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THE RIVER WEEKLY NEWS

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Vol. 15, No. 2

From the Beaches to the River District downtown Fort Myers

JANUARY 15, 2016



Celtic Festival entertainers

Caloosahatchee Celtic Festival

Fort Myers Recreation Division and Celtic Heritage Productions invite the public to “don your tartan” and bring your family and friends out to the 13th annual Caloosahatchee Celtic Festival Friday, January 22 and Saturday, January 23.

A free kick-off party at the River Basin on Bay Street in downtown Fort Myers will start at 5 p.m. on Friday, with performances by Albannach, the Screaming Orphans, Rathkeltair, West of Galway, and Marcille Wallis & Friends.

On Saturday, the gates at Centennial Park will open at 11 a.m. with over 10 hours of non-stop Celtic music from Albannach, the Screaming Orphans, Rathkeltair, Cutthroat, West of Galway, Marcille Wallis & Friends, and the Kellyn Celtic Arts Irish Dancers.

There will be Celtic fare, such as fish and chips and meat pies, along with traditional

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Tickets On Sale For Community Concert Association 2016 Season



Polish Baltic Philharmonic Orchestra

World-renowned artists from throughout Europe, Russia and Jerusalem will travel to Fort Myers this winter to perform for the Fort Myers Community Concert Association in its 67th annual concert series.

Single tickets are now on sale for the four remaining performances, which organizers say are among the best ever offered. Prices are \$55 for orchestra and mezzanine seats, \$35 for lower balcony seats and \$25 for upper balcony seats.

All performances will start at 7:30 p.m. at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall on the Florida SouthWestern State College campus in Fort Myers. For tickets, visit www.fortmyerscommunityconcerts.org or call 489-4171.

The four remaining concerts for the 2016 season are:

Polish Baltic Philharmonic Orchestra – January 25. Richard Wagner’s *Overture to The*

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Alliance Summer Arts Camp Registration Open



A painting session during a previous Summer Arts Camp

The Alliance for the Arts 28th annual Summer Arts Camp for youngsters in Kindergarten through sixth grade will kick off on Monday, June 14. Registration opens to members on February 1 and to non-members on February 15. Parents are encouraged to join in order to take advantage of early registration.



Young campers taking part in a stage production

Eight themed weeks give children the opportunity to explore visual and performing arts in a fun and interactive environment. Weekly themes include Bottle Rockets & BBQ, A Bug’s Life and Inner Space.

During Spotlight On Broadway week July 11 to 15, campers will take a special backstage tour of Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre. Each week culminates in a final stage performance and visual art exhibit (main Summer Arts Camp only).

There are two camp options: The main Summer Arts Camp is open to first through sixth graders, and the Mini Summer Arts Camp for 4- and 5-year-olds (campers must be five by September 1). The main camp is \$160 per week for Alliance members or \$200 for non-members. The Mini Summer Arts Camp is \$200 per week for members and \$240 for non-members. Camps run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Early drop off at 8 a.m. and late pick up at 5 p.m. are available for a fee.

Teen volunteer and scholarship applications will be available beginning on February 1. Anyone wishing to give the gift of art to a deserving child may donate to the summer

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Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

Gift To The City



by Gerri Reaves, PhD

The Town of Fort Myers was not even an incorporated town when, in March 1885, Thomas A. Edison bought the 13 acres that became his winter estate.

Who would have guessed that 62 years later, that estate would be deeded to The City of Fort Myers?

Pictured in this 1947 photo is Mina Edison, widow of the inventor, presenting the gift to the City of Fort Myers as a memorial to her husband. Deeded to the city were the Edison's winter home, Seminole Lodge, as well as the laboratory and grounds, David G. Shapard is accepting the gift on behalf of the city.

Also pictured are, from left, Frank Carson, Edison Pageant of

Light president; Graydon Jones, Junior Chamber of Commerce president; and Sidney Davis, Edison family friend who presided at the deed-presentation ceremony.

Edison had ventured up the Caloosahatchee River to Fort Myers that day in 1885 because giant bamboo grew in the small settlement, he had been told by George Schultz at Punta Rassa's Tarpon Inn.

The famous inventor wandered into Edward L. Evans's store and after an impromptu conversation about fishing, the merchant offered to show him some bamboo growing at Billy's Creek.

The next day, Edison decided to buy his land. On the surface, it looks like an impulse buy. However, the decision probably was influenced by Edison's passion for plant research, the location's unique possibilities for that research, the discovery of bamboo on the land, and Evans's encouragement to establish a winter home in Fort Myers.

After Edison died in 1931, his wife considered various ways to memorialize him in Fort Myers. In March of 1939, Mrs. Mina Edison Hughes (she had remarried) made known her intention to build a public library and a museum of art and natural science in the great inventor's memory.

The memorial buildings would be built on the east side of McGregor Boulevard on property where Edison had conducted experiments with rubber plants.

As the *News-Press* article reported, she had been considering such a project for years. She wanted to honor her husband's memory and simultaneously make a gift to the City.

Her choice to build a library was welcomed by many citizens.

Never in its history had the Fort Myers Public Library had a permanent home. It had been founded in 1903 with the opening of a small reading room sponsored by the Woman's Club. (It could be said, however, that a donation-sponsored public reading room opened in 1888 was the origin of what became the city-supported library.)

Mrs. Hughes was quoted as saying that a library was "what Fort Myers needed most." She thought, given her late husband's devotion to learning, that such a project was suitable.

The library would be "a place for grown-ups and children to read and study, learn about arts and sciences and develop their inclinations along these lines."

Coincidentally, not long before the announcement, the library had been forced to move once again when its historic building on Bay Street was destroyed because land was being prepared for the construction of the Yacht Basin and riverfront park.

In 1941, plans for the library and museum were well under way; however, that grand plan came to a standstill because of World War II.

In 1945, the idea of a university founded in Edison's honor was explored. That project also was not realized.

Instead, in February 1947, the widow of the famous inventor made a gift of Seminole Lodge and the winter estate to the City of Fort Myers.

The deeding to the city occurred at a very appropriate time, during the annual cel-



In February 1947, Mina Edison, widow of Thomas A. Edison, presents the deed to their winter home, Seminole Lodge, as well as the laboratory and grounds, to the City of Fort Myers as a memorial to her husband. Mayor David G. Shapard accepts the gift, flanked by, from left, Frank Carson, Graydon Jones and Sidney Davis.

courtesy Southwest Florida Historical Society

bration of Edison's legacy and birthday, February 11.

Today's Edison Festival of Light started in 1938 and was then called the Edison Pageant of Light. (There was a five-year hiatus for WWII). Precursor celebrations of his birthday had been held for years before 1938.

The 1947 festival was notable because February 11, 1947 was the one-hundredth anniversary of Edison's birth and Mina Edison took part in the coronation ceremony.

Several weeks later, a public ceremony and presentation of the deed was held.

Today, both the Henry Ford and Edison winter estates are officially the Edison & Ford Winter Estates, Inc. and are governed and managed for the City of Fort Myers by a non-profit corporation, the Thomas Edison & Henry Ford Winter Estates, Inc.

The estates are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Stroll down McGregor Boulevard, visit the former winter homes of two of the country's most important inventors, and contemplate the profound effect that Mina Edison's generosity has had on Fort Myers.

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Fort Myers Art:

Lovegrove Has Winning Design For ArtFest 2016



by Tom Hall

ArtFest Fort Myers unveiled the artwork for its 2016 commemorative poster and festival T-shirt at an invitation-only party on January 8 at The Marina at Edison Ford in

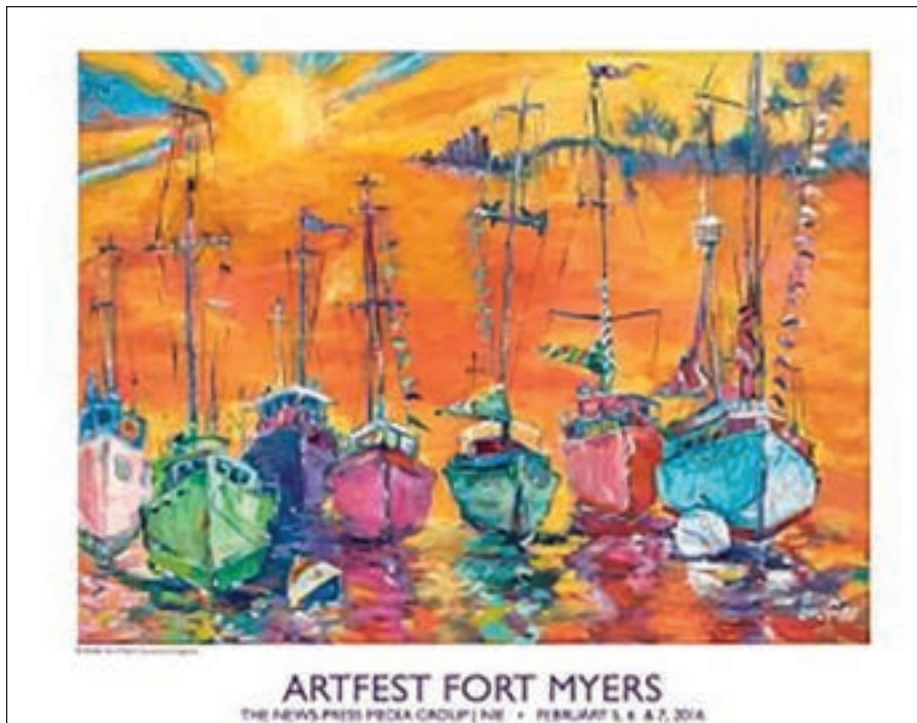
downtown Fort Myers. The event marks the beginning of the ArtFest's 16th season.

The poster and T-shirt feature the fabulous work of Leoma Lovegrove. An impressionist-expressionist painter known worldwide for her colorful artistic depictions of flora and fauna, Lovegrove calls Matlacha Island her home and maintains a working studio, gallery and waterside botanical garden there. Her contagious love of the local tropical environment has been instrumental in encouraging tourism to the state from all over the world.

"I enjoy creating art for visitors from around the globe," said Lovegrove. "I am proud to share authentic Florida in a tropical, painterly way."

She joined ArtFest Fort Myers to present her original painting, *Flotilla Fort Myers*.

"Leoma has captured the essence of



Leoma Lovegrove's winning design, *Flotilla Fort Myers*, will appear on posters and T-shirts commemorating ArtFest Fort Myers 2016

our downtown waterfront with her signature vibrancy and unique style, and she created quite a sensation amongst our patrons," said ArtFest Executive Director Sharon McAllister. "She will be joining us for the first time at ArtFest Fort Myers 2016, along with over 200 wonderful artists from across the country and around the world."

Proceeds from the festival's poster and T-shirt support ArtFest Fort Myers' art education outreach programs, with a portion of the poster proceeds also sup-

porting *The News-Press* Newspaper in Education program.

ArtFest Fort Myers takes place February 5, 6 and 7 in the Fort Myers River District. It features 215 professional artists from across the county and around the world, the largest high school art exhibit and competition in south Florida, and free interactive art experiences for children of all ages. Become a VIP for additional perks. For more information,

visit ArtFestFortMyers.com.

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.✱

Visitors Bureau Extends Resident Artist Program

Calling all photographers, videographers and those with a passion for the arts: The Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau (VCB) introduced its first-ever resident artist program, an initiative aimed to give local photographers/videographers an opportunity to connect with the people and nature of this Southwest Florida destination.

Full- and part-time Lee County residents and students are encouraged to apply for the three-month residency, which will consist of capturing 15 to 20 varied photos and/or videos that express the unique sense of place in exchange for a \$5,000 stipend and use of the imagery in the destination's marketing efforts.

To apply, candidates are asked to submit a 500-word statement about their approach for capturing elements of the destination and what they hope to gain from participation in the program; an online portfolio and active social channels

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American Legion Post 274 Activities

On Friday, January 15, the Kiwanis Club meets for breakfast at 7:30 a.m. That evening, guest may choose between a fried fish/shrimp/crab cakes/New England clam chowder dinner or baked chicken dinner. Harry Boyle plays from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

On Saturday, January 16, the annual Wellness Fair will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The Pool League plays at 1 p.m. The Southwest Area CDR's Ball is at 6 p.m. Queen of Hearts starts at 7 p.m. Choose either a prime rib or a baked fish dinner. Harry Boyle plays from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

On Sunday, January 17, a breakfast buffet is served from 8:30 to 11 a.m. Bingo runs from noon to 3 p.m. Karaoke with Susie is held from 6 to 10 p.m.

Monday, January 18 is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. The Pool League plays at 6 p.m. A pot roast dinner will be served.

On Tuesday, January 19, choose from fettuccine alfredo with 25 shrimp or a fried chicken dinner. Mega-Money is at 6:30 p.m. Theme Night (TBA) is from 6 to 9 p.m. The Gregg Allan Van Show plays from 7 to 10 p.m.

On Wednesday, January 20, Bingo is played from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.

On Thursday, January 21, SAL baby

back ribs dinner will be served. The Classics play from 6 to 9 p.m.

Dinner is served nightly from 5 to 7 p.m.

The American Legion Melvin Cowart Post 274 is located at 899 Buttonwood Drive in Fort Myers Beach. For more information, call 463-6591. ✱

Singing Valentines Offered

The Cape Chorale, Lee County's only male singing group affiliated with the national Barbershop Harmony Society, is offering its annual Singing Valentine package. A \$50 donation brings a tuxedo-clad quartet to the location of your choice – home, workplace, school, restaurant, professional building, nursing home – for a love song serenade and presentation of a rose and chocolates to the recipient.

Each year the Chorale shares its Valentine's Day earnings with the Pediatric Speech Therapy Department of Lee Memorial Health System. More than \$28,000 has been contributed over the years.

The quartets will be singing on February 12, 13 and 14. To schedule a visit for the day, time and location of choice call (855) 425-3631.✱

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Geraldine Nobles



Betty Anderson

PACE Center To Honor Local Women At Grande Dames Tea

PACE Center for Girls of Lee County has selected three more women to be honored at the 8th annual Grande Dames Tea honoring some of the community's most revered women.

This year's honorees are:

Betty Anderson of Fort Myers

Anderson, 86, is a Fort Myers native who spent 15 years in Africa as a missionary with her husband, the late Dr. Robert Anderson. The couple sold their Fort Myers home and his dental practice in 1976 to move to Africa to provide dental care to Africans who had never seen a dentist. They spent four years in the bush villages of Ghana followed by 10 more years in Nigeria. Sometimes the lines were 75 people deep waiting for care.

The couple retired from their missionary work in 1991 and returned for Fort Myers, where she dedicated her time and talents to First Baptist Church as part of a

team assisting the homeless.

Rusty Brown of Fort Myers

Brown, 86, is a writer/dramatist who has reinvented herself again and again as a musical comedy singer, journalist, greeting card company publicist and adjunct professor. In Fort Myers, she's best known as a playwright and actor, bringing to life remarkable women such as Mina Edison, Clara Barton, Katharine Hepburn and others in her popular and original one-woman shows. As a journalist with *The Cleveland Press*, she launched a column on women's concerns and the Women's Movement that was nationally syndicated and appeared in 200 newspapers. She also wrote for *Women's Day* and *Ms. Magazine* and published a book, *Women As We See Ourselves*.

Dr. Geraldine Burchard Nobles of LaBelle

Nobles, 78, went from bussing tables at her mother's famous LaBelle restaurant, Flora & Ella's, to becoming a successful mental health counselor in private practice and bringing Hope Hospice services to LaBelle and Hendry County. She is the first certified abuse counselor in Florida. A fifth generation Floridian and descendant of the LaBelle pioneer Poole and Forrey families, she and her husband, the late L. J. Nobles, Jr., worked in their Collier County agribusiness raising fresh produce and operating a large tomato packing facility.

The Grande Dames Tea honoring the three women will take place Tuesday, March 22, from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theater, 1380 Colonial Boulevard, Fort Myers.

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

"These three outstanding women come 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.

Invitations to the Grande Dames Tea will be mailed in mid-February, when registration also will be available online at www.pacecenter.org/lee. Admission is \$60 per person. Table sponsorships are also available. Attendees are encouraged to wear their favorite tea party hat.

