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THE RIVER WEEKLY NEWS

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Vol. 15, No. 48

From the Beaches to the River District downtown Fort Myers

DECEMBER 2, 2016

Trio Of Artists Featured At ACT Gallery During Art Walk

Arts for ACT Gallery will hold an opening reception on Friday, December 2 from 6 to 10 p.m. during Art Walk. The exhibits will also be on view on Saturday, December 3 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

This month, the gallery features the art of Kim Kraft-Beckler along with Reflections artist Lisette Morales and urban artist Nick Masiello, exhibiting MSTRMNDCTRL.

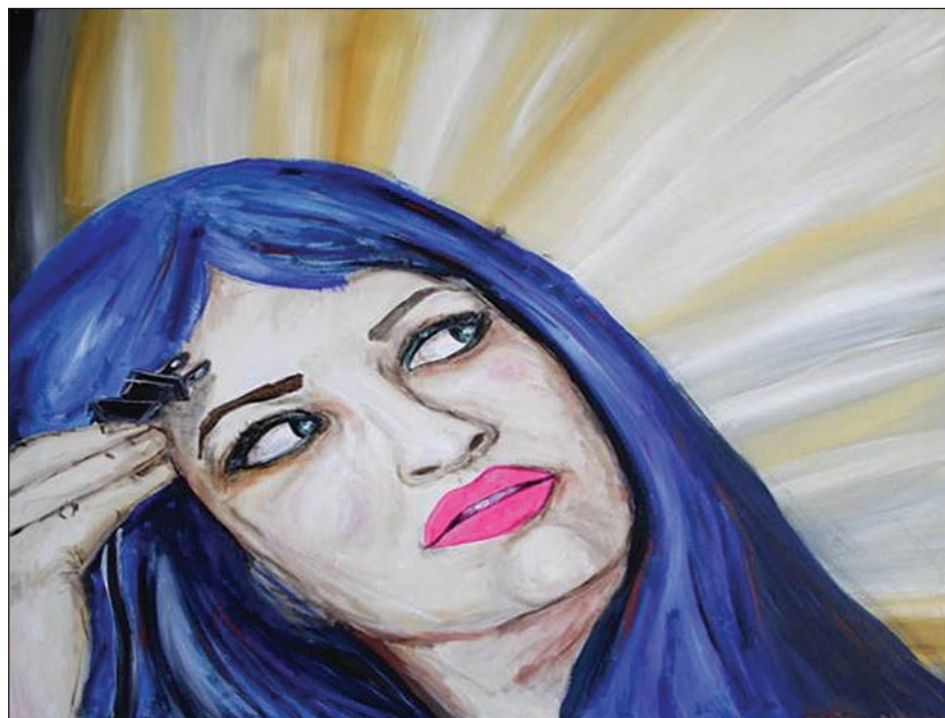
Kraft-Beckler, a naive realist, is an award-winning artist trained in commercial art. Subjects of beauty in nature and the human spirit are what she chooses to depict. If Kraft-Beckler can invoke feelings of happiness in her viewers, then her art has done what she has desired it to do. Her art is in corporate, personal and celebrity collections here and abroad. Expect to see painted furniture, gourd art and other forms of mixed media in this exhibit.

Lisette Morales was born in Nicaragua in 1970 but has lived most of her life on the East Coast of the United States. She is an interdisciplinary artist with interest



Work by Nick Masiello

images courtesy Arts for ACT



Portrait by Lisette Morales

in expressive painting, India ink illustrations, knitting, crochet and hand sewing. Morales attended design school in New York City. She is currently the contributing illustrator for *El Café Latino*, a Parisian magazine. Morales lives in south Florida with her daughter Lucrezia and their animal companions. Creating artistically is part

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Illinois Native Wins Sand Sculpting Title

Brian Turnbough's *Finding Peace* captured top honors in the solo division of the 30th annual American Sand Sculpting Championship at the Wyndham Garden Hotel on Fort Myers Beach during the 10-day festival that ended last Sunday. He was followed by Greg Grady's *Heartache* in second place and Wilfred Stijger's *Pillow Dreams* in third. Turnbough hails from Illinois, while Grady is from New Hampshire and Stijger is from the Netherlands.

