colorful past:

- **First patient:** Sam Thompson rode a horse from LaBelle in 1916 because he was in pain and knew where to go for help – the new hospital in Fort Myers. He needed an appendectomy and a surgeon performed an operation by kerosene lamp. The operation was a success.

- **First baby:** The first baby born in Lee Memorial was James Fielder Allred, who arrived on March 3, 1917, six months to the day after the hospital opened. He grew up to become an orthodontist in Pensacola. Since then, thousands of babies entered the world at Lee Memorial Hospital, including Pro Football Hall of Famer Deion Sanders and Lee County Commissioner Frank Mann.

- **Business impact:** Lee Memorial Health System is Southwest Florida's largest employer, according to the Southwest Florida Economic Development Alliance. Those



The first nursing staff at Lee Memorial



Dr. McSwain, Lee Memorial's first surgeon

employees in turn go out and buy homes, cars and clothes and dine in local restaurants, creating an immense economic tidal wave. At 100, it is also one of the area's oldest businesses.

- **Medical advances:** Worldwide medical advances have also benefited Lee County residents. When Lee Memorial opened in 1916, basic life-saving services and care were available, but husbands were not allowed to be with wives as they gave birth. Today, the system offers world-class health care with highly specialized services in cardiac, neurosciences, oncology, orthopedics, neonatal, pediatrics and trauma, to name a few.

- **From 1924 to 1966,** black residents received medical care at Jones-Walker. It was located in an area of Fort Myers now known as Dunbar. Lee Memorial integrated in 1966 and Jones-Walker was closed.

- **Jim Nathan:** Lee Memorial Health System's CEO and president started work at the hospital in 1975 as an administrative assistant and became president in 1982. Since he started, the health system acquired other hospitals, built HealthPark Medical Center, opened a Regional Cancer Center, is building the Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida, and will be expanding in South Lee County within the next five years.

- **The Museum of Medical History** on the campus of Florida SouthWestern State College offers a window into the medical past, featuring instruments and artifacts used in the original Lee Memorial Hospital.✱



Janet G. Cohen will host Wild About Kids benefiting Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida.

Cohen To Host Wild About Kids

With her love of children, Janet G. Cohen is honored to host Wild About Kids benefiting the new Golisano Children's Hospital of

Southwest Florida, which is set to open in spring 2017. The 128-bed comprehensive pediatric hospital is under construction on the grounds of HealthPark Medical Center.

This once-in-a-lifetime experience will be held on Saturday, March 12 at NGALA (means place of the lion in Swahili) Private Reserve, a 42-acre retreat in Naples. This site features wild and endangered live creatures to provide an amazing experience within a tented venue situated in a tropical garden.

"It's a very private invitation-only event with just 200 in attendance," said Melissa Cunningham, senior director of development, Lee Memorial Health System Foundation. "This marks the second year for the event and we are hoping to raise \$1 million."

Current sponsors include Janet Cohen, the honorary hostess; Arthrex; Century Link; 21st Century Oncology; Woods, Weidenmiller, Michetti & Rudnick, PL; Jerry F. Nichols; Enterprise Holdings and Miami Children's Health Foundation. *Naples Illustrated* is the Media Sponsor.

Sponsorships are available for; contact Melissa Cunningham at 343-6071 or Melissa.Cunningham@LeeMemorial.org.✱



Alina Eydel

Butterfly Wings, Human Hair In Two New Exhibits

Two new exhibits will be on display at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center (SBDAC) from March 4 to 27.

Sacred Symmetry by Naples resident Alina Eydel will be displayed in the Grand Atrium. Anastasia Zappas will display her Hair Today, Art Tomorrow exhibit in the upstairs Capital Gallery. SBDAC is located in the historic downtown River District at 2301 First Street, Fort Myers.

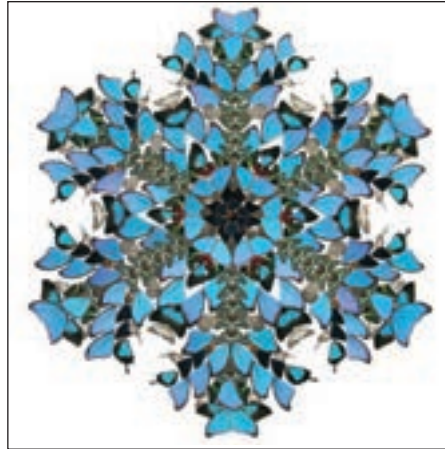
Born in Kiev, Ukraine in 1989, Eydel emigrated to the U.S. in 1992 with her parents, escaping the dangerous remnants of the Chernobyl disaster. She



Anastasia Zappas

has been exhibiting professionally and selling her work since 2000 and is best known for her mixed media glass-bead mosaic technique.

Sacred Symmetry focuses on geometric kaleidoscope compositions made out of sustainably farmed butterfly wings inspired by Damien Hirst. She explains, "I started using butterfly wings as a fascinating new medium. The wings' iridescent quality and numerous connotations give my pieces a different meaning and unique visual magic. Furthermore, the butterflies I use are 'farmed' in rainforest nations worldwide. Families in India, Sri Lanka, Mexico, Peru, Vietnam, Malaysia and



Eydel butterfly snowflake

Indonesia collect, farm and sell insect specimens... (and) help prevent rainforest deforestation, which makes my pieces eco-friendly."

Zappas is a mixed media artist and owner of Zappas Hair Salon outside Chicago, and creator of Definitely New Art. With 40 years' experience in the world of color, sculpting and design, the concept was born to apply hair to canvas, which has transformed her love of hair into a unique new medium of art, creating the Hair Today, Art Tomorrow exhibit. She works with trimmed hair that has been bleached and colored with Pravana vivids to develop a piece of whimsical artwork. She enjoys creating



Zappas hair creation

pieces that have more than just a story behind them and are also eco-friendly.

Both exhibits will open during Art Walk. Gallery hours are Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free for all with a suggested \$5 donation. Art Walk operates from 6 to 10 p.m. on the first Friday of the month.

Art Talk Tuesday & Closing Party is March 15 at 6 p.m. The public is invited to meet the artists and see what inspires them to create. Tickets are \$5, free for members. For more information, visit www.sbdac.com or call 333-1933.✱



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Dan England: *Immokalee* inspiration for Roy Rodriguez *Wild Chickens for a New Tomorrow*

ArtPoems Celebrates 10th Anniversary

ArtPoems, a Southwest Florida collaboration between poets and artists, will celebrate its 10th anniversary with three events at three different venues in Southwest Florida.

The first performance will be held at BIG ARTS on Saturday, February 27 at 7:30 p.m. The second performance will take place on Wednesday, March 16 at 7:30 p.m. at The Alliance for the Arts in Fort Myers. The third and final installment will be held on Wednesday, April 6 at 6 p.m. at the Cape Coral Library.

Numerous poets and artists, in the past 10 years, have collaborated to produce poems inspired by artists and art inspired by poetry. In December, 11 artists were randomly matched with 11 poets, shared work, and set about creating new works of art and poetry. Twenty-two new pieces of work were created and will be presented on stage at BIG ARTS in February, at the Alliance for the Arts in March, then finally at the Cape Coral Library in April. Poets will read their work while images of the accompanying art are digitally produced on a large screen.

A reception will be held prior to the BIG ARTS performance in Schein Hall, Sanibel, where poems and art will be displayed and the audience will be able to meet and mingle with artists and poets.