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

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 honorees 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, ages 11 to 18 years old, 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 110 girls with education, counseling, training and advocacy resulting in 93 percent having no involvement with juvenile justice within six months of leaving PACE, 77 percent improving their academic performance and 89 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 Director Sara Garner at 425-2366, or visit <http://pacecenter.org/lee>.



Rusty Brown

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Fort Myers Beach Lions Club Shrimp Festival Coming In March



Cooking "pink gold"

The Fort Myers Beach Lions Club 58th Shrimp Festival Parade will be held Saturday and Sunday, March 12 and 13, beginning at 10 a.m. The 1.5-mile long parade runs down the main street of town (Estero Boulevard) on Saturday from the beach elementary school to the county park and festival grounds on the beach. For details, go to www.BeachShrimpFestival.com or call Diane at 454-0043.

The 58th annual Shrimp Festival Food Fun & Crafts 24th Expo is from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days. More than 100 vendors hit the beach at the foot of the big bridge.

Official festival T-shirts, tank tops, caps and other items will be on sale until 5 p.m. on Saturday on festival grounds. To order online, go to www.BeachLionsFoundation.com.

World famous Lions shrimp dinners



Scene from last year's parade

Arts & Crafts Fair

Saturday, February 6
9am - 2pm



Handcrafted items by 40 vendors

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| • Jewelry | • Fabric Art | • Shell designs |
| • Paintings | • Glasswork | • Tropical Plants |

Center 4 Life

Palm Ridge Rd. & 2401 Library Way, Sanibel, 472-5743



The 58th Shrimp Festival Parade begins at Saturday, March 12 at 10 a.m.

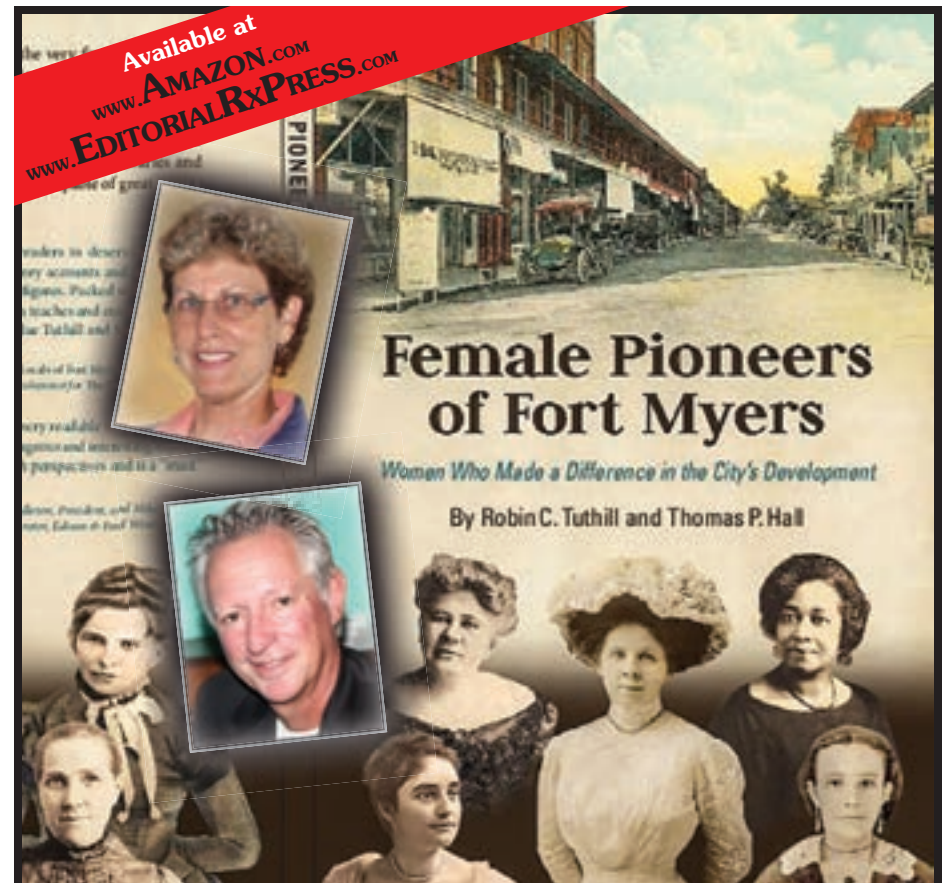
are available on the beach and at the pavilion from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. both days. Shrimp is provided by local boats. To order dinner tickets in advance, go to www.BeachLionsFoundation.com and save time in line.

Crowning of the 58th Shrimp Festival Queen is at 1 p.m. on Saturday. It is an old fashioned family event with scholarships and trophies awarded on the beach at the beach pavilion at the county park. There is no charge to attend.

The 2nd annual Shrimp Eating World Championship on the festival grounds will be on Sunday. Time TBA. For more information, send an email to eatingcontest@beach-shrimpfestival.com.

The Fort Myers Beach Lions have been boiling and serving fresh gulf pink shrimp to festival attendees for over 50 years. The secrets of perfectly cooked peel and eat shrimp have been passed from boil master to boil master through the years, as well as the secret recipe for the Lions cocktail sauce. One half pound of steaming shrimp is served on every plate, accompanied by sauce and slaw.

The Fort Myers Beach Shrimp Festival raises tens of thousands of dollars for charities like the Florida Lions Eye bank, Baskin Palmer Eye Institute, Southeast Guide Dogs, largeprint books for the local library, Little League and Florida Lions Camp.✱



"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*

The Calendar Girls Ring In 2016



The Calendar Girls

The Calendar Girls bring inspiration to Southwest Florida in the new year. The volunteer dance team

will perform at 130 community events in 2016, and sponsors their 17th guide dog for a veteran.

For more information, visit www.calendargirlsflorida.com.

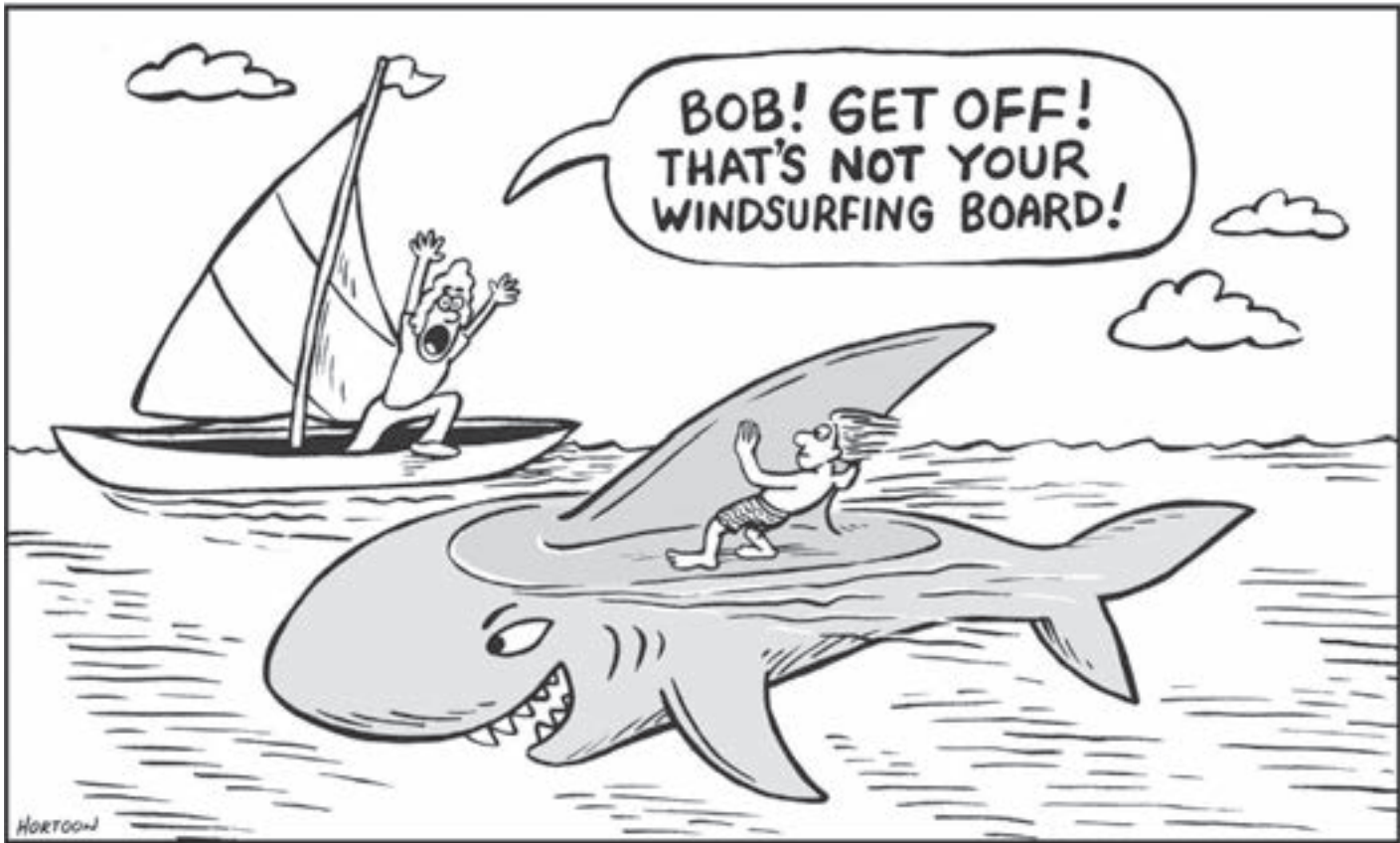
Shell Factory Car Show

The Shell Factory and Nature Park is hosting Larry Day and his Monday Cruise In. This every

Monday show will be held in the front parking lot adjacent to U.S. 41. It was previously held at Merchants Crossing Shopping Center. Day has emphasized this is not a car club event but rather a cruise-in, which gives everybody an opportunity to show off their prized cars. Day can be contact-

ed at www.larrycruisinlist-swfl.com. The shell factory will hold Gumbo Fest on January 31 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Visit www.shellfactory.com to view all upcoming events and festivals. The shell factory is located four miles north of the Caloosahatchee River on U.S. 41.

HORTOONS



Greeters Club Lunch Meeting

On Thursday, February 18, The Greeters Club of Greater Fort Myers has scheduled guest speaker Leigh-Anne Brown, creator of the fascinating program Portrait of a Bride: An Evolving Silhouette, to talk about a trip through the ever-evolving history of the modern American woman. Focusing on the Victorian Era to the present, Brown will use 25 to 30 antique, vintage and contemporary wedding gowns to create a snapshot of each woman and her decade on her all-important wedding day. Each gown reflects the era in which it was created, and Brown will focus on the educational opportunities, social events and economic and political climate that surrounded the American woman who wore the dress.

In addition to Brown's program, Greeters members and guests are encouraged to "dress for the occasion." Search your or your best friends closet, your attic, or local thrift shop for a special dress to wear to the luncheon. It might be your wedding dress (and congratulations if it still fits), one you wore to your child's wedding or a special event dress that deserves another wearing. It will be a fun afternoon with prizes for those who embrace dressing for the spirit of the occasion.

Cost to attend is \$20 per person. Make a luncheon reservation and find out more about joining this dynamic group of Lee County women. Send an email to greetersclub@gmail.com and provide your contact information (your name, email address and phone number). You will receive a detailed return email confirming your reservation.

Greeters Club luncheons are held on the third Thursday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at the Colonial Country Club, 9181 Independence Way in Fort Myers. Visit greetersclubofgreaterfortmyers.com for more information.

Craft And White Elephant Sale

Palmetto Palms RV Resort will hold a Craft & White Elephant Sale on Saturday, January 16 from 8 a.m. to noon. The RV Resort is located at 19681 Summerlin Road in Fort Myers. Coffee and donuts will be available. The public is invited to attend this sale; admission is free.

Additional information about the sale may be obtained by calling Marge Gregg at 466-5331.

United Way Volunteer Fair

Enrich your life by volunteering for the United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee. Learn more about volunteering in the local community by attending the United Way Volunteer Center's Volunteer Fair on Saturday, January 30 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
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Local Girl Scouts Go Digital With Iconic Cookie Sales

Last year, Girl Scouts introduced a revolutionary update to the time-honored Girl Scout Cookie Program: the Digital Cookie platform. With Girl Scouts' first-ever national digital platform, Digital Cookie 1.0 gave girls the opportunity to sell cookies via a website or mobile app. Bringing 21st-century technology to the classic Girl Scout Cookie Program, this initiative was a first step in preparing girls to be leaders in the high-tech, fast-paced, e-commerce world of today. As the 2016 Girl Scout Cookie season gets underway, local girls are excited to participate in Digital Cookie 2.0, which will provide a more robust, hands-on, and entertaining learning experience, putting control of the sale, from customer contact to completion of the order, squarely in the hands of girls.

Digital Cookie 2.0's game-changing addition of a mobile sales app will expand girls' ability to take their sale on the go. Using handheld devices like phones or tablets, girls can approach customers, take orders, and complete sales using digital order forms that allow for direct shipping to customers. The new app replicates the transactional elements of the girl's personal website, and ensures all Girl Scouts have an opportunity to learn about and engage in a seamlessly integrated multichannel digital sales program that will teach important "m-commerce" lessons for our increasingly mobile-based economy.

Upgrades to the girl-facing website include a goal-setting calculator to help girls track the number of boxes they need to sell to reach their goal – instilling the importance of setting both short- and long-term financial goals – and new ways to organize orders. Girls will be able to further personalize their pages during setup and access improved cookie sales data, with colorful charts showing sales by cookie type and delivery method, as well as week-by-week trends.

"Digital Cookie will forever change the Girl Scout Cookie Program. It provides girls a fun, engaging way to learn essential new business skills," said Sue Stewart, CEO of Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida. "With the ability to use the Digital Cookie platform on mobile devices, girls will be able to reach more customers so that they can achieve their goals of giving back to the community and determining their focus for their Girl Scout experience – such as outdoor adventures, healthy living and STEM-themed activities."

Designed with input from girls, the innovative new enhancements use the "science of play" to expand girls' understanding of the business cycle. Girls will be introduced to important new skills about running an e-commerce business, including digital marketing, online money management, revenue projection, and digital customer acquisition

and management, all in a safe, hands-on environment. "When girls thrive in their 'first business', they develop skills and knowledge to lead the talent pool for the workforce of the future," Stewart added.

Girls decide how to spend their troop cookie money and reinvest it back into their neighborhoods through community service projects and learning experiences, like travel opportunities. Because 100 percent of the net revenue raised through the Girl Scout Cookie Program stays with the local council and troops, customers who purchase Girl Scout Cookies are not only getting a delightful treat – they are also making an important investment in their communities.

Girls from Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida began using the platform at the start of the cookie-selling season on January 8. Cookie customers from Southwest Florida should watch for a marketing email from a Girl Scout they know, or expect to bump into girls selling cookies on their mobile devices this year. For information about the 2016 cookie season, visit www.gsgcf.org/cookies-more.✱

From page 2

Gift To The City

Then, visit the Southwest Florida Museum of History at 2031 Jackson Street, where you can learn more about how and why Edison ended up in downtown Fort Myers.

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

Then continue south on McGregor Boulevard to the Southwest Florida Historical Society's research center.

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

The center is open Wednesday and Saturday between 9 a.m. and noon and

Wednesday 4 to 7 p.m. Call 939-4044 or visit swflhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

Sources: *The Story of Fort Myers* by Karl H. Grismer, *The News-Press*, *The Edisons of Fort Myers* by Tom Smoot, and edisonfordwinterstates.org.✱

Lakes Regional Library Book Sale

The Friends of Lakes Regional Library will hold a book sale at the library on Saturday, January 23 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. A large selection of fiction and non-fiction books as well as CD's, DVD's and audiobooks will be available for purchase.

Lakes Regional Library is located at 15290 Bass Road in Fort Myers.✱

Career Opportunities For Veterans To Grow

Disabled Veterans Insurance Careers, Inc. (DVIC) and The National Alliance for Insurance Education & Research have entered into a collaborative agreement with the purpose of increasing the career opportunities for all veterans. The mission of DVIC to educate, train and create meaningful employment opportunities within the insurance industry for disabled veterans parallels with the mission of The National Alliance Careers For Life program to do the same for all veterans, transitioning military members, military spouses and eligible family members. With a common goal, the two organizations will work together under a single management team led by The National Alliance Senior Vice President Beverly A. Messer, CIC, CRM, CISR and DVIC President and CEO, LTC U.S. Army (Ret.) Gary L. Bryant.