The 2016 doubles division winners were Canada's Melineige Beauregard and Portugal's Joris Kivit with *Let's Meet* in first place, Canadians Delyane Corbett and Craig Mutch with *Wings of Imagination* in second place, and Californian Bruce Phillips and Netherlands' Maxim Gazendam with *Insight* in third place.

Let's Meet also picked up People's Choice and Sculptors' Choice awards in doubles, while Bulgaria's Remy Hoggard with *Guardian* was chosen People's Choice in the solo division.

Lisa Fewless captured the 2016 Advanced Amateur National and Florida



Finding Peace

photos by Bob Petcher

State Championship with *Friends with the Monster*. Paul Warren placed second with *No More Monkeys*, Dales Andrews took third with *Sand Castle Factory* and Amanda Bolduc took fourth and People's Choice with *Pieces of Me*.

The largest sand sculpting event in



Heartache

Florida featured master sand sculptors from around the world, more than 40 sand sculptures, Quick Sand speed sand sculpting, photo opportunity sculptures, Kids Zone, sand sculpting demonstrations and lessons, an amateur contest, Florida championships and a Sand Vendor Village with more than 50 vendors.

For more information, visit www.fmbandsculpting.com or the event's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/SandSculptingFestival.

Cultural District Offers A Variety Of Attractions

The SoCo Cultural District and Second Saturday event continues on Saturday, December 10 from 5 to 10 p.m. This new art district block runs from Colonial Boulevard, down McGregor Boulevard to Royal Palm Square Boulevard, over to Summerlin

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Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

Auto Age Begins



by Gerri Reaves, PhD

Around 1909, Ben P. King acquired property on Jackson Street and opened up the town's first garage. Pictured in the circa-1915 photo is a forerunner to the traditional full-service filling station. It was just south of First, on property now occupied by CenturyLink.

The garage was a sign of things to come, for in the 1920s, numerous filling stations would dot the downtown landscape. It might be said that King, with Hill & Co. Garage opening in quick succession, marked the beginning of the automobile age in Fort Myers, although there were a few pioneer motorists in town as early as 1905.

Pictured in front of the corrugated-iron garage are (l to r) Littleton Yent, Clyde Langford, Ben King, Walter Thomas, Hal Frierson, G. Hunter Bryant and Durwood Lynn.

In May 1909, King and Frierson made local transportation history when they drove a Rambler all the way from Tampa with only four blowouts on the trip – roads were terrible in 1909.

Note the Michelin tire sign over the entrance, the “no smoking” sign over the doorway and the antiquated gasoline pump (right). In addition to a large machine shop, the business had a 120-gallon underground gasoline tank.

Auto storage was in demand, probably by seasonal residents or people without home garages, so King soon added a 60-car garage.

He also was an agent for Maxwell cars, a make that disappeared from the roads long ago.

King, a former electrician for the Seminole Power & Ice Company, was known for his mechanical genius.



Ben P. King opened Fort Myers's first garage and filling station in this corrugated-iron building on Jackson Street circa 1909 photo courtesy SWFL Historical Society

In 1908, just before opening the garage, Ben P. King's shop had been in the Stone Block (today's Leon Building), the 1905 building on the southwest corner of First and Hendry. The shop was equipped with a lathe suitable for heavy work.

The shop also repaired bicycles, machines and guns. Gas-engine work was a specialty.

The enterprising mechanic also was in business with AE Raymond on the City/Jackson Street Dock. The King & Raymond machine shop specialized in marine repairs and gasoline engines.

All that that might not sound impressive nowadays, when the internal combustion engine is old-hat and being rivaled by alternative energy sources, but in the first decade of the 20th century, Fort Myers was just starting to see the first horseless carriages on its unpaved streets.

King's work was cutting edge, and he worked on many makes of cars that have faded into auto history, such as Reo, Rambler, Hudson, Essex, Ford Model-T, Baby Overland, Maxwell and Studebaker.

Walk down Jackson Street to the site where mechanic Ben King worked his magic on the town's first automobiles. Consider the factors added to the downtown transportation mix in the last century – one-way streets, bridge ramps, Zip parking, free trolleys, multi-story parking garages and pedestrian-friendly streetscapes.

Learn more about the town's transition to the automobile age at the following two research centers.