Church Presents Barbershop Chorus



The Cape Chorale Barbershop Chorus

On Saturday, February 27 at 4 p.m., the Cape Chorale Barbershop Chorus will present a free one-hour concert in the sanctuary at New Hope Presbyterian Church. Cape Chorale is a local a cappella men's group under the direction of Duane Fenn.

New Hope Presbyterian Church is located at 3825 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers. Sunday worship services are at 8 and 9:30 a.m. (traditional) and 11 a.m. (contemporary). Sunday morning and Wednesday evening classes are available for adults, youth and children. Nursery care is provided.

For more information, contact the church office at 274-1230 or visit at www.newhopefortmyers.org.



Holly McEntyre: *Abstract Expressionism*, inspired by Linda Lally's *Thunderstorm*



jd daniels: *Above Polished Chrome Handles*, inspired by Beth Everhart's *She Said She Knows What It's Like*



Sid Simon: *Playing The Rainbow Room*, inspired by Honey Costa's *Playing The Rainbow Room*

Each year, ArtPoems presents a diversity of talent and subject matter, which reflects not only the culture of Southwest Florida, but images and subjects that the artists and poets find inspiring. The goal of ArtPoems over time has been "shaking the muse loose" moving artists and poets out of their comfort zones to stretch creativity and move in new directions.

This year's poets include JD Daniels, Dan Reed England, Joyce Berrian Ferrari, Lorraine Walker Williams, Joe Pacheco, Holly Lee McEntyre, Sid Simon, Linda Hughes, Gary McLouth, Larry Stiles and Sandy Greco. The artists are Ava Roeder, Honey Costa, Roy Rodriguez, Scott Guelcher, Beth Everhart, Jaye Boswell, Paul David Adamick, Linda Lally, Jonas Stirner, Kathy Kuser and Paula Eckerty.



Sandy Greco *Just One Ride* inspiration for Kathy Kuser *Just One Ride*



Lorraine Walker Williams: *On Guns*, inspiration for Scott Guelcher's *Twenty Ducks*

Our email address is press@riverweekly.com

Registration Now Open For Alliance Summer Arts Camp



Campers from a past year pose for the camera

Registration is now open for Summer Arts Camp 2016 for members of the Alliance for the Arts. The Alliance offers three camp options: Summer Arts Camp for K-6th graders, Minis Arts Camp for 4 and 5 year olds (must turn 5 by September 1 to be eligible) and Musical Theatre Intensive Camp for 6-12th graders.

At Summer Arts Camp and Minis Arts Camp, kids will engage in a wide spectrum of the arts as they act, sing, dance, and create works of art. Summer Arts campers will also create the set for the final stage performance that wraps up each week in the theatre. (No final performance for Minis Camp.) Musical Theatre Intensive Camp is presented in partnership with Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre. Broadway Palm director and choreographer Amy McCleary will lead the camps, and she will be assisted by professional actors currently performing at the theatre.



Alliance Summer Arts Camp is now open for registration for 2016

There are eight themed weeks of the Summer Arts and Minis Camps, including *Bottle Rockets & BBQ*, *A Bug's Life* and *Inner Space*. During Spotlight on Broadway week (July 11-15), campers will take a special backstage tour of Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre.

There are four weeks of Musical Theatre Intensive Camp, with themes like *101 Dalmatians* and *The Wizard of Oz*. Students will train with Broadway Palm cast members in vocal and dance workshops as they learn choreography, audition techniques, improv and music theory.

Summer Arts Camp is \$160 per week for Alliance members or \$200 per week for non-members. Minis Arts Camp is \$200 per week for members or \$240 for non-members. Both camps run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday with early drop off at 8 a.m. and late pick up at 5 p.m. available for a fee.

Musical Theatre Intensive camp is held at Broadway Palm's rehearsal space in the Royal Palm Plaza. Camp runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. (Daily arrival time 8:45-9 a.m.) No pre- or after-care available.) There is a final performance each Friday at 3 p.m. Each week is \$175 for Alliance members or \$220 for non-members.

Teen volunteer and scholarship applications will be available began February 15. If you would like to give the gift of art to a deserving child, donate to the Alliance summer camp scholarship fund at artinlee.org/scholarships. Visit www.artinlee.org/summer-arts-camp to learn more, or call 939-2787 for more information. Summer Arts Camp is proudly sponsored by Family Thrift Center in Fort Myers.✱



Two summer campers create works of art



Members of the Musical Theatre Intensive Camp

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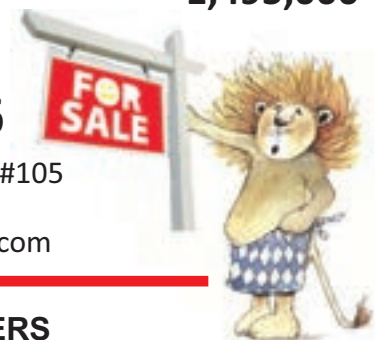
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ENGEL & VÖLKERS

School Smart



by Shelley M. Gregg, NCSPE

Dear Shelley, My son is in first grade and doing well although I think he needs more practice overall to reinforce his skills. We are a very busy family with not much extra time.

Are there one or two quick activities that you could recommend that would help his learning become stronger?

Justine S. Cape Coral, Florida

Justine,

All parents want their child to do well in school, and I think it's great that you are looking for ways to increase your son's learning. One way to support your son is to by helping him increase his vocabulary. Beginning readers, like your child, use knowledge about words to help them make sense of what they're reading. The more words a reader knows, the more they are able to comprehend what they're reading or listening to and ultimately comprehend what is happening in academics and in the world around them.

Talking to and reading with your child are two terrific ways to help them hear and read new words. Have conversations and questions about interesting words. For example if his book says, "The boy tumbled down the hill, you might ask, "

How do you think the boy went down the hill?" Talk about the interesting new word in that sentence. What does your son think tumble means? Can he act it out or maybe make a picture of it? Perhaps you might be able to demonstrate the word.

Sharing a new word with your child doesn't have to take a long time: just a few minutes to talk about the word and then focus back on the book or conversation. Choose which words to talk about carefully – choosing every new word might make reading seem like a chore. The best words to explore with your child are ones that are more common with adult speakers and less common to see in the books your child might read.

When introducing new words to your child, keep the following four helpful hints in mind. Here is an example with the word enormous.

First, provide a simple, kid-friendly definition for the new word: Enormous means that something is really, really big.

Second, provide a simple, kid-friendly example that makes sense within their daily life: Remember that really big watermelon we got at the grocery store? That was an enormous watermelon!

Third, encourage your child to develop his own example: What enormous thing can you think of? Can you think of something really big that you saw today? That's right! The bulldozer near the park was enormous! Those tires were huge.

Last, keep these new words active within your home. Over the next few days and weeks, take advantage of opportunities to use each new vocabulary

word in conversation. You and your son will be delighted seeing his vocabulary grow!

*Shelley Gregg 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.**

Local Graduates

Two Fort Myers residents recently graduated from Kent State University.

Jeremy McGurk and Shana Plunkett were among the Fall 2015 graduates from Northeast Ohio's leading public research university.*

Dean's List

Dalton Eugene McMullen of Cape Coral has been named to the Deans' List/Explore Center List of Distinguished Students at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln for the fall semester of the 2015-16 academic year.

McMullen is a senior meteorology climatology major at the College of Arts and Sciences.*

Mitro, Persichilli Make Dean's List

Tufts University recently announced the Dean's List for undergraduate students enrolled for the Fall 2015 semester. The list includes Brittany Mitro and Samuel Persichilli, both of Fort Myers and both members of the class of 2018.*

Two Local Cadets Make Dean's List

David Whitenack and Kylie Flynn, both of Fort Myers, were recognized for achieving the Dean's List as cadets at The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina. Whitenack was awarded Gold Stars for earning a grade point ratio of 3.7 or higher during the 2015 fall semester.