"By working together, we are convinced we can all better serve those who have served our country and sacrificed so much," said DVIC chairman and co-founder Gary V. Trippe, CIC, CPIA.

This collaboration represents a global effort to bring professional career opportunities and quality education in insurance and risk management to veterans and their families," added Dr. William T. Hold, CIC, CPCU, CLU, president of The National Alliance.

Together, DVIC and The National Alliance Careers for Life Program create a unique synergy that will greatly increase the number of opportunities for disabled veterans, other veterans, transitioning service men and women, and their families. As the insurance industry is hiring nationwide and many great Americans and their families are looking for new careers, it is only fitting that DVIC and The National Alliance Careers for Life program work together to develop a win-win-win for our heroes, the insurance industry and our country.

"DVIC is grateful for all the support we have received for our program that has allowed us to make a real difference in the lives of some of our disabled veterans, and we look forward to continued success alongside The National Alliance Careers For Life initiative in the future," said Trippe.

For additional information, call 433-8523 or visit DVIC.us. Learn more about Careers For Life online at CareersForLife.com.✱

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Along The River



The Downtown Fort Myers Saturday Art Fair – from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. – features the fine art, jewelry, ceramics, designer wear and unique artsy fine crafts. Painting by Noel.

The historic River District comes alive this Friday with the return of **Music Walk**. Stroll along downtown Fort Myers’ beautiful brick-lined streets while musicians play in and around restaurants, bars, art galleries and shops. Each month brings new energy and great music, from jazz and blues to rock ‘n’ roll. Music Walk is held on the third Friday of every month beginning at 6 p.m.

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

If you prefer, join other music lovers as they gather at Times Square on Fort Myers Beach for the free **Sunset Celebration** series of concerts.

Sunset Celebration provides an opportunity to hear local bands in a spectacular setting. It is held every Friday and Saturday from 5 to 10 p.m., weather permitting. The concerts are free to the public.

Friday, January 15 features music by popular local band **High Tide**, which plays an unusual but refreshing collection of popular music covers: reggae, classic rock, alternative rock, R&B and funk. On Saturday, it’s **Troublemakerz**.

For more information about Sunset Celebration, call 463-5900.

Support your local artists by buying handmade and artsy items at the 7th annual **Downtown Fort Myers Saturday Art Fair** on January 16. It runs from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and features vibrant, accomplished artists and crafters set up in downtown Fort Myers to sell the works they create. Artists will set up on the First Street sidewalks from Hendry to Jackson streets. Expect to see works of fine art, jewelry, ceramics, designer wear and unique artsy fine crafts. Prints from original works are also available. Art vendors will have tables on the sidewalk in front of prominent businesses.

For more information about the Saturday Art Fair, contact Claudia Goode at cgoode@actabuse.com or at 337-5050.

Do you love bacon? Then you won’t want to miss **Bacon Jam** at Centennial Park on Saturday, January 16. The food and music festival runs 11 a.m. to sunset and proceeds benefit Caleb’s Crusade, a local organization which serves families affected by childhood cancer.

At Bacon Jam, you’ll find a variety of creative bacon-based dishes from local restaurants and food trucks. Live music from bands will be playing on the main stage all day: Rocker at noon, Bite the Bullet at 2 p.m. and Lazy Bonez from 4 p.m. to sunset. Popular local dance troupe The Calendar Girls will also be there.

Admission to Bacon Jam is \$5. Kids 12 and under are admitted free.

Centennial Park is located at 2000 West First Street, Fort Myers. For more information, go to www.swfljams.com.

The 2nd annual **Antique Boat Show** returns to The Marina at Edison Ford on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Antique boats in many varieties will be on show and visitors can get an up-close look at them. Boat owners will also be available for questions.

The free event also features live music and vendors.

The Marina at Edison Ford is located at 2360 West First Street, Fort Myers. For more information, go to www.antiqueboatshowfortmyers.com.

On Saturday night at 7 p.m., **Shell Point Retirement Community** presents **Concerts & Conversations: Ashu, Saxophonist** at the Grand Cypress Room at The Woodlands. Tickets are \$26.

Ashu was born and raised in California and started playing the saxophone at age 10. He soon began entering competitions and found himself receiving a wide range of opportunities, making his debuts at Carnegie Hall, Weill Hall, and concert debut at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C. Since then, his solo performances have taken him to Norway, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, France, Portugal and the West Indies.

He tours regularly with renowned orchestras throughout the United States and Europe, including the Vienna Chamber Orchestra and Metropolitan Orchestra of

continued on page 9



Shell Point presents **Concerts & Conversations: Ashu, Saxophonist on Saturday at 7 p.m.**

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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.



Doc Ford's Scallops Special served with blue lump crab meat, black linguini and mixed veggies, finished with house-made citrus butter. Delicious!

ISLAND COW

Where can you go when you're in the "moood" for some great cookin', 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 (HOOKERS).*

From page 8

Along The River

Lisbon, at venues such as Carnegie Hall and Vienna Konzerthaus.

He has earned a reputation for his engaging stage presence; critics have raved that he's "just as much fun to watch as he is to listen to" (*Dallas Morning News*) and "Riveting, Brilliant, Pizzazz to Burn" (NPR).

Shell Point is located at 15101 Shell Point Boulevard, Fort Myers. For more information, go to www.shellpoint.org/ concerts or call 454-2067.*

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

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

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

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

Church To Celebrate King In Speech And Song

St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church on Sanibel invites the entire community to join in its Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Celebration, to be held in the church's Sanctuary beginning at 6 p.m. on Monday, January 18. As the first church in Lee County – and one of the first Episcopal churches in Florida – to integrate, St. Michael's is especially pleased to host this important event.

The celebration features a unique performance by the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers Youth Choir, in its Sanibel debut. Comprised of 72 children, ages 5 to 17, who reside in the family development of the Authority and the Norstar Accolade company, this choir is the first choral group of its kind in the nation. Formed in summer 2014 and sustained entirely by numerous monetary and in-kind donations, the choir performs at community events and at functions promoting the mission of the Authority. The choir made its debut August 30, 2014 at Dunbar High School to commemorate the Southern Christian Leadership Conference Civil Rights Movement's 50th Anniversary. It has since appeared at such venues as Holiday in the [Roberto Clemente] Park, and the Lee County Black History Society's annual Juneteenth/Father's Day celebration. Most recently, it performed at the Fort Myers Miracle baseball game on August 4, 2015, singing the *National Anthem*. Forty of the group's singers will appear at the King Day Celebration.

Youth Choir Director Darlene Mitchell is a well-known area singer and vocal coach. A graduate of Hodges University and member of the Client Services staff at the Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers, she has been recognized for her achievement in the arts and in community activism, as a Dr. Martin Luther King Hall of Fame inductee, sponsored by the Dunbar Festival and the Lee County Black History Society, and recipient of the Southwest Florida Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce's 2010 Most



The Reverend Dr. Michael Battle will deliver the keynote address

Powerful Women Award. Mitchell has led the HACFM Youth Choir since its inception in 2014.

Keynote speaker for the evening is The Very Reverend Dr. Michael Battle. Currently Herbert Thompson Professor of Church and Society and Director of the Desmond Tutu Center at General Theological Seminary in New York, Battle earned a bachelor's degree from Duke University, a master of Divinity from Princeton Theological Seminary, a master of Sacred Theology from Yale University and a Ph.D. in Theology and Ethics from Duke. Ordained in 1993 by Anglican Archbishop Desmond Tutu, he has served as vicar at St. Titus Episcopal Church, Durham, North Carolina, rector at Church of Our Saviour, San Gabriel, California, and St. Ambrose Episcopal Church, Raleigh, North Carolina, and interim rector or associate priest with churches in North Carolina and Cape Town, South Africa. He has also served as chaplain to Archbishop Tutu, Congressman John Lewis, the House of Bishops and, in 2008, for the Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops.

Battle has published nine books, including *Reconciliation: The Ubuntu Theology of Desmond Tutu*, and the book for the Episcopal Church's General Convention, *Ubuntu: I In You and You*



The HACFM Youth Choir, under the direction of Darlene Mitchell, will sing at the King celebration



Organizers for the event are, standing from left, Don Adams, Music Minister Hank Glass and Yvonne Hill, and seated from left, Rector Ellen Sloan, Wendy McLaughlin, David Bath and Roberta Winters

In Me. In 2010, Battle received one of the highest distinctions of the Anglican Church, that of Six Preacher, conferred by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams. This recognition, originating with Thomas Cranmer in 16th-century England, is awarded only to those few clerics who demonstrate exemplary dedication to the Church. Battle and his wife, Raquel, were married by Archbishop Tutu. Tutu baptized their two daughters, Sage and Bliss, and their son, Zion, as well.

The evening, which is free and open to the public, also includes a performance by the St. Michael's Parish Choir, under

the direction of Music Minister Hank Glass, and a memorized recitation, by 12-year-old Zaire Saldana, of King's famous "I Have A Dream" speech. To conclude the celebration, the Parish Choir will lead the audience in a sing-along of *We Shall Overcome*.

The event will be followed by a reception in the Church's Parish Hall.

To inquire about special events at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church, contact Rector Ellen Sloan at 472-2173 or visit saintmichaels-sanibel.org.

For further information, contact Jan Holly at 472-3594 or janholly4@gmail.com.✱

Church Welcomes New Pastor

January 1 welcomed in a new year and Hope United Church in Fort Myers welcomed a new pastor, Rev. Kevin Morris and his wife, Kim.

On January 3, Rev. Morris shared the worship service with Rev. Dr. Lou Thompson as Lou delivered a final sermon of his brief pastorate at Hope. And on January 10, Rev. Morris lead his first worship at Hope for what is expected to be the beginning of a long pastorate.

Join the congregation at Hope in January as we begin this new pastorate and welcome Kevin and Kim to our community. Be sure to wear your name tag.

Rev. Morris and Kim moved to the

Estero area on December 29. They have leased a home in Estates at Estero and will be living there as they get better acquainted with the area.

Hope United Church is located at 7470 Hickory Drive in Fort Myers, Call 267-3331 for more information.✱

Local Church Offers Weekly Food Pantry

On Tuesdays and Fridays from 9 to 11 a.m., St. Vincent de Paul Church operates a food pantry at 2073 Lafayette Avenue on the corner of Grand, one block west of the City of Palms baseball stadium.

To be eligible for food assistance, you must have a photo ID and meet USDA

eligibility requirements. You are eligible to receive food once a week if your household meets the income guidelines available at the food pantry or participates in any of the following programs:

- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Medicaid

You only need to meet one of these requirements to be eligible to receive USDA foods.

Volunteers and food donations are always welcome. Contact the church at 334-9225 to donate and/or volunteer your time.

For more information about local food pantries, go to www.foodpantries.org/ci/fl-fort-myers.✱

Holiday Collection And Closings

On Monday, January 18, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday, the City of Fort Myers' Solid Waste Division will have no change in residential and commercial collection. All trash, recycling, horticultural and bulk pick up will be collected as regularly scheduled.

The City of Fort Myers' Utility Billing Office and all city offices will be closed in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday on January 18.

If you have any questions concerning your service, contact the Solid Waste Division at 321-8050.✱

Cold Front Changes Up Fishing



by Capt. Matt Mitchell

For the last couple of months, our water temperature has been unseasonably warm, staying right in the mid-70s. The drastic 10-degree drop we experienced this

week due to the strongest cold front of the year really changed things up. The most noticeable difference was how tough the snook bite became. Luckily, there were lots of other species that still kept feeding and it was just a matter of changing up tactics to keep my clients happy.

For months now, our catch and release winter snook bite would just not quit with 30-plus fish caught being a nor-

mal outing. Although this snook action did not completely quit, it really slowed. During the colder days this week, getting a snook to eat a bait before things warmed up by midday was just about impossible. During the afternoon as temperatures gradually warmed up, some of the snook action did pick up but it was not close to what we have been lucky enough to experience for the last few months. Just the way these snook took a bait in the cooler water was a whole different thing and nothing like the aggressive explosive action we got used to.

Cool clear water did do wonders though for our trout fishing. Free-lined shiners caught lots of trout this week up to a whopping 24 inches. Limits came easily most days once you located the fish. Most of these trout were caught fishing in three to five feet of water on the drop-offs of grass flats during the lower tide periods. Watching these big trout chase and blow up on live shiners on the surface is always a blast.

Colder water also finally got the usual rat redfish of winter fired up. Mangrove islands in the southern sound had plenty of reds ranging from 16 to 22 inches with both live shrimp and shiners catch-



Paul Black from Sea Isle, New Jersey with a pompano caught while fishing with Capt. Matt Mitchell this week

ing these fish. Most of these redfish were caught over the sand and grass bottom mix just out from the mangroves while fishing the wind blown sides of the islands. Creek fishing for these redfish has not started to pop yet but, with another cold front on the way, it should start to happen soon.

During the colder days this week, to get on action it often meant switching things up and going to chunks of shrimp on a jig head. If I would live chum a spot with shiners and not see any surface

activity, it was time to shrimp fish. Live shrimp are a must have option during cold periods and catch a mixed bag of fish. While bouncing these shrimp chunks slowly across the bottom in deeper mangrove channels, we caught pompano, sheepshead, snapper, small gag grouper and black drum before things finally started to wake up and come to life on shiners.

Fog is all part of our winter boating and happens a lot this time of year when water temperatures are warmer than the air temperature. Several mornings this week, we had very low visibility due to dense fog and to get around safely you had to have total confidence in your electronics and good tracks to follow on your GPS. Being out in these whiteout conditions can be nerve-racking and it's easy to get turned around, run aground or even lost. Go slow, be alert and take your time in the fog as other boats and markers can't be seen until they are often very close. Be safe out there!

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:

Gopher Tortoise



by Patricia Molloy

Gopher tortoises (*Gopherus polyphemus*) are a common sight on Sanibel. These gentle terrestrials have inhabited this planet for more than 60 million years and are so

named because of their ability to dig large underground burrows utilizing their shovel-like front legs.

Burrows are essential to the survival of these tortoises, as they provide protection from extreme temperature fluctuations and natural disasters, along with a relatively safe haven for their eggs to incubate and hatch. A single gopher tortoise will build several burrows in its home territory.

Referred to as a Keystone Species because gopher tortoises share their burrows with a wide variety of other wild creatures (including skunks, burrowing owls, Eastern cottontails, Virginia opossums, Eastern indigo snakes and a wide variety of insects, frogs and lizards), many of its cohabitants, known as commensals, will disappear if a host tortoise abandons its burrow due to illness, injury or death.

Recently, a young gopher tortoise was delivered to CROW after being found



Gopher tortoises are herbivores, meaning they feed only on plants

dragging one of its hind legs. While no broken bones were found and the tortoise had a good body condition, it was admitted to the wildlife hospital as patient #15-2718.

After a couple of weeks of supportive care, the tortoise's condition was essentially unchanged. As one rehabilitator noted, "I've had volunteers come up and tell me that he's getting over sticks when he's outside grazing. He even climbed a cement stair outside. But he's going crazy in that cage; he really wants to get out."

Dr. Heather considers the survivability of each patient very carefully before returning it to its wild home; if an animal

is unable to feed itself or defend itself in the wild due to illness and/or injury, she will not release it. But just as humans can survive (and even prosper) with certain permanent injuries or medical conditions, so can some wild animals. And when considering the case of a gopher tortoise, she must also take into consideration the impact its absence has had on its commensals.

"Right now, he's still doing what he has always done, which is drag (his hind leg) for three steps and then take a step. Drag it for three steps and then take a step," Dr. Heather said about the gopher tortoise. "But I've also seen him use that

leg when he wants to. I think there's a joint issue there that makes it harder for him to do the rotation, but I think he's releasable. And apparently he does have a burrow in the area he came from."

The tortoise was released near its burrow before the chill of winter set in.

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.*

'Ding' Darling And Doc Ford's Tarpon Tournament Coming In May



Last year's winners pulled in four tarpon and more than \$11,000.

A 100 percent purse promises to make the 5th annual "Ding" Darling & Doc Ford's Tarpon Tournament on May 7 the hottest competition on the water. It pays out 100 percent of the entry fee as tournament awards.