The Southwest Florida Historical Society is an all-volunteer non-profit organization open Wednesday and Saturday between 9 a.m. and noon and Wednesday 4 to 7 p.m. It is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard on the campus of the Lee County Alliance for the Arts. Call 939-4044 or visit swflhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

The Lee County Black History Society is located at 1936 Henderson Avenue, adjacent to the Williams Academy Museum at Roberto Clemente Park.

Hours for the all-volunteer non-profit organization are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Friday.

For information, call 332-8778 or visit leecountyblackhistorysociety.org.

Sources: Archives of the Southwest Florida Historical Society, The Fort Myers Press, and The Story of Fort Myers by Karl H. Grismer.*



Today, the monolithic CenturyLink building stands on the former garage site photo by Gerri Reaves

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THE RIVER
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FROM THE BEACHES TO DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS

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Santa and Mrs. Claus with their elves Destiny Tarrats and Angelee Tarrats, both of Cape Coral

Christmas Carol Sing To Help Feed The Hungry

Celebrate the holidays and help feed the hungry by singing at the 26th annual Christmas Carol Sing sponsored by the Galloway Family of Dealerships.

The Christmas Carol Sing will be held on Tuesday, December 6 at First Presbyterian Church, 2438 Second Street in downtown Fort Myers, between Lee Street and Royal Palm Avenue. Admission is free, although organizers request voluntary donations of at least two cans of non-perishable food for The Soup Kitchen, operated by Community Cooperative, and a voluntary cash donation, if you can.

Because of the overwhelming popularity of the event, three sing-alongs are planned at 1, 4 and 7 p.m. The doors will open 30 minutes prior to showtime.

Community Cooperative provided food and other services to 10,250 people last year with the help of partner agencies, including the Harry Chapin Food Bank and United Way agencies.

Community Cooperative was founded in 1984 to help alleviate hunger and suffering in Lee County. The church has been a strong supporter of the agency from the beginning and continues to support its ministry there by providing volunteers and other support for The Soup Kitchen and the Meals On Wheels program.

Hymn Sing organizer Sam Galloway, Jr., has made feeding the hungry part of his life's work.

"Our community has done so much to help our neighbors, but we need to do even more. If we each just gave the equivalent of what we would spend on a meal – either at home or in a restaurant – those few dollars could feed a family of four for an entire week," Galloway said.

Galloway said cash donations are especially needed because Community Cooperative can buy five times as much food for the same amount of money that residents spend at local grocery stores.

Residents who cannot attend any of the Christmas Carol Sing performances may donate canned goods at either the Galloway Ford dealership on Boy Scout Drive or the Coconut Point Ford dealership on U.S. 41 in Estero or mail donations to Community Cooperative, P.O. Box 2143, Fort Myers, FL 33902.

The Christmas Carol Sing is a festival of holiday music and family fun. This year's 90-minute performance will feature the First Presbyterian Church Choir, soloists and other special guests singing favorite holiday carols with audience sing-a-longs.

There is a strong rumor that Santa Claus will be making a surprise visit for the "children in all of us."

The Christmas Carol Sing is the third of three hymn sings sponsored annually by the Galloway Family of Dealerships. The other two are Mrs. Edison's Hymn Sing on February 7 and First Celebrates Freedom on July 6. All three events benefit The Soup Kitchen of Community Cooperative.

Last year, Community Cooperative received more than 2,000 pounds of canned goods and other non-perishable items from the Christmas Carol Sing. The food was immediately distributed to those in need.

For more information, call First Presbyterian Church at 334-2261 or visit www.fpcfortmyers.org.✽



Soloist Beth Filiowich singing *O Holy Night*
photos courtesy Community Cooperative



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



Sam Galloway, Jr. with his wife, Kathy, at last year's event



First Presbyterian Church pastor Rev. Paul deJong and his wife, Sheryl



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

Annual Tree Lighting

The River District Alliance hosts the annual Downtown Tree Lighting on Friday, December 2 at 7 p.m. during Art Walk.

This year Councilmember Teresa Watkins Brown will be accompanied by Santa Claus in her carriage that will travel through First Street on its way to the downtown tree on Hendry Street. Following the tree lighting and photos, the carriage will travel to the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center where Brown and Santa will light a wreath before visiting the Festival of Trees and the Christmas Concert by the Nowhere Band.