Dean's List recognition is given to cadets registered for 12 or more semester hours and whose grade point average is 3.2 or higher with no grade below a C for the previous semester's work. The Citadel offers a classic military college education for young men and women profoundly focused on leadership excellence and academic distinction. To learn more about The Citadel go to www.citadel.edu.*

First TSA Associate Class Graduates



The first class of the TSA associates program at FSW comprised 14 graduates

The first class of 14 graduates of the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) Associates Program, administered by Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW), was recognized in an achievement ceremony on January 20 at Southwest Florida International Airport.

Supported by the TSA, the 9-credit program is offered through community colleges nationwide to allow TSA workers to expand their education and career development in Homeland Security. FSW is the only entity in Southwest Florida to offer the program, which it began administering in fall 2014.

"The program is designed to prepare transportation security officers, supervisors, and managers for future promotions by challenging them to think like administrators and realize the inherent complexities of the Department of Homeland Security under which the TSA falls," said Robert Knott, adjunct professor, TSA Associates Program.

"Homeland Security changes constantly, and this program allows employees to stay current in this field through continuing education," said Nydia Miculinic, TSA associate program education coordinator and graduate. "Many of us started out with the agency without prior experience or knowledge in this field. The initial courses selected for the program helped me understand the foundation that built the Department of Homeland Security and TSA and how it grew to be the agency it is today."

Students who completed the program can continue their education and apply the nine credits they earned to FSW's associate in science in criminal justice technology degree program.

For more information, contact the FSW School of Business and Technology at 489-9270 or sbt@fsw.edu.*

McLaren Named To Honors List

Clara McLaren, a resident of Fort Myers, was named to the Fall 2015 Honors List at Mary Baldwin College. Students named to the Honors List earned grade point averages of 3.75 to 4.00. *

Dean's List

Melinda Lukas, an exercise science major from Cape Coral, has been named to the Fall 2015 Dean's List at Georgia Southern University for excellence in academics. To be eligible for the Dean's List, a student must have at least a 3.5 grade point average and carry a minimum of 12 hours for the semester.*

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Mets Pitcher Caught Doping Third Time; Banned From Baseball For Life



by Ed Frank

In the long history of Major League Baseball, there have been few lifetime bans handed down to ballplayers, and those were typically for gambling related offenses.

In 1989, Pete Rose was banned for betting on his own Cincinnati Reds as a player and manager, and eight members of the 1919 Chicago White Sox received lifetime banishments for fixing games in the World Series.

But just last week, as hundreds of ballplayers began gathering for the start of Spring Training, Major League Baseball announced the first lifetime ban of a player, New York Mets pitcher Jenrry Mejia, for failing a drug test for the third time.

The suspension under baseball's crackdown on the use of performance enhancing drugs, while unprecedented and harsh, never-the-less raises the question whether some players continue using drugs to gain an edge.

Far more famous players than Mejia – Barry Bonds, Alex Rodriguez, Mark McGwire to name just a few – have been involved in drug scandals, but none received lifetime penalties for three failed tests for performance enhancing substances.

Whether it was poor judgment or stupidity, probably both, the 26-year-old Mejia threw away a promising career and millions of dollars in his futile attempt to cheat the game.

He grew up in poverty, shining shoes for \$8 a day in the Dominican Republic. He was signed by the Mets as a 17-year old and made it to the Major Leagues in 2010 at the young age of 20 in what appeared to be a lucrative future career as a relief pitcher. He was the youngest Met to reach the Majors since Dwight Gooden.

Once compared to former All-Star Mariano Rivera, he was plagued by injuries but rebounded to become a capable closer for the Mets in the 2014 season. He was scheduled to earn \$2.6 million last season only to forfeit most of it because of his first of two doping suspensions.

Mejia, a 6-foot, 205-pound right hander, was injured again at the start of last season and it was then he was first suspended for 80 games for testing positive for the drug stanozolol.

Just a few weeks after he returned from that suspension, he was penalized again, this time for a full 162-game season for testing positive for both stanozolol and boldenone, synthetic derivatives of testosterone.

The following is what Mets general manager Sandy Alderson said after the second suspension:

"I think to some extent anger, to some extent amazement that this could happen so soon after a previous suspension was completed, and some sadness in the sense that this is having a tremendous adverse effect on a very promising Major League career."

Apparently still having hope and faith in the beleaguered pitcher, the Mets awarded Mejia a new contract for 2016 in the amount of \$2.4 million in the hope he could provide bullpen depth after he served out the 99 games left in his second suspension.

Almost unbelievably, while still serving that second doping suspension, he tested positive again for the third time for the substance boldenone, a steroid easily detected in a urine sample. Thus came his lifetime ban from baseball.

His \$2.4 million 2016 contract is wiped out as is the likelihood he will ever pitch again in professional baseball, although he can appeal for reinstatement after one year.

From shining shoes in the Dominican Republic to Major League riches to crashing down with a lifetime ban in baseball – the pathetic story of Jenrry Mejia hopefully will provide a strong lesson to others who might consider cheating.✱

Boxing Tourney In Punta Gorda

Sugar Bert Boxing Promotions in partnership with the International Amateur Boxing Association, USA Boxing, Title Boxing and Team IP recently announced the Sugar Bert Boxing Title Belt National Qualifier Tournament will take place at the Charlotte Harbor Event & Conference Center June 10-12. Hundreds of amateur boxers, their families, coaches and fans will converge in Punta Gorda with hopes of advancing to the National Championships in Kissimmee.

The tournament is open to amateur boxers of all ages with three rings of simultaneous matches on Saturday, June 11 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. and the championship on Sunday, June 12 from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. The USA Boxing Association Sanctioned event is a qualifier for the national championships in November 2016. The total cost for boxers to compete is \$35. General admission is \$15 per day.✱

Collegiate Classic Returns

Baseball and softball players from around the nation will converge in Lee County from February 26 through March 28 for the 26th annual Lee County Parks & Recreation Gene Cusic Collegiate Classic. The event offers men's and women's NCAA Division III baseball and softball teams, as well as NAIA softball teams, an opportunity to participate in spring break tournaments before their seasons begin. An estimated 500 games will be played with teams primarily from the Midwest and Northeast. Notables include those from Olivet College, Johns Hopkins University, Kenyon College and the College of Wooster. Games are played at CenturyLink Sports Complex, Lee County Player Development Complex, North Collier Regional Park and Terry Park Sports Complex. Admission to the games is free for spectators.

Last year's Gene Cusic Collegiate Classic drew more than 4,400 sports visitors to Lee County, generating roughly 6,600 hotel room nights and approximately \$2.8 million in direct spending.

"Lee County Parks & Recreation's Gene Cusic Collegiate Classic is an event that offers men's and women's NCAA Division III baseball and softball teams an opportunity to participate in regular season games during their

respective spring breaks from their cold weather-climate states," said Dana Kasler, director of Lee County Parks & Recreation. "Each year, the Cusic draws return visits from former players who come back to Fort Myers to vacation. The weather is good, the level of play is outstanding, and many tourists, snowbirds and residents can find their alma mater from up north on our schedule of play."