The team fee of \$500 for up to four anglers also includes a Captain's Dinner the night prior and awards ceremony dinner the evening of the tournament. All events take place at Doc Ford's Rum Bar & Grille on Fort Myers Beach.

Doc Ford's – with locations also on Sanibel and Captiva – has again committed to being the title sponsor for the 2016 tournament, along with the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS). Diversified Yacht Services, Inc., will for the fifth consecutive year offer support at the presenting sponsor level. Proceeds benefit wildlife and conservation education at JN "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel.

"There's not another tarpon tournament like this in the area," said Marty Harritty, Doc Ford's co-owner. "In past years, we've had fishermen from all over the country. Last year we paid out \$25,375 in awards to five out of 48 participating teams."

"Doc Ford's has been a faithful supporter of our efforts at 'Ding' Darling, helping greatly to bolster refuge programs and research to balance federal budget shortfalls," said Birgie Miller, DDWS executive director. "Last year, we raised \$50,000 for the refuge as a result of sponsorships, donations and auction proceeds. We're so grateful to Doc Ford's for this huge effort on our behalf."

For more information on the tournament, visit dingdarlingsociety.org/tarpon-tourney. Anyone interested in becoming a tournament sponsor should contact Miller at 292-0566 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org.

Tournament sponsors include: title sponsor: Doc Ford's Rum Bar & Grille; presenting sponsor: Diversified Yacht Services of Fort Myers Beach.

As a non-profit 501(c)3 organization, DDWS works to support JN "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge's mission of conservation, wildlife and habitat protection, research, and public education through charitable donations and Refuge Nature Shop proceeds.

To support DDWS and the refuge with a tax-deductible gift, visit www.dingdarlingsociety.org or contact Birgie Miller at 292-0566 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org.*



From page 6

Volunteer Fair

12:30 p.m. at Lakes Regional Library, located at 15290 Bass Road Fort Myers

Offer your skills and experience to local non-profit or public agencies. At the Volunteer Fair, meet face-to-face with local organizations that need your help.

For more information, call Louise Hawthorne at 433-2000 ext. 225.*

Plant Smart

For The Birds

by Gerri Reaves

If you want to attract birds to your yard, give them reasons to show up: a pesticide-free environment, safe cover, nesting habitat and food.

While seed-filled bird feeders will certainly attract birds (not to mention squirrels and ducks!), planting trees and shrubs that provide all of the above might increase the number of bird species that visit in your yard in the long run.

The fruits pictured here are only three of many that will make your yard a preferred avian hang-out.

Native firebush (*Hamelia patens*) not only attracts a variety of birds with its purple-black berries, but also butterflies with the red-orange tubular flowers. Hummingbirds feed on the nectar.

This low-maintenance, storm-resistant hedge or small tree (there's also a dwarf variety) blooms all year and adjusts to a variety of conditions. It's a must-plant for both bird- and butterfly-watchers.

There's some disagreement among experts as to golden dewdrop's (*Duranta repens*) native status, but there's no disputing its beauty and value to wildlife.

The clusters of yellow fruit and five-lobed tubular blue flowers often simultaneously exist on the shrub.

Songbirds like the fleshy fruit, the flowers attract butterflies and hummingbirds, and the foliage provides cover for birds. Leave all the fruit for the birds, however, for it is toxic to humans.



The fruit of firebush, golden dewdrop and seagrape all attract birds



photos by Gerri Reaves

Golden dewdrop is somewhat drought tolerant and will tolerate nutrient-poor soil. It grows best in full sun and usually remains shrub size, but in good conditions develops into a small tree.

It can also be trained to grow on trellises, walls and fences.

Seagrape's (*coccoloba uvifera*) fruit sometimes sets up competition between people and wildlife. Birds visit the tree for the delicious bunches of grapes, and so do people wanting to make seagrape jelly.

This native tree's value to people and wildlife is difficult to overstate. It is protected by law because it prevents coastal erosion; its canopy and fruit provide cover and food for wildlife, respectively.

Other winning characteristics include seagrape's beautiful large reddish veined leaves, high salt tolerance, and low maintenance requirements.

Give your yard's resident and migrating birds some variety – plant some living bird-feeders and enjoy the scene.

Plant Smart explores the diverse flora of South Florida.✧

Shell Factory 14th Annual Gumbo Fest

The Shell Factory & Nature Park will stage their 14th annual Southwest Florida Gumbo Fest on Sunday, January 31 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Again this year, Sam Galloway Ford will sponsor the event with a number of new Ford cars displayed on site. This year's event will feature two live bands headlined by Dwayne Dopsie & The Zydeco Hellraisers and The Porchdogs.

Several types of gumbo will be available along with some unique festival food. Admission is free, with lots of children's activities and a great day of fun for the entire family. Children will also have free admission to the Nature Park with a paid adult or senior admission. All proceeds benefit The Nature Park Environmental Education Foundation, which provides transportation for Lee County school students to visit the Park. Capt'n Fishbones, the Soaring Eagle Zip Line, the retail store and Fun Park will all be open during the festival.

"I believe this will be our largest Gumbo Fest ever," said Rick Tupper, CFO and marketing director. "Gumbo Fest has become a real family event and emphasizes our marketing direction as the number one family entertainment destination in Southwest Florida."



Vendors who wish to participate should call CityBiz at 549-5599 or email r.shellfactory@hotmail.com.

The Shell Factory & Nature Park is located four miles north of the Caloosahatchee River on U.S. 41 in North Fort Myers. Visit www.shellfactory.com for more information.✧

Free Guided Nature Walk

Join a Lee County volunteer naturalist for a free 1.4 mile nature and history walk at Wild Turkey Strand Preserve at 9 a.m. this Saturday, January 16. Wild Turkey Strand Preserve is located at 11901 Rod and Gun Club Road in Fort Myers.

The preserve occupies portions of the former Buckingham Army Airfield, the state's largest airfield training base during World War II. 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



Scenic wetlands draw waterfowl to Wild Turkey Strand Preserve

restroom are onsite. No reservations are required and no dogs are permitted in this preserve.

Call 707-3325 for more information.✧

Email your editorial copy to:
press@riverweekly.com

Cruise For Kids To Benefit Lee And Collier Schools

Pure Florida is supporting the school districts of Lee and Collier counties by hosting Cruise for Kids January 15 to 17 at its Fort Myers location and January 22 to 24 at its Naples location. Cruises set sail at 10 a.m., noon and 2 p.m. and sunset cruises depart one hour before sunset.

Cruise for Kids at its Fort Myers location will benefit The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools and its Naples location will support Champions for Learning, the education foundation in Collier County.

Pure Florida will donate a portion of the proceeds from any of its cruises or activities to the foundations to fund tools and resources for teachers and students.

"As another school semester commences, Pure Florida understands that budgets can be limiting and that many teachers are pulling from their own pockets to create a quality learning environment for their students. This is why the Pure Education program at Pure Florida is dedicated to supporting local educators and their students," said Lance Julian, co-founder. "The funds raised... will support Pure Education's mission to provide the tools and resources that are essential to creating an exceptional educational experience, and empower teachers and schools to continue making a difference in the lives and futures of Southwest

Florida students."

Pure Education offers marine science field trips, which feature a hands-on opportunity for Pre-K to sixth grade students. Marine science field trip options include approximately 1.5-hour and 2-hour educational cruises, sailing from Naples and Fort Myers. On these cruises, children work in groups to test the quality of local waterways for phosphate, nitrate, pH, salinity, turbidity and other related activities. Schools can also include engineering challenges, such as Float Your Boat and Submersibles.

Marine science field trips are \$15 per child and \$15 per adult chaperones with free admission for teachers. All programming is coordinated with the Next Generation Florida Sunshine State Science Standards. Curriculum outlines with vocabulary and ideas for additional activities are provided to each teacher.

Marine experiences that showcase the natural beauty of Southwest Florida including sightseeing, river and sunset cruises, are available for passengers of all ages.

Captains Lance and Harry Julian acquired the Naples-based *Double Sunshine* and *Lady Brett* fishing vessels in 2009 and have grown the company to include 19 vessels in Naples and Fort Myers.

With a long history in maritime productions, they have the most memorable water scenes in film production, with credits including *Titanic* and *Waterworld* and television credits such as the reality show, *Survivor*.

For more information, visit www.PureFL.com.

From page 3

Resident Artist Program

are also required. The VCB will review submissions and choose the resident artist shortly after the close of the application period. The deadline is January 19.

The selected artist will join a roster of artists, writers and musicians who have also found inspiration in this scenic locale, such as renowned artist Robert Rauschenberg, iconic inventors Thomas Edison and Henry Ford, and best-selling author Anne Morrow Lindbergh, who

penned the book *Gift from the Sea* based on her many visits to Captiva Island.

"As a destination of inspiration, we are thrilled to launch our resident artist program to further encourage local residents to explore and embrace the arts right in their backyard," said Tamara Pigott, executive director of the VCB. "We are confident that those selected will capture the destination's ambience, all while encouraging travelers to visit our little piece of paradise."

For more information about the program, or to apply, log onto www.fortmyers-sanibel.com.

Blanks Graduates From University

Tyrell Blanks, a resident of Fort Myers, was one of 592 candidates for graduation at Coastal Carolina University during ceremonies on December 11 and 12 at the HTC Center. Blanks graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in graphic design.

Smith Earns High Honors

Victoria Smith of Fort Myers has earned high honor roll distinction at Pomfret School for the 2015 fall term. A student earns high honors with a grade point average of at least 3.67 and no grade below a B.

Founded in 1894, Pomfret School is an independent college preparatory school for boarding and day students in grades 9 through 12 and is set on 500 acres in the Last Green Valley of northeastern Connecticut.

Pure Florida Sunset Music Cruise

Pure Florida will offer a Sunset Music Cruise on Friday, January 29 at 4:30 p.m. departing from its Fort Myers location. The 90-minute excursion will take passengers on a relaxing cruise featuring a live musical performance and the stunning Southwest Florida sunset.

Passengers cruising from Pure Florida's Fort Myers location will cruise aboard the *M/V Edison Explorer*, drifting along the Caloosahatchee River. Guests will have the opportunity to explore the evening scenery of downtown Fort Myers on the water and the beautiful bird rookery accompanied by live music performed by Jon Dunningcliff.

Aboard the vessel, guests are invited to relax, have a drink and enjoy the beauty of the natural surroundings, showcasing the unique wildlife native to Southwest Florida. Beer, wine, soft drinks and snacks will be available for purchase on-board. Once out to sea, the captain will stop the vessel as the sun begins to set so that guests can enjoy the famed Southwest Florida sunset and take advantage of this premier photo opportunity.

Once the sun has dropped below the horizon, the vessel will begin its return voyage, providing the opportunity for guests to enjoy the rich colors in the sky and twinkling evening lights on the river, set to the tune of the evening's musical performance. Upon returning to the Pure Florida dock, guests can conclude their experience by exploring the local shops and restaurants of downtown Fort Myers.

The *M/V Edison Explorer* departs from The Marina at Edison Ford, located at 2360 W. First Street in Fort Myers. Reservations are required. For pricing and registration for the Sunset Music Cruise, contact Pure Florida's Fort Myers location at 919-2965. For more information, visit www.PureFL.com.



Pure Florida's Fort Myers location will offer a Sunset Music Cruise on January 29

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ENGEL & VÖLKERS

**Teatro Lirico D'Europa**

From page 1

Community Concert Tickets

Flying Dutchman and Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade Symphonic Suite* will be included in this performance by the Polish Baltic Philharmonic Orchestra, which is the largest music institution in northern Poland.

Teatro Lirico D'Europa performing *Aida* – February 10. *Aida* is the tragic story of the love between Rhadames, the Egyptian general, and Aida, an Ethiopian slave, and the jealousy of Amneris, daughter of the King of Egypt. Teatro Lirico D'Europa is the most successful opera touring company in Europe and the U.S. and travels with a full orchestra of 47 to 50 members and a chorus of 40 singers.

**Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra**

Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra – March 2. The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra will present Brahms's *Symphony No. 2* and feature cello soloist Daniele Akta in Tchaikovsky's *The Kholjaly Requiem* and Camille Saint Saens' *Cello Concerto No. 1*. The Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra plays a varied repertoire and has performed at Carnegie Hall in New York, the Musikvereine in Vienna, the Philharmonic in Cologne and major halls in Dusseldorf, Frankfurt and Lucerne.

Emanuel Ax, Pianist – March 21. Emanuel Ax is a Grammy-winning American classical pianist and an internationally-acclaimed performer who is currently on the faculty at Juilliard. His program will include Dussek's *Piano Sonata No. 24, Elegie harmonique* and Beethoven's *No. 8 Pathetique* and *No. 23 Appassionata* piano sonatas.✧

**Emanuel Ax**

Harry's Improv Troupe Debuts At Alliance For Arts

A new comedy improv group called Harry's Senior Moment (HSM) will make its debut with a preview performance in the theater at the Alliance for the Arts in Fort Myers on Tuesday, January 26 at 8 p.m.

Harry is an 82-year-old stage 4 cancer survivor whose experience with the support he received in improv classes inspired him to create his new improv family, dubbing it Harry's Senior Moment.

The troupe is made up of a diverse group of improvisers who have been inspired by Harry's eagerness for sharing this popular art form with others in the community. At some point following another successful cancer treatment last year, Harry Lichtcsien asked himself: "What do you do to keep yourself motivated to get up every morning when you're 82 and have cancer? After telling the palliative care counselor that 'what I really want is a job,' I signed up for an improv class and it just lit me up. I decided this was my new job'."

The troupe has literally become Harry's new improv family, committed to entertain and create joy and laughter to help him live the best life he can under difficult circumstances.

Harry's Senior Moment members want to share this joy and teach this skill to others in the Southwest Florida community. They will not only perform, but also lead workshops to teach basic improv skills that lead to laughter, fun, improved listening and maybe even to creating improv families in their own

**Harry Lichtcsien, right, in a skit with another troupe member****Harry's Senior Moment troupe members**

communities.

For more information, visit www.seniorimprov.com.

"We are delighted to support Harry's Senior Moment Improv troupe by hosting their preview performance," says Lydia Black, alliance executive director. "Improv is such a wonderful creative outlet that is accessible to so many Southwest Florida residents, regardless of their age. Improv supports creativity, as well as mental and emotional health."

The preview is free and open to the

public, but RSVP to <http://www.artinlee.org/improv> or call 939-2787 for more information.

The Alliance for the Arts 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.✧

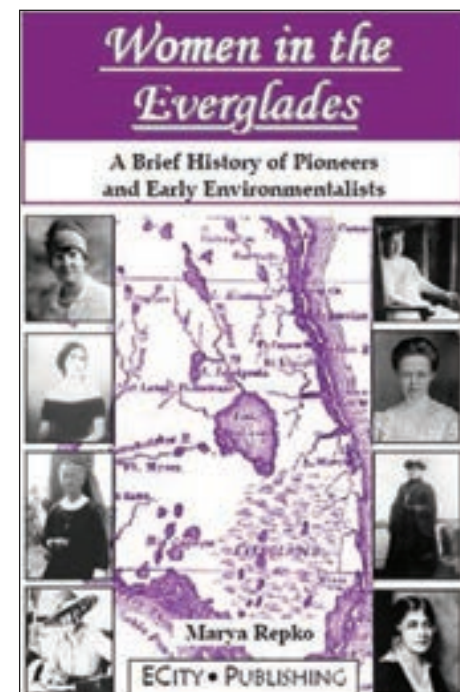
Pioneering Women Book

A century ago, the first woman to be mayor of a city in Florida was Marian O'Brien, who was elected in 1916 when the little town of Moore Haven, west of Lake Okeechobee, was incorporated. Included in its statutes was the right to vote for women – three years before Amendment 19 was passed in 1919.

O'Brien was a competent business woman who took over her husband's holdings in remote Florida after he suddenly passed away. She created a bank, a hotel and other amenities for the new town. She then went on to help found Clewiston and the sugar industry there.

Read more about this amazing woman who achieved so much in those early days in the new book *Women In The Everglades*, which describes some of the brave pioneers who lived on the fringes of the River of Grass, from Miami to Sanibel and parts inbetween.