The outdoor evening is free. For more information, visit www.fortmyersriverdistrictalliance.com.✽

Young Artists Holiday Concert

The performers of the Young Artist Awards will entertain at a Holiday Concert sponsored by the Friends of the Fort Myers Library on Monday, December 19 at 6:30 p.m.

Callie Atkinson, a multi-year winner and finalist, is among those who will be performing. The concert is free and will be held in the library's meeting rooms at 1651 Lee Street in Fort Myers.

The mission of the Young Artists Awards program is to provide performing arts opportunities and scholarships in the areas of dance, drama, vocal and instrumental music performance.✽

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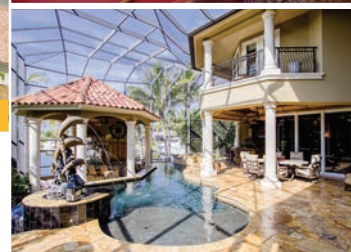
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Band director Richard Bradstreet

photo courtesy Lee County Community Bank

Magic Of The Holiday Season

The Lee County Community Band will awaken the magic of the holiday season in the young and young-at-heart when it presents its annual Christmas concert on Sunday, December 11.

The program will take place at 3 p.m. at Cape Coral High School, located at 2300 Santa Barbara Boulevard, just north of Veterans Parkway.

Director Richard Bradstreet has selected a program of both sacred and secular Christmas music, featuring *Parade of the Wooden Soldiers*, 'Twas the Night Before Christmas, *Jingle Bells Fantasy*, Bach's *Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring*, *Journey to Bethlehem*, *Caribbean Christmas* and several medleys of favorite Christmas carols.

Additional dates are January 22, February 12, March 5 and April 2. The concerts are free with donations accepted.

The 50-member adult band is comprised of professional and amateur musicians from all walks of life who reside in Lee, Collier and Charlotte counties. The band welcomes new members every year. For additional information, visit www.leecountyband.org or phone Norman Jones at 995-2097.✱

Author Reading And Book Signing



Nathan Hill

photo courtesy Alliance for the Arts

The Alliance for the Arts will host author Nathan Hill on December 6 from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

Hill's first novel, *The Nix*, is selling globally with translations in 22 languages. *The Nix* was a *New York Times* bestseller, named as one of fall's best books by Amazon.com, Barnes & Noble, Audible, Powell's, *IndieNext*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *Vogue* and many others.

Hill is a native Iowan, but moved to Naples in 2003 and taught writing at Florida Gulf Coast University from 2006 to 2012. Hill holds a bachelor of arts degree in English and journalism from the University of Iowa and a master of fine arts degree in creative writing from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at www.ArtInLee.org or by calling 936-3239. Alliance for the Arts is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers.✱

Mastersingers Holiday Performances

The Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers will have three December performances. The select ensemble of 80-plus voices, under the direction of artistic director Jeff Faux, will perform the Christmas portion of Handel's *Messiah* along with traditional Christmas carols at concerts on Sanibel, in downtown Fort Myers and at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall.

On Saturday, December 10 at 7 p.m., the Mastersingers host a *Messiah* sing-along at Citygate Ministries, located at 1735 Jackson Street in Fort Myers. The annual event will be accompanied by strings and features professional soloists. *Messiah* scores will be provided to singers. There is no admission charge, but a free-will offering will be collected to benefit the youth music program at Citygate Ministries, with a goal of developing the next generation of musicians and worshippers.

On Sunday, December 11 the Mastersingers will perform *Messiah and More* at 6 p.m. at the Sanibel

Community Church, located at 1740 Periwinkle Way. The performance is free and will feature guest soloists and the Mastersingers Festival Orchestra. A love offering will be taken to benefit Angel Tree, part of Prison Fellowship to purchase toys for children with a parent in prison. Concertgoers are encouraged to bring new toys to be distributed to area youngsters.

On Sunday, December 18 at 7 p.m., the Mastersingers join the Gulf Coast Symphony in their annual holiday concert, *Deck the Halls*, at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, located at 13350 FSW Parkway in Fort Myers. Tickets are available by going to <http://barbarabmannperformingarts.hall-tickets.org/>.