The tournament is named for Gene Cusic of Aurora, Illinois, who was a teacher, coach, principal, superintendent and administrator in Illinois schools. He also taught a year in Lima, Peru and served as principal of the Oxford Summer School for the American Institute for Foreign Study. He retired to Fort Myers in 1988 and joined the Lee County Parks & Recreation staff as the athletic program manager. He established the Collegiate Classic in 1990 with only 11 teams. The event took off and, at one point, boasted 300 teams of men's baseball and women's fast-pitch softball. It became so popular that as many teams that signed up were also turned away. Cusic died in 1995, but the event remains a mainstay on Lee County sports calendars.

For the complete game schedule, or for more information, visit www.LeeGov.com/parks/athletics/cusic.✱

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Financial Focus

Changes To Student Financial Aid Forms



by Jennifer Basey

If you have a child in college, you're probably familiar with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which must be completed to help ensure that students don't miss out on federal and

state grants, work-study jobs and loans. But you might not know that some important changes will be coming to the FAFSA during 2016 – and these changes can affect both the process of filing for aid, and, possibly, the amount of aid your child will receive.

Here are three key changes to watch for:

- Earlier availability of the FAFSA – Currently, you need to complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1, which means you're probably filling out the form even before you've filed your taxes, which aren't due until April. As a result, you may have to estimate your income and update the information later. However, beginning with the 2017–18 school year, you can complete the FAFSA starting on October 1 of the previous calendar year, rather than wait until January. At that point, you will already have filed your 2015 taxes, so in

filling out the FAFSA, you won't have to rely on income estimates.

For 2016 only, this change presents something of an anomaly – specifically, you should fill out the FAFSA as soon as possible for the 2016–17 school year, using an estimate of your 2015 income, and then complete the FAFSA again in October for the 2017–18 school year, using your actual 2015 income. In future years, you'll only have to complete the FAFSA once, with applications accepted beginning each October 1.

- Lower "asset protection" allowance – When you report your financial information on the FAFSA, some of your assets, such as your IRA and 401(k), are not counted toward the resources you're expected to contribute to your child's education. Some other assets are considered available, but a percentage of these assets can be sheltered, with the exact amount depending largely on your age and marital status. For the 2016–17 school year, this sheltered asset amount has been reduced significantly. However, while this reduction could have some effect on your student's aid package, it shouldn't be too severe because income, more than assets, is a bigger factor in the federal financial aid formula.

- No more shared mailing list – When filing the FAFSA, students can choose up to 10 colleges to receive their financial information. Previously, when students sent their FAFSAs to multiple colleges and universities, these schools could see the other institutions on the mailing list. But starting with the 2016–17 application, schools will no longer have this information. This could actually benefit your child. Previously, if a school saw it was listed first on the FAFSA, it might

have assumed it was the student's first choice and, as a result, may not have felt the need to be flexible in awarding financial aid. Now, though, without a list of its competitors, a school might be more open to negotiating a more favorable aid package for your child.

It's a good idea to stay current on

the changes connected to the FAFSA because it helps determine financial aid eligibility – and financial aid is a key component of your strategy to pay for your child's (or grandchild's) education.

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

Juried Art Show

On Monday, February 22, the Winter Juried Show opens at the Fort Myers Beach Art Association gallery, sponsored by Matanzas on the Bay. Join the reception provided by the event sponsor, scheduled for February 28, with a gallery talk by Patty Kane at 1 p.m., refreshments at 2:15 p.m. and an award ceremony at 3 p.m. Admission to the show is free and visitors are welcome. This exhibit will be available for viewing and sale until March 24.

Neil Walling, who is offering a famous artist workshop at the gallery, will offer a demonstration at the gallery on February 21 from 3 to 5 p.m. The fee for the demo is \$10.

The honors include several awards: the Lee Ackert Memorial FMBAA Member Award for exceptional use of color, Best of Show Lucy B Campbell Award, Florida Watercolor Society Award, first, second, third, merit (three) and honorable mentions (three).

If you are interested in learning to paint, several short workshops are being taught at the art association this season as well as Patty Kane's watercolor classes on Monday, as well as other classes being taught from now until March. Check the

website at www.fortmyersbeachart.com to see all artistic events this season.

For more information, send e-mails to Pam Flaherty at fmbaapublicity@gmail.com or stop by the Fort Myers Beach Arts Association gallery located at 3030 Shell Mound Boulevard, one mile south of the Matanzas Bridge. Call 463-3909. The gallery is open daily through mid-April, Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Sunday noon to 3 p.m.✴✴

Dean's List

Jamie Gisburne has been named to the Central Methodist University Dean's List for the fall of 2015.

To qualify for Dean's List recognition, one must have completed 12 or more credit hours during the fall and achieved a 3.50 or higher grade point average on the University's 4.0 scale, according to Dr. Rita Gulstad, Provost.

This list is comprised of students from the main campus in Fayette, Missouri, as well as the online programs and extended sites across the state.

Gisburne is from Fort Myers and is a computer science and communication studies major at the main campus in Fayette.✴✴



Pure Florida's Discover Matlacha Island Cruise will take passengers aboard the M/V Edison Explorer on Saturday, March 5

Cruise And Discover Matlacha Island

Pure Florida's M/V Edison Explorer will take passengers on a Discover Matlacha Island cruise on Saturday, March 5, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. The day begins with a narrated cruise along the Caloosahatchee River and includes a guided tour of Matlacha Island, an old Florida fishing village considered a "hidden gem." It is home to brightly colored art galleries, island boutiques and seafood restaurants.

Passengers will be taken on a Taste of Matlacha Walking Tour, guided by True Tours, to learn about the island's unique history and sample signature delicacies. Upon conclusion of the tour, they may have lunch at their leisure and visit the nearby shops and galleries.

Local attractions include the Lovegrove Gallery & Gardens, home of well-known artist Leoma Lovegrove.

These cruise tours are guided by Coast Guard-certified captains, also master natural-



Pure Florida's Discover Matlacha Island Cruise excursion allows guests to explore nearby shops and galleries on the island, including the Lovegrove Gallery & Gardens

ists. Cost is \$64 per person. Lunch can be included for an additional charge of \$12 per person. The M/V Edison Explorer departs from The Marina at Edison Ford, 2360 West First Street, Fort Myers.

A complimentary bottle of water will be provided, and additional refreshments are available for purchase. Passengers may bring snacks aboard. For more information, or to book a ticket, call 919-2965, email FortMyers@PureFL.com or visit the Pure Florida website at www.PureFL.com.✴✴

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,

Our friends are healthy elderly – just like us. They enjoyed doing things and going places, but not now.

Their entire lifestyle is scheduled around the care and the needs of their elderly dog. This care is all-consuming; they will go places just for a few hours so as not to leave the dog alone. They take the odd week's vacation and employ a woman to live in and care for the animal during that time. They would like to move to a smaller place or a retirement complex, but can't because of the dog.

We are fed up dealing with it and we have heard that others have also given up. What's this with dogs?

Stephie

Dear Stephie,

I am not into dogs but I have heard that they fulfill a very basic need for some people.

This couple seems to have a need for parenting, love this dog as a person and enjoy caring. I have also heard people say that some people are prepared to spend thousands of dollars on chemotherapy, surgeries etc., just to extend their lives.

This type of need is beyond my comprehension and only a person with appropriate skills can understand, and that is not me.

Lizzie

Dear Stephie,

I am a dog person. Our dog is very much an integral part of our family. Dog lovers do not ask you non-dog lovers to understand. We do not criticize you for not having dogs. Do not criticize us for having dogs. Apart from dogs bringing depth and breadth to the life experience, research has validated over and over again the benefits of animals in the lives of humans.