For more information, visit www.ecity-publishing.com or call author Marya Repko at 695-2905.✧



Read us online at IslandSunNews.com

Broadsides Poetry At The Alliance

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

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

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

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

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

Alliance for the Arts Presents

BROADSIDES

POETRY OFF THE SHELF

January 28 | 7PM | \$10

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EXHIBITING JANUARY 8 - 30

POETS	ARTISTS
L.M. Davies	Christina Castiglione
Victoria Dym	Pat Collins
Sara Fitzpatrick Comito	Steve Conolly
Ruth Follmann	Stephanie Davis
Richard Fox	Veron Ennis
Dan Graveley	Leigh Herndon
Marnie Heenan	Doug MacGregor
Joan Heller Winokur	Kellen Beck Mills
Eddie Krzeminski	Dani Papanikolaou
Mary Beth Lundgren	Caren Pearson
Salvatore Marici	Christina Penuel
Marilyn Mecca	Alicia Schmidt
Joe Pacheco	Tim Smith
Dobie Pasco	Guy Tieman
Shelby Whidden	Daniel Venditti

ALLIANCE 10091 McGregor Blvd Fort Myers | 239-939-2787 | www.alliance.org

Broadway Palm Series Begins With Gershwin Concert

Broadway Palm's 2016 Concert Series will begin with Rhapsody & Rhythm – The Gershwin Concert Experience. Hitting the stage for three performances only on January 31 and February 1, this musical celebration of one of the greatest songwriting teams in history is a one of a kind and entertaining concert that is not to be missed.

Rhapsody & Rhythm is a multimedia musical celebration offering a unique experience that celebrates the collaborative genius of George and Ira Gershwin. Hear favorites such as 'S Wonderful, Someone To Watch Over Me, I Got Rhythm, Summertime and Strike Up The Band. In addition to the legendary music, this unforgettable concert includes rare Gershwin home videos and photos, special family stories and more.

The Broadway Palm 2016 Concert Series begins with Rhapsody & Rhythm – The Gershwin Concert Experience, playing Sunday, January 31 with dinner at 5:30 p.m. and concert at 7 p.m., and Monday, February 1 for a matinee that begins with lunch at 11:45 a.m. and show at 1:15 p.m., and an evening concert which begins with dinner at 5:30 p.m. and show at 7:30 p.m.

Ticket prices range from \$39 to \$62, with discounts for groups of 20 or more. Tickets are now on sale and can be



George Gershwin conducting

reserved by calling 278-4422, by visiting www.BroadwayPalm.com or by stopping by the box office located at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.✱



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An Explosive Showdown At Lab Theater



by Di Saggau

A year ago or so I read a review of *The Velocity of Autumn* playing on Broadway starring Estelle Parsons and I thought, this is a play I want to see. Thankfully, Annette Trossbach,

artistic director for Laboratory Theater of Florida, saw that play, got the rights, and it's now showing at Lab Theater.

It stars local playwright and actor Louise Wigglesworth as Alexandra, a 79-year-old artist who lives in a simple Brooklyn brownstone. She lives a solitary existence with fleeting memories and enough explosives to take down most of the block. She's at an impasse with her children over how she should spend her autumn years. They think she should go into a nursing home. She likes her life the way it is and threatens blow the place up if anyone interferes.

Her estranged son Chris, played by Mark Haffner, returns after a 20-year absence to act as the family's unlikely mediator. He arrives in her home by climbing a tree and hoisting himself inside her second floor window. Haffner's calisthenics involving the tree and his entrance are extremely entertaining. Once inside he says, "Hi, Mom" and the emotional bombs start exploding. She brings up his childhood. He questions her about some recent behavior incidents at the grocery store and a bridge game.



Louise Wigglesworth

Alexandra admits that certain things are leaving her but she feels she can deal with getting old while her kids cannot. She asks "Who will take care of my tree?"

It's hard not to be touched by this play. The issue of family and aging is a universal one affecting many people. As director Ken Bryant says, "Alexandra, is a woman, a mother, a wife, whose foes are not her sons and daughter who want to get her out of her Brooklyn brownstone and into a facility. No. Her real enemies are the small humiliations brought on by old age."

Wigglesworth and Haffner do great justice to their roles. The play is a wonderfully touching discovery of the fragility and ferocity of life.

The Velocity of Autumn, by Eric Coble, plays through January 23 at Laboratory Theater of Florida, 1634 Woodford Avenue in Downtown Fort Myers. For tickets call 218-0481.✱

Play At Theatre Conspiracy Has Timely Theme

by Di Saggau

Kayak, a play by Canadian playwright Jordan Hall, is a marvel to behold and it's now showing at Theatre Conspiracy. You will meet three distinct characters who are totally involved in one another's lives. As the play opens we see Annie, played by the marvelous Lauren Drexler. She's adrift in her son's kayak and the first words she utters are, "I don't like kayaks." As she drifts about, the kayak moves by remote control thanks to the Mariner High Robotics Club. Kudos to them. Annie reflects on various events involving her son Peter (Juan Alejandro) and his save-the-world girlfriend Julie, (Alex Holmes).

The play is about how a middle-aged mom, her college-student son and his activist girlfriend respond to the threat of global warming.

Hall has long been interested in the environment. During a talk back after the play she said that the voices of Julie and

Annie kept talking to her and intrigued her to write *Kayak*. The play is basically about the relationship between the two women who are competing for Peter's affections.

Annie is a bit controlling and definitely does not like Julie, but that's because she's a mother who wants what she feels is best for her son. In describing Julie she says, "She was the sort of girl who floated around the world spraying Japanese whaling boats with fire hoses, planting trees, and making perfectly nice people uncomfortable at parties." She also refers to her as "Little Miss Save the Day."

Peter suffers the ultimate angst trying to balance what he feels is right and the love he feels for his mother. It's a no win situation. Does he make the right choice? It certainly caused the end of his mother's world. In her words, "My world ended when my son left."

Throughout the play we hear three different versions of Noah and the Ark. It's an allegory of what our responsibility is to make this world a better place. Interestingly, Julie calls Noah a murderer. As we watch Annie traverse through a stream of memories it's easy to think that we could be the woman in the kayak, adrift, alone, all the while only being guilty of trying to keep what we love intact.

The audience was split as to understanding the end of the play. Did the world truly end with a flood or was it just a flood in the mother's mind? Hall told us what really happened, but I'll let you decide for yourself. This is a thought provoking play that is so timely considering what is going on in the world today.

With tornado warnings prior to opening night, there were a number of cancellations, but those of us who braved the

storm were rewarded with a magnificent production. Here's hoping those who cancelled will reschedule because this is a play well worth seeing.

Kayak, directed by Stephen Hooper, plays through January 23 at Theatre Conspiracy, 10091 McGregor Boulevard at the Alliance for the Arts, Fort Myers. For tickets, call 936-3239 or purchase online at www.theatreconspiracy.org.✱



Ginny and Randy Henderson with Santa at the Tux & Trees Gala

Festival Of Trees Raises Funds For Needed Programs

The combined Goodwill Industries' 9th annual Festival of Trees and Tux & Trees Gala raised over \$77,000 to support The Southwest Florida Goodwill Foundation. The foundation provides long-term support to Goodwill's programs such as the Goodwill LIFE Academy, a tuition-free charter school for students with developmental disabilities.

The festival of trees is a multi-day showcase of Christmas trees, each beautifully decorated by Southwest Florida businesses, organizations and individuals. More than 3,000 people visited the holiday event at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center in the downtown River District.

For the first time, a limited number of trees were raffled to the public. The remaining trees were sold at a live auction at the Tux & Trees Gala by auctioneer Mike Joyce, and hostess Stacey Adams.

"The raffle was a popular addition to this year's festival," says Goodwill's Community Relations Coordinator Madison Mitchell. "It really allowed the community more accessibility, not only to the trees, but also to the message that we are fundraising to really make a difference in the Southwest Florida community."

In 2015, Goodwill provided life changing opportunities to over 40,000 Southwest Floridians through programs such as Job-Link centers, the SWFL MicroEnterprise program, disability-accessible housing, and the Pathways to Opportunity program for adults with disabilities.

"2016 will be the Festival's 10 year anniversary," says Mitchell. "It also is Goodwill's 50th anniversary so, 2016 will be big."

For more information visit www.tuxandtrees.com. For more information on Goodwill's programs and services log onto www.goodwillswfl.org.✱



The Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center's Holiday Spirit tree

Tickets On Sale For Gala At Cypress Cove

Tickets are now on sale for the 5th annual Cypress Cove Gala, themed A Sparkling Occasion, which will be held Saturday, March 12.

Proceeds from the evening will support new and innovative memory care programming for residents of The Cottage – the Life Plan Community's soon-to-open unique two-story household for those with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

The evening's top playbill features music by the acclaimed Orlando-based Z Street Band, returning by popular demand. Joining the Z Street Band marquee is Southwest Florida's popular dance band Joe Marino & All the King's Men.

There will be culinary delights, spirits, endless hors d'oeuvres and an array of silent auction offerings.

Dust off your dancing shoes, break out your best bling and for a glittering fun-filled evening to support a worthy Southwest Florida cause. Gala activities begin at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 12.

Tickets are on sale for \$100 per person through the Cypress Cove Community Advancement office. For more information about the gala, tickets, event sponsorship or silent auction gifting, contact the Community Advancement office at 425-1639.✱

Scholarship Application Process Begins

The Southwest Florida Community Foundation's scholarship application process for the 2016-17 school year will begin on Friday, January 15. Approximately \$500,000 in scholarship money is available through more than 50 scholarships for local high-school students and undergraduate students with financial need or academic merit from Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties.

The E-Apply online scholarship application tool can be accessed through the Community Foundation's website at www.floridacommunity.com/scholarships. Students may review the scholarships available online as well as a tutorial about how to create and submit the online application.

Students may apply for multiple scholarships and have the ability to upload transcripts, SAT/ACT score reports, letters of recommendation and financial documentation (if required). For need-based scholarships, students are required to submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form. The deadline for scholarship applications is March 4.

"We are excited to be able to offer students an opportunity to apply for annual as well as renewable scholarships," said Melanie Holaway, scholarship coordinator for the Southwest Florida Community Foundation.

Renewable scholarships are those offered for up to four years such as the Patricia Means Scholarship, which is new this year.

According to Holaway, examples of some of the more unique scholarships not as highly sought after include scholarships for students with disabilities, student ath-

letes, students pursuing a specific field of study such as teaching deaf or blind individuals, specific church membership or community service hours in a particular facility such as a veterans hospital, adult students going back to school, students from particular schools or communities, and students pursuing a graduate or professional degree.

New scholarships this year include four from Dr. Allen and Mrs. Elizabeth Shevach for medical students from Lee County attending the University of Florida College of Medicine, Lee County students enrolled at Johns Hopkins University, graduating seniors from Fort Myers High School who have participated in high-school athletics and plan to pursue a college education, and a general scholarship for graduating seniors from any Lee County high school.

The Patricia Means Scholarship is for a U.S. citizen, high-school graduate with a B or C grade-point average pursuing post-secondary education.

The Gerard C. Mehr Scholarship is for a financially needy Southwest Florida student graduating high school or possessing a GED, or to adult learners seeking continued education from accredited colleges or universities, or training from certified job-training programs.

The Immokalee Achievement Award Fund is for an Immokalee High School graduating senior who has or will be applying to a community college or an advanced education trade school for a course or courses leading to a specialized trade or job skill.

In 2016, the Community Foundation awarded more than \$500,000 in scholarships. With a simplified and streamlined online application process, students apply without submitting paper applications.

For more information about the Southwest Florida Community Foundation, call 274-5900 or visit www.floridacommunity.com.✱



Previous Alliance Summer Arts Camp participants

From page 1

Alliance Summer Camp

camp scholarship fund at artinlee.org/scholarships.

Visit www.artinlee.org/summer-arts-camp to learn more, or call 939-2787 for more information.

The alliance is also partnering with Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre again this summer for four weeks of Musical Theatre Intensive Camp. Learn more online at www.artinlee.org/summer-arts-camp.

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

From page 1

Celtic Festival

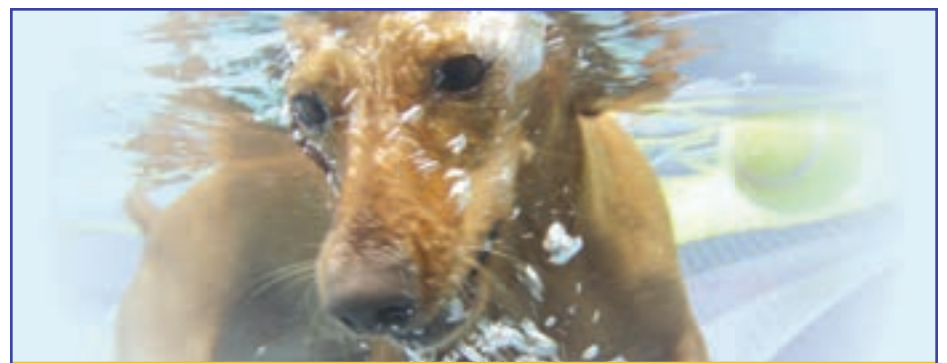
American festival food. Wine and both domestic and imported beer will be available.

Dozens of merchandise vendors will offer everything Celtic. A new addition

this year will allow attendees to try their luck at jousting.

Admission is \$10 for adults and free for children under 12. No coolers are allowed but blankets and/or lawn chairs are suggested.

For more information call 321-7524 or 941-625-8544.✱



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NFL Doesn't Want You To Watch This Movie; See It And You'll Know Why



by Ed Frank

We're not in the business of reviewing movies, but you can be certain that the National Football League doesn't want you to see the movie *Concussion* particularly after last weekend's violent, out-of-control playoff game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Cincinnati Bengals.

First to the award-winning movie *Concussion* starring Will Smith, who portrays Dr. Bennet Omalu who first identified the brain disorder known as chronic traumatic encephalopathy – CTE – that has killed, disabled and led to the suicide of former football players.

We've written about this disease in the past even as frequently as a few weeks ago when the family of the late Frank Gifford announced his death was linked to CTE.

Way back in 2002, Dr. Omalu, working in the Allegheny County Coroner's Office in Pittsburgh, examined the body of the Steelers Hall of Fame center Mike Webster and found the brain disorder that resulted in his death.

He naively thought the NFL would welcome his findings. Instead, he was ridiculed and maligned, even to the extent of demands that his published findings be retracted.

The power and the ruthlessness of the NFL against Dr. Omalu forced him out of Pittsburgh all the while the league denied repeatedly that the head-to-head smashing in football resulted in any brain injuries.

Fast-forward to today and yes, the NFL has backed off that shameful position of the past and has instituted rules and procedures to curtail brain-jarring hits. And, yes, the NFL has recognized Dr. Omalu's study by working with medical research organizations and offering compensation to hundreds of injured former players.

However, if you saw last Saturday's Steelers-Bengals slugfest you've got to wonder if anything has really changed.

In three meetings this season, these two teams were assessed 47 penalties and in one of the games, seven players from both teams were leveled with \$140,000 in fines. Perhaps all of this led to the violent crescendo in the last two minutes of Saturday's playoff game.

The turmoil all began when Steelers linebacker Ryan Shazier forced a key fumble late in the fourth quarter by blasting Bengals running back Giovani Bernard with a hit that left him with a concussion.

Just before that hit, with just 1:36 minutes remaining, it appeared that the Bengals had the opportunity to win their first playoff game since 1991, and end Bengals coach

Marvin Lewis' 0-6 playoff record.

The Steelers took over after that key fumble and with injured quarterback Ben Roethlisberger (who had left the game earlier following a questionable Bengals hit) advanced his team to midfield with 22 seconds left on the clock and Cincinnati clinging to a 16-15 advantage.

On the next play, Bengals linebacker Vontaze Burfict leveled a brutal head-to-head hit on the Steelers defenseless Antonio Brown who suffered a head injury, possibly a concussion.

While trainers were attending to Brown on the field, Bengals cornerback Adam (Pacman) Jones got into a scuffle with the Steelers assistant coach Joey Porter. Burfict's and Jones' two 15-yard penalties advanced Pittsburgh to field goal range where Chris Boswell connected on a chip-shot field goal to give the Steelers a win and a deserved loss to Cincinnati.

So has anything really changed to curb the violence in the NFL? You've got to wonder.