"The holidays are a time for family and tradition," said Anthony Contino, Mastersingers president. "Singing the *Messiah* with our friends and neighbors in Fort Myers every year and our annual trip to the Sanibel Community Church are an essential part of the Mastersingers' family tradition," he said.

"We are also very excited about renewing our collaboration with the Gulf Coast Symphony. The *Deck the Halls* concerts are great fun and provide a perfect opportunity for a family outing to usher in the holidays," said Contino.✱

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Greeters Club Luncheon

The holiday season is a perfect time for sharing. And members of the Greeters Club of Greater Fort Myers will be sharing a few of their favorite things with each other at their Thursday, December 15 luncheon.

The club is taking a page out of the *Sound of Music* (i.e. *brown paper packages tied up with strings*). It promises to be a special afternoon and, who knows,

you might discover a new "favorite thing."

The luncheon is \$20. To make a reservation and learn more about the group, email greetersclub@gmail.com. Provide your name, email address and phone number. You will receive a call confirming your reservation as well as an email confirmation.

Club luncheons are on the third Thursday of the month. Plan to arrive between 10:30 to 11:15 a.m to check in at the Colonial Country Club, located at 9181 Independence Way in Fort Myers.

Visit greetersclubofgreaterfortmyers.com for more information.✱

Outdoor Concert To Benefit Rotary Trust Fund



The Screaming Orphans

photo courtesy Alliance for the Arts

The Rotary Club of Fort Myers is bringing the Screaming Orphans back to Fort Myers on Saturday, January 14 for an outdoor concert at the Alliance for the Arts. Comprised of four sisters from Ireland, the Screaming Orphans are known for their high-energy music that blends pop rock with traditional Irish music. The concert benefits the Rotary Trust Fund.

"There is a great tradition of music to be found in Irish homes, especially in the Gaeltacht or Irish-speaking areas which have produced the likes of Clannad, Enya and Mairead, Micheal and Triona Ni Dhomhnaill. Our home was no exception. From when we were young, we've been singing and playing traditional Irish music, but when we hit our teenage years we knew it was time to start our own pop rock band."

Gates for the outdoor concert open at 6 p.m. West of Galway Irish and Celtic Band performs at 6:30 p.m. There will be a special performance by Abby Fletcher before the Screaming Orphans take the stage at 7:30 p.m. Pre-sale, online tickets are \$25 or \$35 at the gate. Children under 12, accompanied by an adult, are admitted at no charge. Lawn chairs and blankets are encouraged. No coolers. Beverages and food will be available for purchase.

The concert is presented by The Rotary Club of Fort Myers and sponsored by The Dorsey Law Firm. Purchase tickets by visiting ArtInLee.org/ScreamingOrphans or by calling 939-2787. Call 332-8158 for sponsorship information.

The Alliance for the Arts is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers.**

Indie Movie Mondays At Davis Art Center

On Monday, December 5, Thank God It's Monday will host Indie Movie Monday at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center. Guests can enjoy an autumn evening and then take in some of Southwest Florida's best indie films. This special engagement features guest judges Shawn Guenther, Larry Aguilar and Gina Birch. There will be a musical performance by Darrell Nutt.

Spend the night with host Eric Raddatz and co-host Melissa DeHaven to help the judges decide which films make the final cut for the Fort Myers Film Festival in March.

Join movie aficionados every first Monday in season for TGIM. Watch short indie films submitted to the Fort Myers Film Festival and help decide whether or not it makes the grade for final programming during the annual festival, to be held March 8 to 12. The Fort Myers Film Festival is an intelligent independent filmmaker's preferred event to create, unite and showcase the finest artistic cinematic works. The event has featured hundreds of local filmmakers and is a must attend for cineasts who love indie film and film festivals living in Lee, Collier and Charlotte counties.

Doors open for cocktails at 6:30 p.m., followed by the film screening at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults or \$8 for seniors and students. For more information, visit www.sbdac.com or www.fortmyersfilmfestival.com.

The Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center is located at 2301 First Street in the Fort Myers River District.**



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Fort Myers Art:

Holiday Nights Carries On Thomas Edison’s Christmas Legacy



by Tom Hall

Millions of electric lights and holiday decorations at Thomas Edison’s winter estate have been a tradition now for 41 years. Now known as Edison Ford Holiday Nights, the holiday celebration has grown since the early 1970s to include both neighboring Edison and Ford Estates with millions of lights, holiday decorations and festivities. And so, starting on the day after Thanksgiving, the entire property has once again turned into a celebration of the holidays that will continue through January 1.