Price

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

Read us online at
IslandSunNews.com

dearRPharmacist

Harmless Folk Remedies To Patch You Up



by Suzy Cohen, RPh

Dear Readers:

DToday is going to be fun. I'm sharing outlandish folk remedies that could help you, but please don't take this medical advice. Just because something is natural, doesn't mean it's nec-

essarily safe or effective. I'm just passing along what you've shared with me. I've put my comments in parentheses. Enjoy:

If you get a minor burn that doesn't expose any skin, quickly rub some toothpaste on it. Rob K.

I used to get little skin bumps or rashes on my legs. Now I know to rub the inside of a banana peel on them to control the itch and redness. This also works for little bug bites. Paul W.

(FYI, essential oil of myrrh would be my recommendation, with or without the banana peel!)

My husband has the worst smelly feet in the world. I almost left him for this, until my aunt told me to rub his feet with some alcohol, like the kind you drink. So we tried vodka, and put it on a washcloth

every night. We've been married 32 years. Patricia B.

(Alcohol is an antiseptic and kills surface fungus by starving them, which is probably why this helped her husband. I wonder if she drank the shots of vodka too, lol).

If a bug bites you like a mosquito or wasp, apply deodorant. It takes the sting out. Jenny L.

If you have hyperthyroidism (Graves' disease), eat a dish of raw or very lightly steamed broccoli every day to reduce symptoms. Yvonne M.

(There's actually some proof for why this works, but it may not be enough for full blown hyperthyroidism. Broccoli contains sulfur compounds called thiocyanates which reduce thyroid hormone production.)

Every spring I get at least one sinus infection. Put a teaspoon of oregano in 4 cups of water and boil it for 10 minutes gently. Cool mixture to room temperature. Strain it into a spray bottle and shoot it up there once daily. Brenda K.

I drink cinnamon tea instead of coffee to get me going. I simmer a cinnamon stick in water for 15 minutes and chill it for the next day. Ellen T.

I used to get cold sores on my lip every month. Take lemon balm supplements as a cure, at night though. You can apply the teabags to your sores too. Melinda J.

(I've also heard that applying an ice cube at the onset of tingle will also mitigate these oral lesions.)

continued on page 24

Doctor and Dietitian

The Amazing Shoulder



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

The shoulder is the most mobile joint in the body! Several bones join to allow the shoulder to reach, lift, pull, throw objects, and so much more. The shoulder is held in place by surrounding ligaments and musculature, which work together in an amazing coordination of efforts to provide the teamwork necessary to carry out the extensive motion of the shoulder.


Interestingly, the shoulder relies very little on bony support. While categorized as a ball and socket joint, the glenohumeral joint of the shoulder has more of a resemblance to a golf ball on a tee. If you are a golfer and have repeatedly picked up a golf ball and replaced it back on the tee, especially on uneven terrains,

and less than calm weather, you know the support is limited. Due to this lack of bony support, the shoulder relies heavily on surrounding soft tissue for stabilization.

Even if one of the ligaments or muscle team members of the shoulder is injured, such as from a fall or overuse, the dynamics of the entire shoulder is disrupted. The shoulder then becomes unstable, which may lead to many other conditions such as labral tears, rotator cuff strains or tears, bursitis and dislocation, just to name a few.

Our choice is MEAT for encouraging injury healing (Movement, Exercise, Analgesics and Treatment) versus RICE (Rest, Ice, Compression, Elevation) which does not. Preferred treatments encourage blood flow to the joint because this brings cells that help repair the damage, such as using heat and massage instead of ice and compression, as well as exercise and other non-invasive options. Targeted regenerative treatments, like Prolotherapy, are also helpful in stubborn shoulder injuries. Don't suffer with shoulder pain when so many options now exist to repair it and be active again!

*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.**



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Fundraiser For Heights Foundation And Center Nets \$285,000



Dinah Bloomhall, Charlotte Waggoner and Kit Weston



Kathryn Kelly and some Heights Center After School Kids

Love Your Neighbor, an annual benefit for The Heights Foundation, raised \$285,000 for School Success programs for at-risk youngsters in Harlem Heights. Additionally, a \$10,000 pledge from FineMark Bank and an anonymous pledge of \$100,000 for new Harlem Heights Community Charter School were made that evening. The benefit was held at the Gulf Harbour home of Sonja and Stephan Burkard. The VIP pre party was held at the home of Cheryl and Dave Copham.

Norman Love Confections and Mark Loren Designs helped create this signature event and have supported it since its inception. Guests sampled an assortment of culinary creations from local restaurants and chefs including Black Salt Catering, Blu Sushi, Chef Andy Hyde, Cru, SS Hookers, Three Fishermen and Timbers. Opici Family Distributing and Republic National Distributing Company sponsored beverages and The Lighthouse Resort & Tiki Bar greeted each guest with a glass of Champagne. VIP guests had hors d'oeuvres from Crave Culinaire and wines from Benovia Winery.

Auctioneer Rick Gallo conducted the live auction that included a VIP experience to an upcoming AC/DC concert, one-of-a-kind earrings by Mark Loren Designs, a dinner for 10 at the Iona-McGregor Firehouse and an eight-course dinner for 20 by chefs Gloria Jordan and Andy Hyde.

NBC-2 anchor Kellie Burns was the emceed.

"The Gulf Harbour community has been so supportive of The Heights Foundation and embraced their neighbors in the Harlem Heights community," said Kathryn Kelly, president and CEO. "Our mission is to build strong, self-sufficient families and educa-



Ron and Kim Agypt



Don and Andi Vogt, Vee Yerrid and Buzz Waid



Maria Wiles, Vicki Pitbladdo, Mary Dewane and Elaine Hawkins



Kathryn Kelly, left, with Dave and Cheryl Copham

tion is the key to their success. The monies raised will support our School Success program that includes academic tutoring, after school and summer camp programs, scholarship and college access assistance, school supplies and tuition support. Each program is geared to meet the specific needs of children and young adults who seek to further their education."

For more information about the Heights Center and The Heights Foundation visit www.heightsfoundation.org or call 482-7706.*

From page 23

Dear Pharm

I had Irritable Bowel Syndrome for 6 years and one day I tried a peppermint capsule from a passenger on my flight to Sacramento. One capsule and I enjoyed the rest of the flight! Now I take a pill whenever I'm having a bad day and it works. Don L.

(Peppermint is known to support gastrointestinal health. Please don't attempt this if you have reflux or heartburn, as

peppermint can exacerbate those conditions.)

Ginger extract is really good for gas and diarrhea. You can buy it as a drop-per, or make tea out of fresh ginger root. John J.

*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.**

TRIVIA TEST

1. MEASUREMENTS: How many seconds are in a day?
2. MOVIES: What comedy of 1980 carried the tagline, "They'll never get caught. They're on a mission from God"?
3. TELEVISION: What are the names of Marge's twin sisters on "The Simpsons"?
4. LANGUAGE: What is a cynophile?
5. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What are the small indentations on a golf ball called?
6. MEDICAL: What is the more common term for "somniloquy"?
7. GAMES: In chess, what are rooks also known as?
8. U.S. STATES: What is the capital of New York state?
9. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What adjective describes animals with hooves?
10. GEOGRAPHY: What was the prior English name of the nation of Sri Lanka?

ANSWERS

1. 86,400 2. "The Blues Brothers" 3. Selma and Patty 4. Dog lover 5. Dimples 6. Talk-
ing in your sleep 7. Castles 8. Albany 9. Ungulate 10. Ceylon.

My Stars ★★★★★

FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 22, 2016

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Time is on your side in the early part of the week. But anything left undone by midweek will need to be put into rush mode. The weekend offers choices for you and someone special.