Football fan or not, we recommend you see the movie *Concussion*, a brilliant portrayal of the darkest days of the National Football League

The NFL announced Tuesday morning that Bengals linebacker Burfict has been suspended for the first three games of next season for the ugly hit on Steelers receiver Antonio Brown. Burfict was fined four previous times in the regular season for illegal play.✱

Governor's Baseball Dinner To Be Held In Lee

Governor Rick Scott, Lee County Sports Development and the Florida Sports Foundation will kick off the annual Florida Spring Training season at the 2016 Governor's Baseball Dinner. The dinner will be held Friday, February 19 at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa in Bonita Springs/Fort Myers.

While Fort Myers and Lee County's history of hosting spring training baseball dates back to 1925, this is the first time the Governor's Baseball Dinner has been held in the area.

"The annual Governor's Baseball Dinner marks the beginning of another exciting Spring Training Baseball season in Florida," Scott said. "Florida is proud to be the home of fifteen spring training teams, and we look forward to welcoming the families and visitors that this season will bring to our great state."

Top executives from around the Florida Grapefruit League are expected to attend including Boston Red Sox President of Baseball Operations Dave Dombrowski and Manager John Farrell along with Minnesota Twins Executive Vice President and General Manager Terry Ryan and Manager Paul Molitor.

Individual tickets are available for purchase for \$100 or a table of can be purchased for \$1,000. Visit www.floridagrapefruitleague.com to purchase tickets online or call the Lee County Sports Development office at 533-5273.

"Lee County is honored to host the Governor's Baseball Dinner, an annual spring training baseball tradition," said Jeff Mielke, executive director of Lee County Sports Development. "Lee County's commitment to the Boston Red Sox and Minnesota Twins continues to be a priority. With recent construction and renovations to JetBlue Park and the

CenturyLink Sports Complex, as well as the commitment from the teams, this community is dedicated to hosting spring training baseball for many years to come."

The State of Florida is a frontrunner in Spring Training Baseball dating back to 1888 when the Washington Senators came south to Jacksonville.

While the current teams, and the hosts for the 2016 event, the Minnesota Twins and Boston Red Sox, have been in Lee County for three decades, the area has been hosting Spring Training Baseball since 1925. The Philadelphia Athletics, Cleveland Indians, Pittsburgh Pirates and Kansas City Royals have previously called Fort Myers, and historic Terry Park, home.

Over 250,000 fans attended Florida Grapefruit League games last year in Fort Myers and attendance totals are expected to reach that mark again in 2016. In the last 10 years, over 2.5 million baseball fans have gone through the turnstiles at Hammond Stadium at the CenturyLink Sports Complex, City of Palms Park and JetBlue Park.

Lee County Sports Development was created in 2003 to meet the growing demand for sports development in Lee County, and is recognized by the Florida Sports Foundation as one of the state's 25 Regional Sports Commissions. The Lee County Sports Development office leads the recruitment and implementation of amateur and professional sports events and activities in Lee County, with the goal of providing economic impact to Lee County. Through local partnerships with Lee County Parks and Recreation and others, the Lee County Sports Development office provides services designed to address the needs of local, national and international sports entities including housing, access to venues, event management, transportation assistance, event promotion, marketing and local sponsorship opportunities.

For more information, call 533-2221 or visit www.leeparks.org.✱

New Pilot Ground School Begins January 26

Fort Myers Technical College is offering a new Private Pilot Ground School program focused on basic aerodynamics, as well as communication procedures. The college is now accepting students for enrollment, with classes beginning January 26.

Training toward becoming a certified pilot is done in two steps. The first is obtaining the aeronautical knowledge required to become a safe and competent pilot. Upon completion of the pilot ground school, students can take the FAA Private Pilot Knowledge Test, required by the FAA for completion of flight training.

The evening course combines industry-standard technology and instructional aids with the expertise and experience of licensed and certified teaching professionals. Its syllabus allows students to see the big picture of what it means to be a pilot. Students will become familiar with aircraft systems, flight instruments, regulations, procedures and airport operations, weather, weather services, aircraft performance, cross-country flight planning and navigation.

"Fort Myers Technical College has recognized a growing need in Southwest Florida for knowledgeable professionals that are capable of meeting the aviation

industry needs," said Bill McCormick, director.

The cost for the 84-hour course is \$262 and will take place for 14 weeks on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 9 p.m. For more information about programs at Fort Myers Technical College or for enrollment information for the pilot ground school and the course supply list, call 334-4544 or visit www.FortMyersTech.edu.

Fort Myers Technical College is located at 3800 Michigan Avenue, Fort Myers.✱

Mann Elected Chair Of Airport Board

The Lee County Board of Port Commissioners elected Frank Mann as chair for 2016 during its first meeting held on January 7. John E. Manning was elected as vice chair.

The board, composed of the five Lee County commissioners, meets bi-monthly as the Board of Port Commissioners to set policy and direct the operations of Southwest Florida International Airport and Page Field in Fort Myers. The other commissioners include Brian Hamman, Larry Kiker and Cecil L. Pendergrass.

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

Our email address is press@riverweekly.com

School Smart



by Shelley M. Greggs, NCSPP

Dear Readers: Last week I wrote about Valerie's House, the new center for grieving children that has just opened in Fort Myers and gave you its pertinent information.

This week, I am following up with a column about Valerie's House from a parent's point of view.

I had the opportunity to discuss Valerie's House (VH) with a father who is using the services there. His now 13-year-old daughter lost her mom about a year ago and is of course grieving. This dad's support for VH is tremendous and he was very kind to share some of his thoughts about the importance of Valerie's House and what it has already meant for him.

Scott found out about Valerie's House quite by accident. He met the Valerie's House founder at a business event and heard of her mission to provide services to grieving children. Having his own grieving child, Mr. Scott learned as much as possible and became very active in the organization's development and ultimately his daughter has had the opportunity to participate in some of the initial activities of Valerie's House. He is also so very appreciative of the services for the

parents as well. As the sole parent of his daughter he is facing increased concerns and he welcomes the opportunity to share his thoughts with other parents in the same situation during the parent sessions at VH.

Scott had sought out counseling for his daughter after her mom's passing. There were very few resources available specifically for grieving children and while he was able to find some that provided relief and healing it was not enough. Mr. Scott said, "It's the fact that the help at Valerie's House is on-going for as long as the child feels that s/he needs it is what makes VH so unique. It is the child that makes the determination as to the need for service." Scott stated that this has made such a difference for him and his daughter. The pressure to meet someone's timetable for recovery is now gone and they may follow their own timetable with much less stress.

Grieving children (and adults) experience a wide range of emotions as they try to process their grief. Feelings of sadness, anger, guilt, regret, fear and physical complaints are very typical and most children need help to understand and resolve these feelings.

Special consideration must be given when the death of a parent or significant adult occurs.

Dr. Silverman, a clinical psychologist, has said that there are some very specific behaviors that children who have lost a parent may have. "Some children fantasize that their parent will return; others wish to die so they can be reunited

with their deceased parent," he said. Usually this is a fleeting desire rather than true suicidal ideation. The child should, however, be questioned more deeply, and an investigation made as to whether they do have a specific plan and means available to carry out their wishes.

Silverman describes the accommodation and adaptation to the loss of a parent or significant adult that a bereaved child experiences throughout his or her life. These children tend to revisit the meaning of their parent's death over and over again at different developmental stages. They also re-experience the loss at events such as graduation, marriage and the birth of a child.

Some bereaved children idealize the parent or significant adult as a way to keep pleasant, comforting memories alive. This can be adaptive unless it gets in the way of the child expressing angry feelings toward the parent for leaving him/her or for any "unfinished business" in the relationship. It is important that the surviving parent allow the idealization

of the deceased parent, but also reassure the child how much the surviving parent loves, cares and supports him/her".

Given these more intense and on-going feelings that children who lose a parent may feel, the very fact that children may remain with services at Valerie's House for as long as they feel that they need help is the truly critical piece and key to their recovery. So make sure to spread the word about Valerie's House so that the many children in need in our community can take advantage of this wonderful resource.

*Shelley Greggs is adjunct faculty at Florida SouthWestern State College, where she teaches psychology and education courses. She is also a nationally certified school psychologist and consultant for School Consultation Services, a private educational consulting company. Questions for publication may be addressed to smgreggs@gmail.com. Not all questions submitted can be addressed through this publication.**

Seidler Family Makes Significant Gift To FGCU College Of Arts & Sciences

Sanibel residents Lee and Gene Seidler, and Lee Seidler's daughter, Laurie, pledged Thursday to create a fund that will strengthen the College of Arts & Sciences at Florida Gulf Coast University.

President Wilson G. Bradshaw announced the generous gift at a ceremony on the FGCU campus that renames Academic Building 7 – the home of the College of Arts & Sciences – as Seidler Hall, in tribute to the family's generosity. The gift establishes the Seidler Fund, which will benefit professors and students in the College and, ultimately, all of Southwest Florida.

"Lee's and Gene's love of the arts extends to a deep appreciation of the value of a liberal arts education and influenced this selected area for support at FGCU," Bradshaw said. "Their generosity will enhance the College's academic excellence and student success."

In explaining the motivation behind the gift, Lee Seidler said, "There is no better foundation for success – by any measure – than a liberal arts education. Creativity, flexibility and reason allow us to shape the future."

The gift will enable the college to invest in a wide range of programs and opportunities, said Robert Gregerson, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences.

"The Seidler family's generous gift will provide new learning opportunities for students in the College of Arts & Sciences through support for undergraduate scholarship, internships and mentoring, especially among students in the humanities disciplines," Gregerson said. "It also generates new levels of support for programs in the visual and performing arts, and for special student projects across the college. In addition, our academic programs will be enlivened through public presentations and workshops given by renowned scholars. This gift will touch the lives of countless students in the years ahead. We are extremely grateful to the Seidlers for their thoughtful and generous support."

The Seidlers became involved with the university through the Bower School of Music & the Arts, and have bequeathed to the university a work by the late Robert Rauschenberg, an internationally renowned artist and former Captiva resident. They also support other art-related projects, including FGCU's 24-Hour Festival, an annual competition in which students have 24 hours to create a work of art in any of a number of media.

Today, Lee Seidler is a member of the FGCU Foundation Board and chairs its audit committee, which he helped create. He is a noted authority on accounting, having had an acclaimed career as senior managing director for Bear, Stearns & Co. and serving as the Price Waterhouse Professor at the Stern School of Business at New York University. He also has written six books on accounting and taxation and is a much-sought-after expert witness in accounting and auditing cases.

Gene Seidler enjoyed a distinguished career as an educator, including 14 years in the Lee County School System.

Dr. Seidler has long served on the board of directors for the Shubert Foundation in New York City, a leading supporter of live performing arts. He is also the founder and chairman emeritus of the Multiple Sclerosis Research Center of New York. *

Financial Focus

Retirees Need 'Longevity Strategy'



by Jennifer Basey

The late, great baseball icon Yogi Berra supposedly said it: "The future ain't what it used to be." And the same could be said of retirement. Due to several factors, such as advances

in health care, today's retirees are living longer, more active lives than their predecessors. In fact, you could spend two, or even three, decades in retirement – which means you need a "longevity strategy."

Such a strategy needs to be part of your overall retirement income strategy, but here are five key areas you'll need to address:

- **Lifestyle** – What do you plan to do during your retirement years? Travel the world? Stay close to home and pursue your hobbies? Volunteer? Open a small business or do some consulting? Your choice of lifestyle will probably affect every aspect of your longevity strategy.

- **Income** – Your biggest threat to an enjoyable retirement is the possibility of

running out of money. This fear is apparently widespread; in a survey commissioned by Allianz, a life insurance company, more than 60 percent of respondents said they were more scared of outliving their assets than they were of dying. You need to create a retirement income strategy that incorporates, among other elements, a withdrawal rate that allows you to take money from your 401(k), IRA and other investment accounts in such a manner that you don't run out. You'll also need to answer other key questions, such as when to take Social Security – as you may know, the longer you wait, the bigger your monthly checks, until they "max out" at age 70.

- **Housing** – Once you retire, you may want to review your housing situation. If you've already paid off your mortgage, and you like your house, you may want to stay there. But if you're thinking downsizing, or moving to a more favorable climate, or even purchasing a vacation home, you need to calculate the costs and include them in your plans.

- **Health care** – As far as health care, consider these questions: What will the treatment of existing medical conditions cost over the long term? Do you know what costs Medicare will cover? Have you thought of how you might pay for a nursing home or other long-term care? This last item is especially important, because the annual average cost for a private room in a nursing home is more than \$90,000, according to the 2015 Cost of Care Survey, produced by Genworth,

continued on page 23

FSW Farmers Market Opens



Stampers Cheese

photos courtesy Local Roots

Those who want freshly picked organic fruits and vegetables, locally caught seafood, baked goods and more can get their fill every Saturday through April 30 on the Fort Myers campus of Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW). FSW has partnered with Local Roots to bring a farmer's market on campus. The market will be open Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parking lot off the College Parkway entrance to the campus.

Lots of familiar vendors will be on hand and they will be joined by some new vendors, including Stampers Cheese, homemade ice cream and organic granola bars. There will also be an array of local artisans offering some crafts and apparel

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



JCs Bakery



Produce on display at FSW farmers market

Foundation Seeks Applicants For Scholarships

This year, living near Coconut Point could help a graduating senior pay for college. Simon Youth Foundation, a national nonprofit that provides educational opportunities for at-risk high school students, has begun looking for a graduating senior who lives within 50 miles of Coconut Point.

Each year, Simon Youth Community Scholarships are awarded in every community across the country that is home to Simon, Mills or Premium Outlets malls. The application period has begun and ends on March 1.

Students can apply online by visiting syf.org/scholarships.

Any student who will be graduating in the class of 2016 and lives within 50 miles of a Simon property is eligible. Recipients will receive up to \$1,500 to enroll in an accredited college, university, vocational or technical school.

In 2015, the Simon Youth Foundation awarded \$1.2 million to 300 students nationwide.

"The cost of college continues to rise, and SYF is proud to partner with Coconut Point to award scholarships that will remove some of the financial obstacles that could otherwise prevent a


continued on page 23

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Doctor and Dietitian Eliminate The Back Pain Blues



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

How many people do you know who suffer from low back pain? It's one of the most common pain conditions. There are numerous treatments aimed at giving temporary relief for that nagging pain, but understanding what causes back pain can lead to a more long-term treatment.

When you injure your low back, you may just tweak a muscle, and in a few days the muscle heals up and you are back to normal. But when that pain lasts and becomes chronic, low back pain can become disabling and interfere with life as you know it. Very frequently, the underlying cause of chronic low back pain is injury to the ligaments.

Ligaments aid in the stability of the back. When you stand, bend and turn, the ligaments in the back – which connect vertebrae to vertebrae – work to keep the motion in check, allowing the vertebrae to move, but not letting them move too much. However, when the back is injured from a force greater than what the ligaments can withstand, the ligaments get injured.

Injured ligaments become weak and stretched out. Picture a rubber band stretched past its capacity, and void of elasticity. In this state, the ligaments are unable to stabilize the area of the back where they are located, and the back becomes unstable. Ligaments are full of nerves, so when you go about your daily activities, and bend or twist or even sit too long, those nerves get aggravated and you feel pain. You also might notice cracking and popping, muscle spasms and feelings like your back is going to give out.

For chronic low back pain or a sports injury, regenerative, non-surgical options like Prolotherapy are can be considered, a treatment which repairs injured ligaments and provides sustained pain relief.

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@carimgmedical.com.✱

dearPharmacist

Three Surprising Options To Relieve Menopause



by Suzy Cohen, RPh

Dear Readers: The dreaded hot flashes of menopause are often more than just a mere nuisance, they can disrupt your life day and night. I have been menopausal for 3 years and luckily have

yet to experience a single hot flash or any symptom for that matter, but several friends suffer terribly. They have to change bed sheets from the sweats, and often complain they feel like they're on fire. Menopause causes changes in mood, weight gain and insomnia.

The most popular supplements touted for menopause include black cohosh, flax seeds, soy-based supplements, alfalfa, and/or ginseng. Natural progesterone is often used too and this comes in an over-the-counter cream as well as several prescription types. These may help to some extent but right now I'd like to share new research.