TAURUS (April 30 to May 20) Finally getting credit for a contribution is nice for all you idea-generating Ferdinands and Fernandas. But don't sit on your laurels under the cork tree. Use it as a first step to a bigger opportunity.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Despite the progress made, a hint of doubt might set in. That's OK. You need to stop and consider not only what you're doing but also how you are doing. Make adjustments where needed.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) The dreamer is dominant in the Moon Child's aspect, but a dollop of hardheaded practicality is coming up fast and jockeying for space. The challenge is to make room for both modes.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) It's a good week for Leos and Leonas to start assessing what they've done and what they plan to do. Moving to a new environment -- home or job-related -- is a possibility for some Cats.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)
The week calls for Virgos to make tough decisions, but in a way that leaves the door open for changes. Ask for advice from someone who has been in the position you're in now.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)
Disappointments are never easy to take, but you have the ability to learn from them and go on to success. Meanwhile, continue to build up your contacts. You'll need them soon.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Things might still be going much too slowly to suit you. But you need the time to make sure they're going in the right direction. It's easier to make a course correction now rather than later.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Showing some temperament at the way things are going is one way of getting your point across. Just don't overdo it, or you risk turning away more-moderate supporters.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Things could change more quickly this week than you like. But don't fret; you'll

most likely find that you're up to the challenges. The weekend offers much-needed relaxation.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Big challenge coming up? Uncross those fingers and believe that you're going to do well. And keep in mind that so many people have faith in your ability to succeed.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
Testing the waters is a good way of learning about an opportunity before plunging right in. Ask more questions and be alert to any attempts to avoid giving complete answers.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a gift for making people -- and animals, too -- feel special and loved.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

- On Feb. 22, 1732, George Washington is born in Westmoreland County, Virginia, the second son of a plantation owner. Initially a loyal British subject, Washington eventually led the Continental Army in the American Revolution and became known as the father of the United States.

- On Feb. 27, 1827, a group of masked and costumed students dance through the streets of New Orleans, marking the beginning of the city's Mardi Gras celebrations. Though early French settlers had brought the tradition of Mardi Gras, Spanish governors later banned the celebrations.

- On Feb. 25, 1870, Hiram Rhodes Revels, a Republican from Natchez, Mississippi, is sworn into the U.S. Senate, becoming the first black American ever to sit in Congress. During the Civil War, Revels, a college-educated minister, served as a chaplain for the Union army.

- On Feb. 26, 1935, Nazi leader Adolf Hitler signs a secret decree authorizing the founding of the Reich Luftwaffe as a third German military service. The Versailles Treaty that ended World War I had prohibited military aviation in Germany.

- On Feb. 23, 1958, five-time Formula One champion Juan Manuel Fangio of Argentina is kidnapped in Cuba by a group of Fidel Castro's rebels. Fangio was released the next day after the Cuba Grand Prix ended.

- On Feb. 28, 1964, Thelonious Monk makes the cover of Time magazine. Beatlemania was at its peak, but contemporary jazz music had captured the imagination of a significant number of American music fans.

- On Feb. 24, 1988, the U.S. Supreme

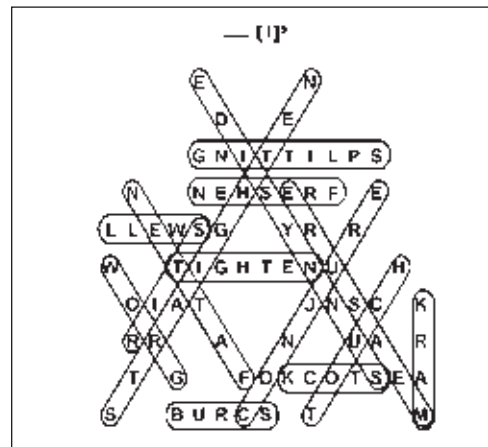
SPORTS QUIZ

1. In what year did the Chicago Cubs play their first game at Weeghman Park -- later known as Wrigley Field?
2. Who replaced Davey Johnson as manager of the New York Mets in 1990?
3. In 2014, Rashad Greene set a Florida State record for most receiving yards (3,830). Who had held the mark?
4. Who holds the record for most field goals made in a season for the Houston Rockets?
5. Name the last NHL player before Alexander Ovechkin (three consecutive) to win a goal-scoring title.
6. Who was the only U.S. soccer player on both the 1999 and 2015 women's World Cup squad?
7. How many title fights did Earnie Shavers have during his 26-year heavyweight boxing career?

ANSWERS

years (1966-68), 4. Elvin Hayes, with 948 baskets made in the 1970-71 season, Moses Malone had 945 field goals made in 1981-82, 5. Tampa Bay's Steven Shamko, in the 2011-12 season, 6. Christie Rampone, 7. Two -- he lost to Muhammad Ali in 1977 and Larry Holmes in 1979.

PUZZLE ANSWERS



STRANGE BUT TRUE

- It was columnist and editor Doug Larson who made the following sage observation: "Few things are more satisfying than seeing your children have teenagers of their own."

- If you're a fan of football, you've probably seen the leaping lion logo on the helmets of Detroit Lions players. You might not realize, though, that the lion has a name: Bubbles.

- The first volume of the first edition of the Oxford English Dictionary was published in 1884, 30 years after the Philological Society of London came up with the idea for a dictionary that traced the way the language had developed from Anglo-Saxon times. It was estimated that the entire project would take 10 years, but in half that time they'd completed just a single volume, covering A to Ant.

- Those who study such things say that your brain takes about 0.0004 seconds to retrieve a memory.

● You might be surprised to learn that the person who has been nominated for more Academy Awards than any other living person is neither an actor nor a director. American composer John Williams -- who created scores for such memorable films as the “Star Wars” series, “Jaws,” “Schindler’s List,” “Jurassic Park,” the “Indiana Jones” series, “Fiddler on the Roof” and the first three “Harry Potter” movies -- has (so far) been nominated for a whopping 50 Oscars, and he has taken home five of the statuettes. He’s also received three Emmy Awards, four Golden Globes and 22 Grammy Awards -- with an astounding 65 Grammy nominations to his name.

- It's not clear why, but the incidence of left-handedness in twins is significantly higher than it is in the general population.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“To be astonished is one of the surest ways of not growing old too quickly.” -- Colette



Broccoli and Avocado Soup

- 1 cup broccoli, chopped
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 cloves fresh garlic, minced
- 1/3 cup low-fat milk
- 1/4 cup low-sodium vegetable broth
- 1 cup fresh spinach
- 1/2 avocado
- 1 cup homemade croutons
- 4 teaspoons Parmesan cheese, grated
- Kosher salt to taste
- Freshly ground pepper to taste

Place a medium size stock pot over medium high heat. Add 1 tablespoon of olive oil to the pre-heated pan. Add onion and garlic to the pan and sauté until translucent.

Add broccoli, vegetable broth and milk to the pan. Reduce heat and bring to a simmer. Cook ingredients until the broccoli is just crisp-tender. Add broccoli mixture to a blender with a tight fitting lid

Make sure not to fill the blender more than half full at a time. Add the avocado and spinach to the blender as well. Carefully pulse the ingredients until smooth and creamy.