Scientists have been looking at serotonin hormone levels. We know serotonin is an important brain neurotransmitter, more specifically it's one of our "happy" brain chemicals. The impact serotonin has on other hormone levels including estrogen can't be

underestimated. When serotonin is low, the brain experiences dangerous oxidative damage and neurons die. This could precipitate hot flashes, insomnia, and mood swings catapulting you into a pro-inflammatory state with a disrupted sleep cycle and appetite like nobody's business. It could be a mean menopause.

Based upon this new information, I can make natural suggestions for you to ponder. You should consult a physician because raising serotonin isn't always the answer, and can sometimes backfire. I don't know what's right for each of you. That said, here are some over-the-counter considerations:

5-HTP – This essential amino acid is formed from "tryptophan" which is found naturally in turkey, cheese and nuts. It's sold as a dietary supplement and it forms serotonin in your body. Remember, without adequate serotonin, hot flashes, irritability and insomnia are more likely to occur. Please don't ever combine 5-HTP with any prescribed antidepressants or Serotonin Syndrome may result!

Melatonin – When serotonin breaks down in your body, it forms melatonin which is one of your natural sleep hormones. You make this, and it's sold as a supplement. Melatonin is great if you want to sleep a little bit longer. It's a strong antioxidant and helps reduce that oxidative stress (and resulting inflammation) that I mentioned earlier. A Polish study published in *Prz Menopauzalny* (Menopausal Review) just evaluated melatonin in menopausal women. Women who received 5mg of melatonin each night for 24 weeks not only slept better but also lost a little weight. I have to say, 5mg is a rather hefty dose!

Resveratrol – This provides natural estrogen-like activity (phytoestrogen) because resveratrol has a similar structure to 17 beta estradiol (our natural estrogen). Restoring estrogen levels may relieve hot flashes and help you sleep. It's usually taken at night for that reason.

If you'd like to receive a more comprehensive version of this article with

more tips sign up for my free newsletter at suzycohen.com. Remember to ask your physician if these are right for you.

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.✱

From page 22

Simon Youth Foundation

student from achieving the dream of a college education," said Michael Durnil, SYF president and CEO.

The 2016 SYF Community Scholarship recipients will be selected by International Scholarship and Tuition Services, Inc. (ISTS), a third-party administrator. Students are selected based on a variety of criteria, including financial need, academic performance, leadership skills and participation in school and community activities. Those students who are the first in their family to pursue a post secondary education will also be given close consideration.

Scholarship recipients will be notified in May.✱

From page 21

Financial Focus

a financial services company. A financial professional can suggest ways of meeting these long-term care costs.

• **Caregiving** – It's possible, at least early in your retirement years, that you could still be a caregiver to aging parents. If so, you might need to factor in these costs to your financial strategy. Later on, you may need some caregiving yourself, such as that provided by a home health aide. So you'll need to consider these potential expenses.

Your retirement years can be filled with activities and accomplishments. And you can get even more enjoyment from this time of life if you stick to an appropriate longevity strategy.

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

Our email address is press@riverweekly.com

Free Veterans Wellness Fair

On Saturday, January 16 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., the American Legion Melvin Cowart Post 274 and Estero Island Medical Care are hosting their annual Veterans Wellness Fair. The fair is free for Southwest Florida veterans and first responders.

Screening services are being offered in multiple fields: internal medicine; eye care; audiology; dermatology; radiology; orthopedics; dentistry; ultrasound; diabetic testing; immunizations; flu shots; physical therapy and fitness; home health care and assisted living care; Park Royal Hospital; mobile mammogram van; Lee Memorial Health System Bloodmobile; veterans' services; VA Clinic diabetes and smoking cessation counselor; and benefit counseling, Fort Myers Veterans Center.

The fair is open to all veterans, regardless of affiliation or not to any veterans organization. Notifications and fliers will be given to the local legions, VFWs and to the Little Club with enough time to inform their membership. Verification of veterans status may be required, i.e. DD 214, VA ID card, Military ID, or Florida Drivers license with "V." All those who visit will receive a screening, not a detailed, explicit exam or diagnosis. Doctors, physicians assistants, technicians and counselors will be available to counsel and/or make recommendations and

referrals if requested and/or warranted. All consultations will be in as private an area as possible.

"We have great support of many of the local practitioners and other medical/physical vendors. Each participant has volunteered their time to evaluate any veteran or first responder that comes in. The fair is open to all southwest Florida veterans and First Responders, regardless if they are a member of the American Legion or not," said Bob Penta, adjutant and chairman of the Wellness Fair committee, American Legion Melvin Cowart Post 274. "This will be the third fair that we are hosting and we hope to continue for many more years. Last year, we had over 150 veterans come through for help."

Any participants in the bloodmobile will be eligible for prize drawings at the end of the fair. The Legion is providing free donuts and bagels in the morning, and with a free lunch to all those who take part in the Wellness Fair.

All providers are volunteering their time and expertise with no intention to supplement their business practices. They are doing this for the veterans and to help if possible.

The American Legion Melvin Cowart Post 274 is located at 899 Buttonwood Drive, Fort Myers Beach. For more information, call Bob Penta at 774-275-4060 or Mike Adcock, 2nd vice commander, at 463-6591 or send an email to legion-post274@aol.com.✱

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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,

Last night on TV I heard that Sandra Day O'Connor's husband is in love with another woman and she is thrilled and happy for him. Unfortunately her husband is in an Alzheimer's living complex. I am in the same position but am jealous when I visit him at his living complex. When I visit they are sitting together, holding hands and watching the world go by. I know that they are not responsible for their actions because of the disease, and I am told they mean a great deal to each other. My husband and his friend

are more contented, happier and less hostile and are enjoying their lives. Would you please help me to become more loving and understanding like Sandra Day O'Connor?

Helen

Dear Helen,

It sounds like you understand the situation but you are having a difficult time accepting it. Acceptance is a choice. You can choose to accept the situation and focus on the positives. Cognitively in a different place than you, your husband is content. By your own observations and staff comments your husband is less hostile, enjoying life in the moment. Or you can focus on the emotions of hurt and jealousy.

While I understand that these are normal feelings in situations of infidelity, your situation is not normal, nor is it infidelity. Brain illnesses in families, mothers, fathers, wives and husbands challenge families to love and care in different ways.

Perhaps in your situation (similar to Sandra Day O'Connor's), you must love and care enough to let go.

Pryce

Dear Helen,

Alzheimer's disease is one of the most feared in the 21st century. Nancy Reagan said that it was a disease "with a long goodbye."

No one knows how they will act and deal with the news when a loved one is diagnosed.

Your reaction to his illness is a very common one. It is an extremely difficult situation and many professionals working

in the field call it a family illness – everyone suffers. Your husband is not showing behavior against you and, who knows, he may even think his friend is you. He is no longer the man you married because of this disease.

Sandra Day O'Connor is showing love and kindness in an exceptional way; try if you can to follow her example.

Lizzie

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

Kiwanis Donate To Lee School's Autism Sensory Room Program



Metro-McGregor Kiwanis Club Immediate Past-President Diane Connell presents a \$1,500 check to Terri Myles to fund an autism sensory room in the School District of Lee County.

The Metro-McGregor Kiwanis Club has donated \$1,500 to the School District of Lee County to fund an autism sensory room. Terri Myles, autism program specialist with the School District of Lee County, accepted the donation on behalf of the program. The donation was funded by a \$750 grant from the Florida Kiwanis Foundation, which the Metro-McGregor Kiwanis Club matched.

The funds will go towards the purchase of furniture and equipment to create a sensory room for students with autism in the School District of Lee County. Approximately, 1,100 students with autism spectrum disorder are currently enrolled in the School District of Lee County. Twenty-seven of the 120 schools within the district offer social communication programs to serve the specific needs of students with autism. Of these schools, 15 have sensory rooms. Sensory rooms provide a welcoming, calm space where students can self-calm and gain control.

The Metro-McGregor Kiwanis Club is looking for more service-minded individuals and business professionals who would like to make a direct impact on the community through volunteering. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. in Fort Myers. For details on joining the Metro-McGregor Kiwanis Club, call club president Heather Chouinard at 332-4440 or email Heather.Chouinard@IBERIABANK.com. The Metro-McGregor Kiwanis Club can be found on Facebook or online at www.metro-mcgregor.com.✧



Dr. Tim Verwest in vehicle he uses to promote his dentistry practice

Dentist Donates 15,000 Toothbrushes

Dr. Tim Verwest, DMD, of Pediatric Dentistry of Fort Myers, gave away over 15,000 free toothbrushes during dental presentations in 2015. Children in Lee, Collier, and Charlotte counties were the primary recipients. Over the last two years Dr. Verwest has given away more than 35,000 toothbrushes.

"We're really making a difference. The way our community outreach has been received by the schools has been fantastic," said Verwest, whose practice provides free dental health and oral hygiene presentations to preschools, elementary and private schools throughout Southwest Florida. Children learn the importance of healthy eating habits, dental facts, and the proper instruction on brushing their teeth.✧

Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign Total

After 45 days, and approximately 36,000 hours of the ringing of the bells beside the iconic Salvation Army Red Kettles, The Salvation Army Fort Myers Area Command announced the total collected for the 2015 season is \$525,740. Plus, adding in the \$200,000 challenge grant,

the combined total for the Red Kettle Campaign in Lee County is \$725,740. Maj. Tim Gilliam, Area Commander in Fort Myers, expressed profound gratitude to the community for their amazing support of the important work of The Salvation Army in the Lee County command.

"I never cease to be amazed at the kindness and generosity of our donors. We issued a challenge and they definitely rose to meet it. I couldn't be more proud or more grateful," said Gilliam. "We are also extremely grateful to the Schultz Family Foundation for their generous support."✧

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SPORTS QUIZ

1. In 2015, the Marlins' Giancarlo Stanton became the franchise leader in career home runs. Who had held the mark?
2. Who holds the Detroit Tigers record for most career strikeouts by a pitcher?
3. In 2013, Dallas' Tony Romo became the second quarterback in NFL history to throw for 500 yards and five touchdowns in a loss. Who was the first?
4. Duke's Mike Krzyzewski, in 2015, became the first NCAA men's basketball coach to record 1,000 career victories. Who was the second?
5. In the 2014-15 NHL season, only one player for the New Jersey Devils tallied more than 20 goals. Who was it?
6. Which country has won the most Winter Olympic medals overall?
7. In 2015, Jordan Spieth became the sixth male golfer to win the Masters and the U.S. Open in the same year. Name three of the other five to do it.

ANSWERS

1. Dan Uggla, with 154 home runs. 2. Mickey Lohch, with 2,679 strikeouts. 3. Detroit's Matthew Stafford, in the 2011 season. 4. Herb Magee, with Division II Philadelphia University, also in 2015. 5. Left wing Mike Cammalleri, with 27. 6. Norway, with 329 medals (118 gold, 111 silver, 100 bronze). 7. Ben Hogan, Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Craig Wood and Tiger Woods.

“I would like to see anyone -- prophet, king or God -- convince a thousand cats to do the same thing at the same time.” -- Neil Gaiman

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R	E	L	Y		A	S	H		Y	E	L	P

ME FIRST

Across: 1. MEASLES, 2. TETANUS, 3. GNOKE, 4. DAEM.

Down: 1. MEASLES, 2. TETANUS, 3. GNOKE, 4. DAEM.



Florida Pompano with Blue Crab in Citrus Cream

- 1/2 cup dry white wine
- 1/4 cup shallots, minced
- 3 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 cup heavy cream
- 1/4 cup unsalted butter, cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 1 1/2 teaspoons grated lemon peel
- 8 ounces fresh blue crabmeat
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 tablespoon shrimp boil or seafood seasoning
- 4 six- to eight-ounce pompano fillets, skinless
- 1 bunch fresh parsley, chopped

Combine wine, shallots and lemon juice in small saucepan. Boil over medium-high heat until mixture is reduced to 1/3 cup. Add cream; simmer 5 minutes until thickened. Add butter cubes a few at a time and whisk until melted. Stir in lemon peel. Add crabmeat to sauce and heat through. Add salt and pepper to taste; set aside and keep warm. In a large skillet, heat oil over medium-high heat.

Season fillets with seafood seasoning and add to pan; cook 4 minutes per side until opaque in center. Place fillet in center of serving plate and top with crabmeat. Spoon additional sauce over all; sprinkle with parsley and serve.

Yields four servings.✪



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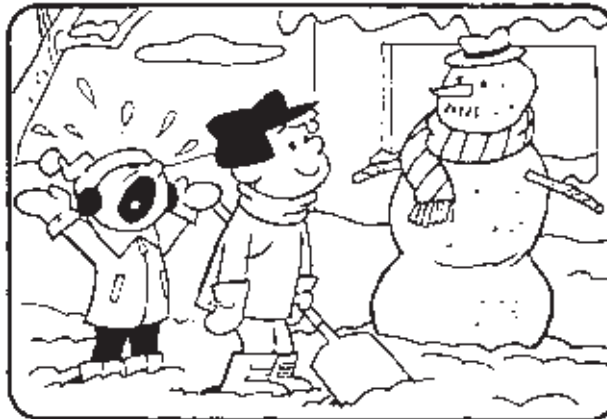
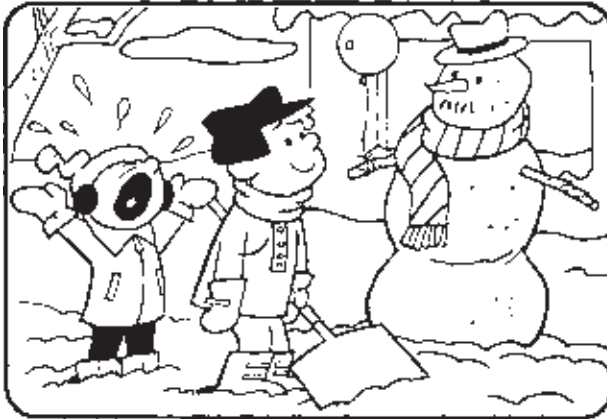


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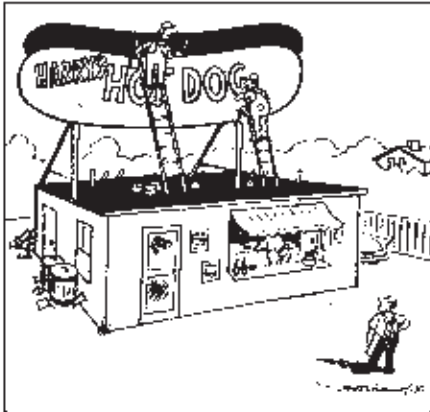
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Find at least six differences in details between panels.



FIND AT LEAST SIX DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS

Differences: 1. Cloud is smaller; 2. Button shape is missing; 3. Snowman is smaller; 4. Balloon is missing; 5. Scarf is shorter; 6. Hat is smaller.