Taste soup and adjust seasoning with salt and pepper. Return soup to pot and heat back up to serving temperature. Garnish soup with croutons and Parmesan cheese.✱



Broccoli and Avocado Soup

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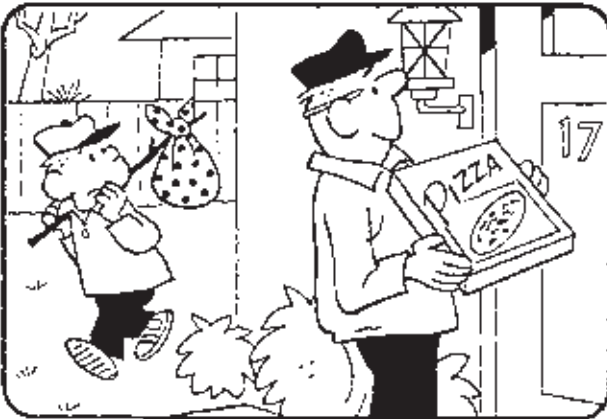
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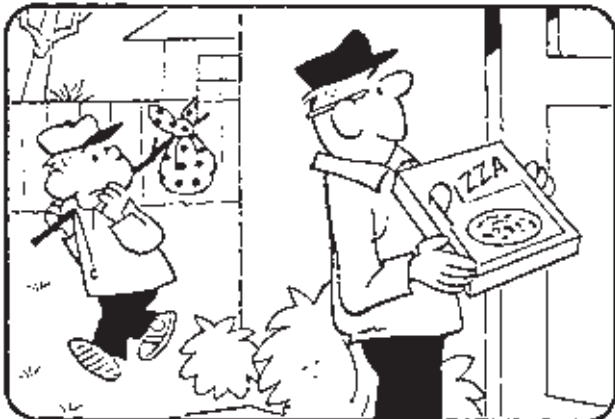
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FIND AT LEAST SIX DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS



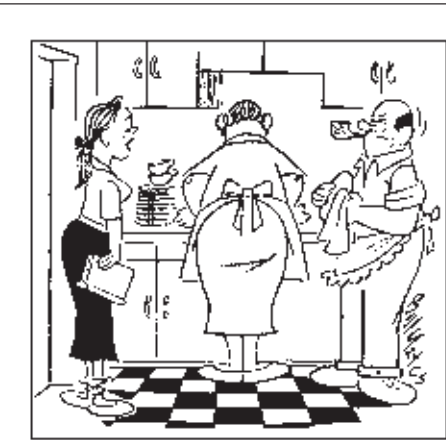
Differences: 1. Jacket is open. 2. Bag is smaller. 3. Body is stiffer. 4. Light fixture is missing. 5. Pizza picture is missing. 6. Number is missing.

PUZZLE ANSWERS

SUDOKU

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

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TODAY'S WORD

answer on page 29

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Calling all Handymen! Very handy? Somewhat handy? We'll take you all! The Children's Education Center of the Islands is looking for someone who can help with tasks around the preschool. Payment comes in the form of thank yous, smiles and hugs.
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★NS 2/19 CC 2/19

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VOLUNTEER

WIVES! Do your husbands need something to get into? The Children's Education Center of the Islands is looking for a few good men (handyman) who can help with tasks around the preschool. Payment comes in the form of thank yous, smiles and hugs.
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2013 VESPA LX150 LE



Only has 164 miles. Was in mint condition until I ran into garage has a dent on lower left front. Asking price 3,000.
*NS 2/19 CC 2/19

GOLF CART FOR SALE



Street legal, "gas" powered. \$6,500. 239-209-6500
*RS 1/22 BM TFN

FOR SALE

PATIO FURNITURE SET

48" glass table, 4 swivel chairs with cushions \$150 or best offer. 239-395-3574.
*NS 2/19 CC 2/19

GARAGE • MOVING • YARD SALES

GARAGE/YARD SALE

1854 FARM TRAIL, ISLAND WOODS OFF PERIWINKLE NEAR COMMUNITY CHURCH 2/20/16, 8:30-1:30 HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, SOME FURNITURE, CLOTHING, ANTIQUES, STORE DISPLAY FIXTURES
*NS 2/12 CC 2/19

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

Friday, February 26, 7 am-1 pm Saturday, February 27, 7 am-1 pm Food and Beverages available for purchase. We will be selling furniture, clothing, housewares, jewelry, etc. Gulf Coast Church of Christ 9550 Ben C Pratt/Six Mile Cypress Pkwy. Fort Myers 239-936-4554 www.gulfcoastchurch.com
*NS 2/19 NC 2/19

Read us online at IslandSunNews.com

From Florida Statutes

316.2065(1): Cyclists have the right to operate on roads.

316.083(1): Vehicles overtaking a cyclist must pass at a safe distance of not less than 3 feet.



SCRAMBLERS

solution
1. Shower; 2. Lavish;
3. Creak; 4. Enamor

Today's Word
HOMEWORK

Top 10 Real Estate Sales

Development	City	Year Built	Square Footage	Listing Price	Selling Price	Days On Market
The Reserve	Bonita Springs	2003	4295	\$1,625,000	\$1,590,000	260
Cornwallis	Cape Coral	2007	3181	\$1,300,000	\$1,200,000	101
The Forest	Fort Myers	1987	4631	\$875,000	\$750,000	417
Little Lake Murex	Sanibel	1985	1934	\$749,000	\$700,000	205
Gulf Haven	St. James City	1980	2414	\$725,000	\$700,000	7
The Masters	Estero	2000	2082	\$685,000	\$675,000	0
Brendan Cove	Bonita Springs	2003	3197	\$599,900	\$582,500	11
Water's Edge	Fort Myers	2003	2599	\$599,000	\$550,000	301
Bonita Beach	Bonita Springs	1994	1548	\$750,000	\$525,000	29
Crown Colony	Fort Myers	2002	2546	\$519,900	\$505,000	153

Courtesy of Royal Shell Real Estate

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

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

Hello, my name is Gem. I'm a 3-year-old female black and tan rottweiler. Rottweilers are loyal, obedient and confident dogs who make great companions. We are a working breed so we need exercise, both physical and mental. I am hoping someone will adopt me who will provide a loving forever home so I can be the priceless gem I was meant to be! My adoption fee is \$40 (regularly \$75) during Animal Services My Furry Valentine adoption promotion.

Hi, I'm Casey. I'm a 11-year-old orange and white neutered male domestic short hair. Please don't shy away from me because I'm an older cat. I'm a very distinguished gentleman, just like Sean Connery. I'm charming, debonair and will make a very handsome, loving companion. My adoption fee is \$25.



Gem ID# 651939



Casey ID# 407158

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.

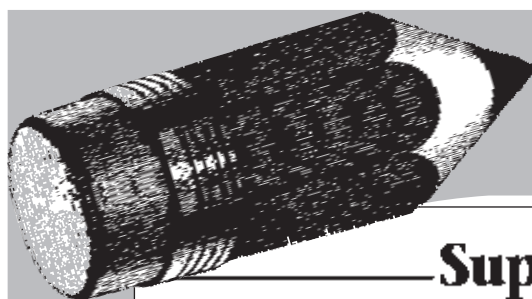
All adoptions include spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, rabies vaccination and county license if three months or older, flea treatment, worming, heartworm test for dogs six months and over, feline AIDS and leukemia test for cats, training DVD, 10-day health guarantee, and a bag of Science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

The adoption package is valued at \$500.✪



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

FAMILY EXPANSION

ACROSS

- 1 It turns
blues paper
21 Savage
22 Less dull
23 Rural
25 Lounged
26 Dreamcast
27 Get as clear
28 100-yr.
29 Hoop (up)
30 Trough for
33 Extended
38 Hostile force
40 Down food
41 Purple
42 Wide-shoe