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Mix

LEMING

Mean

DINES

Stress

BENDUR

Build

TERACE

TODAY'S WORD

answer on page 27

PUZZLE ANSWERS**SUDOKU**

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

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3. Burden; 4. Create*Today's Word*
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*NS 1/8 CC 1/15

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Reliable, honest, many years of experience, always on time!! Painting, Tile, Drywalls, Floors. Free Estimate. Walter 201-892-0353 "W&J house services"
*NS 1/8 CC 1/15

SANIBEL BLUE FINANCIAL

Need help with paying your bills?
Getting your mail?
Organizing your pre-tax worksheets?
What about someone to organize your desk?
Call an insured and bonded professional in to help:
Debi Almeida offers personal assistance for you. (Discreet and Trustworthy)
Call her today to meet 239-839-6443.
*NS 12/18 CC 2/5

SERVICES OFFERED

ELITE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE

Luxury Cars, Professional Drivers. Contract our services by the hour, day or week. 24/7. Nobody beats our prices, cars or service. Call Bo Bolen 239-823-5922.
*NS 1/15 CC 1/15

TUTOR

Retired New Trier Teacher wants to tutor Chemistry. 847-508-0428.
*RS 1/15 CC 1/29

HELLE'S CLEANING SERVICES

Residential Cleaning to Satisfaction Sanibel & Captiva • 239-565-0471
Sanibel Lic. #11412 Lee Co. Lic. #051047
*NS 1/4 PC TFN

SCARNATO LAWN SERVICE

Lawn Service, Shrubs and Tree Trimming Weeding, Installation of Plants, Trees and Mulch (one month free service available) Joe Scarnato (239) 849-6163 scarnatolawn@aol.com
*RS 1/25 BM TFN

SANIBEL HOME WATCH

Retired Police Captain Lives on Sanibel Will Check Your Home Weekly Very Reasonable Rates (239) 728-1971
*RS 1/4 BM TFN

ROGER NODRUFF ELECTRIC

Lic# EC12002788. Call Roger 239-707-7203. Aqualink - Motor Controls. Office & Store Maint.
*RS 6/7 CC TFN

To advertise in the
River Weekly News
Call 415-7732

TO PLACE A CLASSIFIED LOG ONTO:

IslandSunNews.com CLICK ON **PLACE CLASSIFIED**

★ ★ ★ CLASSIFIEDS ★ ★ ★ CLASSIFIEDS ★ ★ ★

HELP WANTED

BICYCLE RENTAL AGENTS

Billy's Rentals needs Bicycle Rental agents to assist customers. Must be friendly & enjoy outside work. PT/FT w/benefits. Transport from Ft. Myers available. \$9-\$10.+ Call Robin 239-472-5248 or email vanessa@sanibelbike.com

*NS 1/8 CC 1/15

LEGAL SECRETARY

Henderson, Franklin seeks an experienced legal secretary for their Sanibel office. Experience in real estate and/or estate planning a plus. For more details go to www.henlaw.com

*NS 1/15 CC 1/22

NON-PROFIT DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

The Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife, Inc. (CROW) is seeking an experienced Development Director with 3 to 5 years experience in non-profit fundraising. Candidates should have a proven track record in managing memberships, grant writing, event planning, donor cultivation, direct mail, and planned giving. Working knowledge of Donor Perfect a plus.

Requirements

Bachelors degree, excellent communication skills, strong writing and presentation skills, ability to work collaboratively, comfort interacting with major donors, ability to multi-task and meet deadlines.

E-mail cover letter, resume and salary requirements to lestep@crowclinic.org or mail to Dr. Linda Estep, Executive Director, CROW, PO Box 150, Sanibel, FL 33957.

*NS 1/1 CC 1/22

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

*NS 11/1 NC TFN

HELP WANTED

PART TIME CLEANING HELP NEEDED

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

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

*NS 1/8 CC 1/15

HAIR STYLIST BOOTH RENTAL AVAILABLE

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

*RS 3/13 CC TFN

JERRY'S FOODS WAITRESSES OR WAITERS

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

*NS 5/29 CC TFN

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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

*NS 7/11 NC TFN



BOATS - CANOES - KAYAKS

DOCKAGE

Hourly, Daily, Weekly and Monthly.

Captiva Island 472-5800

*RS 1/4 NC TFN

AUTO FOR SALE

KARMANN GHIA CONVERTIBLE

1971, 4 spd, yellow. Has tonneau cover, rear seat. Top like new. Sanibel car. Runs great! Asking \$13,900. 239-395-2969.

*NS 1/8 CC 1/15

LOST AND FOUND

HELP FIND SOOKIE



A Sanibel family is seeking help in finding their beloved cat, Sookie. The 2-year-old female black cat (with one white toe) is very friendly. She was last seen on December 29 in the Angel Drive/Dixie Beach Boulevard area. If found, please contact Holli Martin at 618-401-0674 or holli@floridamartins.com.

*NS 1/8 NC TFN

FOR SALE

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

6 Counter Barstools, 2 Twin Extra Long Beds, 2 Wing Back Chairs, 2 Corner Chairs, 1 Swivel Chair, 1 Recliner Chair, Entry Table, Extra Large Dog Crate, Blue Ox Tow Bar. Call for prices 239-579-0019.

*NS 1/15 CC 1/15



GARAGE • MOVING • YARD SALES

GARAGE SALE

1235 Par View Dr Sanibel

Fri Jan 15th 9-4

Sat Jan 16th 9-1

Furniture Household items Framed art Pieces & clothing

*NS 1/15 CC 1/15

SANIBEL GARAGE SALE

1418 Sanderling Circle (in the Dunes)

Saturday, January 16, 2016

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Girl's toys (age 3-9), Dining Room Set, bikes, etc.

*NS 1/15 CC 1/15

Shore Fishing:



Don't Harm The Fish

by Capt. Matt Mitchell

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

- Hold the fish in the water while you unhook it if you're going to release it.

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

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

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

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

Top 10 Real Estate Sales

Development	City	Year Built	Square Footage	Listing Price	Selling Price	Days On Market
Palmetto Point	Fort Myers	2013	4,868	\$4,500,000	\$3,750,000	93
Shell Harbor	Sanibel	1976	2,729	\$2,447,000	\$2,150,000	20
Sanctuary	Bonita Springs	1999	3,212	\$1,109,000	\$1,037,500	16
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	2003	4,126	\$1,195,000	\$937,500	38
Cornwallis	Cape Coral	2001	2,464	\$875,000	\$855,000	58
Gulf Shores	Sanibel	1988	3,484	\$874,900	\$855,000	199
Cypress Bend	Fort Myers	2014	4,121	\$797,670	\$752,670	0
Catalpa Cove	Fort Myers	1994	3,243	\$739,000	\$725,000	14
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	2014	2,697	\$699,000	\$675,000	86
Mcgregor Reserve	Fort Myers	2002	3,904	\$675,000	\$662,000	155

Courtesy of Royal Shell Real Estate

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

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

My name is Brownie. You will not find a dog with a better temperament than me. My past life has been one episode of neglect after another. When I was just a year old, I had an injury that went untreated and I had to have my leg removed. Even though I'm a three-legged dog, it hasn't slowed me down a bit. I can even climb stairs. My positive personality just keeps shining through. I hope my forever family comes soon. My adoption fee is \$30 (regularly \$75) during Animal Services' Yappy New Year adoption promotion.

I'm Betsy and I'm a bit shy but a purring machine. I will sit in your lap and give you lots of love. You just have to adopt me first. My adoption fee is \$30 (regularly \$75) during Animal Services' adoption promotion.

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.☆



Brownie ID# 476949



Betsy ID# 649277



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

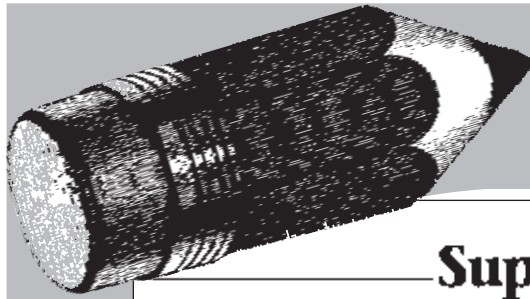
CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS	
Angel Flight	1-877-4AN-ANGEL
Animal Refuge Center	731-3535
American Business Women Association	357-6755
Audubon of SWFL	339-8046
Audubon Society	472-3156
Caloosahatchee Chapter DAR.....	482-1366
Caloosahatchee Folk Society	321-4620
Cape Chorale Barbershop Chorus.....	1-855-425-3631
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

HORROR STORIES

ACROSS

- 1 Light board
figs.
5 Entrap
10 Entrap
16 Lays flat in
the ring
19 Diamond
with many
hits
20 Suffers
defeat
21 "Recovery"
racer
22 Gardner of
film
23 Women's
suffrage
leader
26 Kept out of
sight
27 Spherical
body
28 Swing back
and forth
29 Bonzo, e.g.
30 Grappled,
rural-style
32 Journal
keeper
34 Kind of
deodorant
37 Helper
38 Nobody —
business
39 Actress who
played
Marcia in
"The Brady
Bunch
Movie"

- 43 Like some
red hair
44 "— it is!"
45 Core military
groups
46 —jongo (I e
game)
48 Force (upon)
51 Glucose, to
fructose
55 "We can only
do this as a
pair"
62 Bulling
63 Fender fan
bell or fuel
line
64 Rice —
(boxed food
mix)
65 Savory
spreads
67 Pianist Gilels
68 Measure of
national
economic
health
73 In (within
a living
organism)
74 Tower of —
76 Acting parts
77 More brutal
79 mode
80 It might
include light
therapy
85 Alternative to
frozen yogurt
87 De-knot

- 88 Passing vote
89 Composer
Glass
93 Some frozen
waffles
95 Little-seen
buzz
99 Three-point
beater, often
104 River in Italy
105 Baseball's
Hershey
106 Singer Tony
107 Call before
the court
109 Most dismal
112 CBS hit
with two
spin-offs
113 Jar —
(relative of
handful)
114 In line
115 U.S. "Uncle"
116 Their titles
are found at
the starts of
23-, 39-, 55-,
68-, 80- and
99-Across
121 Feasted on
122 Clandestine
123 Nurtured
native
124 As blind as
—
125 Get bronze
126 See 60-
Down
127 Fill in for
128 Amateur

DOWN

- 1 Made cryptic
2 With crying
3 Home of
military craft
4 Camera
type, in metal
5 Oodles
6 Ruining from
a pale
unhappy
7 Washed out
8 Mens —
(criminal
intent, in law)
9 Mind-reading
skill
10 Infusion
vessel
11 More than
a little
forgetful
12 Actor Cagney
to pals
13 Made knotty
14 "— Smile Be
Your
Umbrella!"
15 Rescue crew
VIPs
16 "The
Prophet"
author
Gibran
17 Spanish city
18 Less happy
24 Cow named
daily
25 Earth's
neighbor
31 Authority

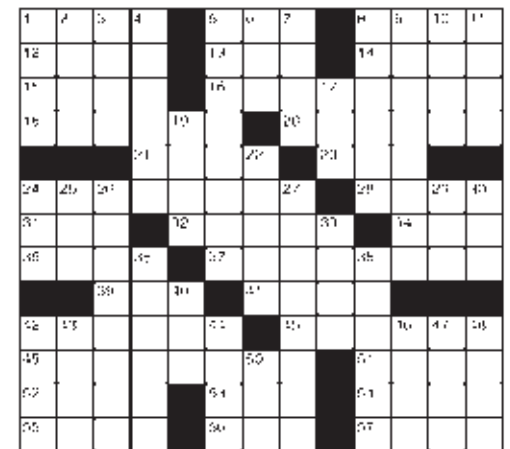
- 33 State free of
Rhode Island
34 What "—" is
35 Letters sung
by kids
36 Stop time
40 Hold to fast
the weight of
41 H.S. math
42 Fable penner
44 Heal: Prefix
47 Abhor on an
FBI poster
49 Emulates a
homemade
50 Spelling of
"Scream 2"
52 Not fixed in
one place
53 Late morning
hour
54 Getaway site
55 Cooling pack
56 "Hot" dish
57 Clam-related
58 Mixes up
59 Whole bunch
60 With 126-
Across, it
celebrates
61 Brother's
daughter
66 Hosary
prayer
69 Upper
Miawel's —
Cana's
70 State free of
North Dakota
71 Contact lens
care brand

- 72 "ER" pictures
75 Ballerina-like
78 Onetime
Arapaho foe
81 Dark film
82 SALT topic
83 Close-fitting
84 Park
(part of
Queens)
86 Pertain
90 Clinical
scientist, for
short
91 Mineral suffix
92 Penny —
(slingy sort)
94 Earache
formally
96 Comply with
97 Has fuel
98 Mexico's
Zedillo
99 Filled in for a
pouch owner
100 Port goods
101 Sailors
102 First stages
103 No, to Klaus
104 Set of three
106 Spouts of
110 Petrol brand
111 Do a under
113 "... some
kind of ?"
117 — K
118 Sorento and
Soul maker
119 U.S. "Lid."
120 Brewpub
tub

King Crossword

ACROSS

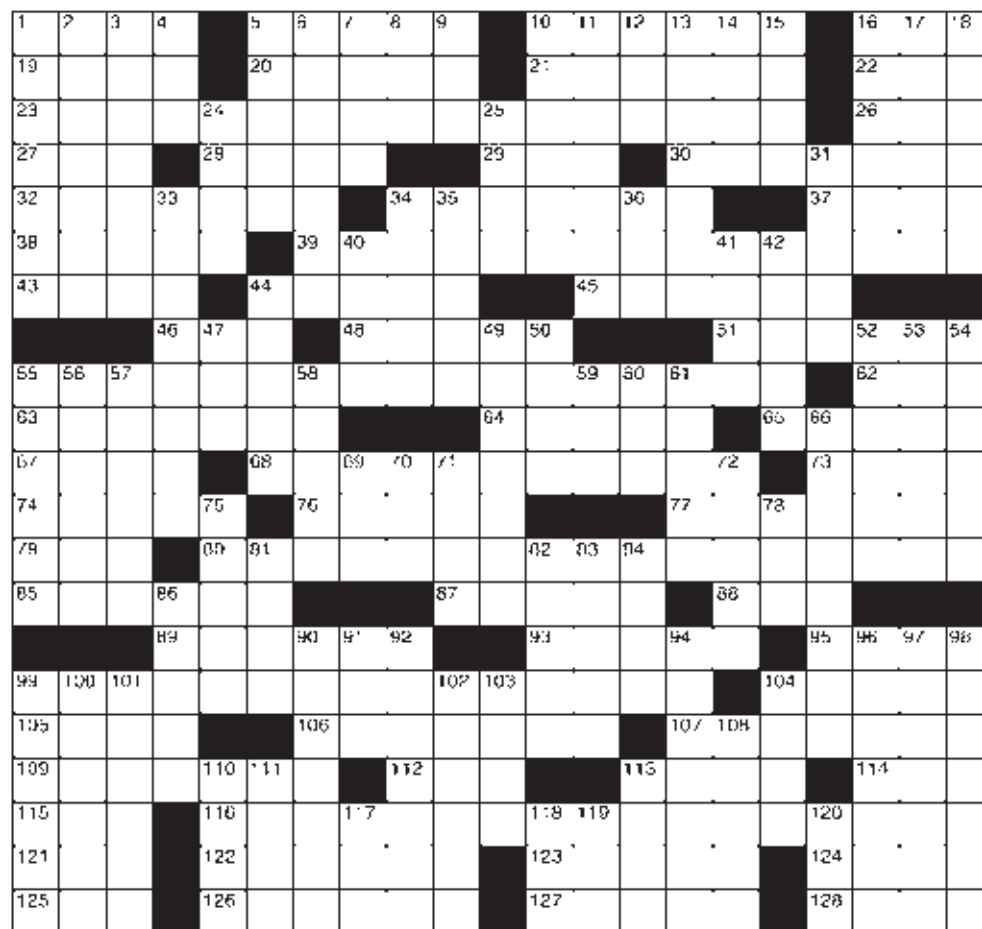
- 1 Lose color
5 Actress
Lupino
8 Half a ticket
12 Not "for"
13 Neither
mate
14 Bean curd
15 Tim Man's
problem
16 Carriage
18 Cookbook
entry
20 Underscore
21 Lacks the
ability
23 Brit.
reference
book
24 One
seeking
political
asylum
28 Unac-
companied
31 — Khan
32 Doctrine
34 Tiny
35 Trumpet, e.g.
37 Shame
39 Third letter
41 Close up
tight
42 Narcotic
45 Jackson or
Johnson
49 Oppressive
ruler
51 Skeleton
component
52 October



- birthstone
53 Peacock
network
54 Reed
instrument
55 Depend on
56 Blond shade
57 Shriek bark
9 Make less
intense
10 Venusian
vessels?
11 Prickly
sued cases
17 Ike's
command
in WWII
19 Treaty
22 Morrison
and Braxton
24 Doo follower
25 Id counter-
part
26 Absurd
27 Use
Wikipedia,
maybe
29 Zodiac felix
30 "— the
ramparts we
watched
33 Compared to
36 Without
making a
mess
38 Address to
a bloke
40 Greek vowel
42 Smell
43 Meers-
baum, e.g.
44 Sicilian
spouter
46 Post-hum
attire
47 Carbon
compound
48 Cry
50 Out of use,
as a wd.

DOWN

- 1 Jamie o'
"M'A'S'H"
2 Chills and
fever
3 Platter
4 Lure
5 Starred a
paragraph
6 Female deer
7 Weaponry
8 Gawks



MAGIC MAZE • ME FIRST

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

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

Mead	Meanie	Medium	Meteor
Meager	Measles	Meek	Meter
Meal	Meat	Meet	Mew
Meander	Media	Mekong	

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