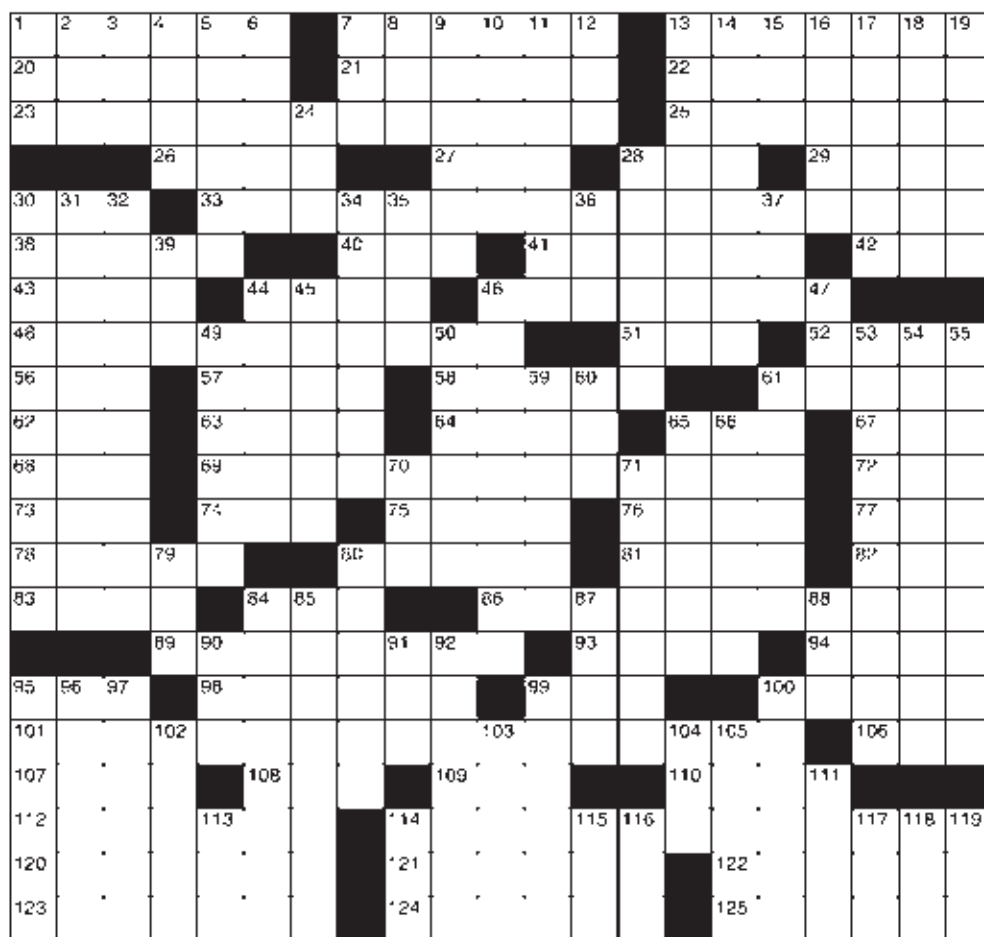
- 43 Spool
44 Gets 1 m
45 Produced a
48 Chart show-
51 LP replacers
52 KGB's milieu
56 "a lover"
57 Asian dress
58 Alex of "The
61 Unit of work
62 Orioles' great
63 Gp. for
64 Sea in /5-
65 "Now I see!"
67 Matchstick-
68 Suffix with
69 Item pinned
72 Sarge, e.g.
73 Abort, for a
74 Mil. missions
75 Qatar locale
76 Lovers' dirty
77 Still

- 78 Revise
80 Prepare to
81 Horse falter
82 Being-to-
83 Shot fluids
84 "see it ..."
86 One of the
89 Kind of pear
93 With skill
94 Fir's cousin
95 "Ender's
98 Unmoving
99 Troop gp.
100 They negate
101 Afghan-
106 "Help!"
107 Guthrie at
108 B-to-F string
109 Tha. tongue
110 "Think of
112 Foot lever
114 Clean a
120 More
121 Alicia of

- 122 Choose
123 Aden citizens
124 French edict
125 Nail coater
DOWN
1 Wal. St.
2 Singer
3 Dutch airline
4 Home to
5 Probable
6 Architect
7 Alien craft
8 Writer Anais
9 Not be joking
10 "Get Happy"
11 Highlander
12 Saloon
13 Figured out
14 Stations
15 Hair hider
16 Linda in
17 "Habbit,
18 "Mac (loan
19 Graham or
24 Sator of Bert

- 28 Big name in
30 Weedkillers
31 Singly
32 James Fen-
34 Grow
35 "I. Male
36 History unit
37 Suffix of
39 Monogram
44 Grab quickly
45 Departure
46 Most pro-cty
47 Tno less one
49 Crustacean
50 Kudos
53 Features of
54 Cuts, as pie
55 Far-off
59 Jewish
60 "McQ" actor
61 Speed
65 Of a heart
66 Shout of joy
70 State east of

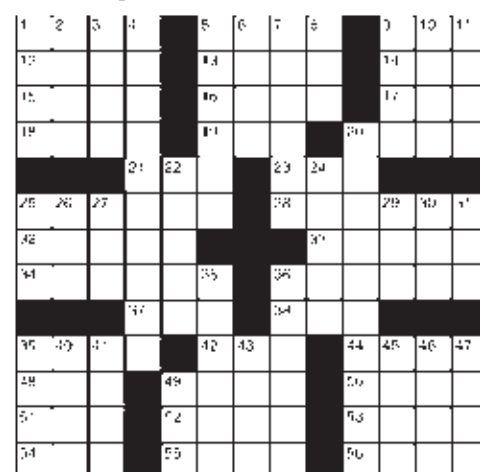
- 71 Nuclear trial
79 Catch cold
80 "Arden skirt
84 First
85 Risen people
87 Galileo's gp
88 Inclined (to)
90 Pebble, e.g.
91 History unit
92 Light refrain
95 Disinterest
96 "No —!"
97 Glistening
99 Half-of-Fame
100 Flower organ
102 Dry, while
103 Strips for
104 Currency
105 Musical
111 Lab safety
113 Major racket
114 J-haul
115 Capitalize on
116 Cal. dozen
117 Jong un
118 Suffix with
119 — Blu Di-



King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Impresses
5 Reverb-
9 — out a
12 Type of pit
13 Got bigger
14 Guacamole,
15 Roughly
16 Exceptional
17 Born
18 Crystal
19 Swelled
20 Wash
21 Wearer of
23 Un work-
25 Necklace
28 Have a
32 Hispaniola
33 Concur
34 Cook-wear?
36 Handle the
37 Gun the
38 Exploit
39 Metropolis
42 Early bird?
44 Chantilly



- 48 Commotion
49 Lotion
50 Story teller
51 Cattle call?
52 Luminary
53 Late boars
54 Wapiti
55 Favorites
56 Toward the
DOWN
1 Andy's pal
2 Sorted
3 Being to

- 4 O. Henry
5 Herons' kin
6 Rugged rock
7 Brave
8 Have bills
9 Author
10 Chicken —
11 Duel too
20 "Hiawatha"
22 Put your two
24 Ducks work
25 Half a
26 Once around

- 27 Melody
29 To and —
30 Always, in
31 Crimson
35 Slender
36 Boring tools
39 Arrived
40 "American
41 Snatched
43 Capricorn
45 Staffer
46 Two-liners
47 Formerly,
49 Clio's slayer

MAGIC MAZE ● — UP

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

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

Conjure	Mark	Stir	Swell
Fatten	Measure	Stock	Tighten
Freshen	Scrub	Straighten	Touch
Grow	Splitting	Sunny-side	

DOC FORD'S

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Ft. Myers Beach



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