But did you know that long before that, Thomas Edison and Henry Ford created their own personal legacy and contributions to the holidays as we now celebrate them? Although it took 41 years for the current celebration to reach its current proportions, most fourth graders in Southwest Florida know from their visits to the Edison & Ford Winter Estates that Thomas Edison and his group of inventors introduced the electric Christmas light in 1880 as one of his many inventions using electricity and electric lighting.

Just six years before Edison bought his estate in Fort Myers, he created the very first strand of electric lightbulbs for use as Christmas decorations. The development of holiday lighting includes the following:

- Thomas Edison and his muckers created the first strand of electric lightbulbs for use as a Christmas decoration. During Christmas 1880, he strung these strands around his Menlo Park, New Jersey complex, on the outside of the laboratory. Those who passed by via a nearby railroad would have had the privilege of glimpsing the first holiday electric light display.
- In 1882, Edward Johnston, Edison’s friend and partner in the Edison Illuminating Company, wired together the first strand of electric Christmas tree lights by hand. He wired 80 red, white and blue bulbs together, and strung them around his Christmas tree at this home in New York City. Not only was the tree lit up, but it revolved on a rotating base.
- In 1894, President Grover Cleveland displayed the first electrically lighted White House Christmas tree, which was lit with numerous small multi-colored lights.
- In the late 19th century, businesses began using Christmas lights in window displays. At this time, the services of a wireman, the equivalent of a modern-day



Edison Ford Holiday Nights continues through New Year’s Day

photo courtesy www.artswfl

electrician, were necessary to wire the lights to an existing outlet.

- Because electricity was both expensive and mistrusted, it took another 20 years for Christmas lights to become popular in the home. In 1903, General Electric offered kits of electric Christmas lights to the public for the very first time. These lights included miniature GE/Edison carbon filament lamps. The kits included blue, green, red and white bulbs.
- In 1917, Albert Sadacca, then a teenager, suggested to his family’s novelty lighting company, that they consider selling colored strands of Christmas lights to the public.
- In 1919, General Electric first introduced the cone-shaped Christmas light, which became the industry standard until the 1970s.
- In 1927, General Electric and the associated Edison Electric distribution companies introduced a colored-light contest as a marketing tool designed to encourage neighborhood decorating. This strategy was so successful that by the end of the 1920s, communities all over the United States began to hold decorating competitions featuring multi-colored lights.
- Henry Ford was also part of holiday traditions with his love of Santa Claus and inventive holiday decorating. His favorite holiday was Christmas, and he created a large Santa’s Workshop at his Michigan estate with lavish garden decorations, activities such as pony rides and games. He may have even dressed as Santa. He welcomed family, friends and the students from his school at Greenfield Village and distributed gifts and holiday cheer for everyone.

All of the tradition and history of the two inventors can be discovered at Edison Ford Holiday Nights. In addition to holiday activities, the property is open, including all of the historic buildings, the laboratory, museum stores, eating facilities and the 10,000-square-foot invention museum. Visitors say that it is like stepping back to an old fashioned holiday celebration with the decorations, traditions and entertainment.

The Edison & Ford Winter Estates is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and won the coveted top award from the National Trust several years ago for the recent \$14 million restoration. The gardens won a similar award from the National Council of Garden Clubs. Throughout the year, the property is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The hours are extended during Holiday Nights until 9 p.m. Holiday Nights is closed on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Edison Ford is not open on Thanksgiving or Christmas Day.

Christmas Musical At Downtown Theater

Another Night Before Christmas opened “off Broadway” at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre on November 17. If you’re in the market for something out of the ordinary this holiday season, then this touching musical may be just the ticket for you.

This family-fare holiday play centers around a disillusioned social worker by the name of Karol. Trudging home one cold December night, she encounters an old man by the name of Guy who is sitting on a park bench. Mistaking him for homeless, Karol offers him some food. But when he shows up later that evening in her apartment, not only does Karol find herself trapped with a burglar who claims to be Santa Claus, she’s forced to confront her feelings about Christmas once and for all. This is a show guaranteed to make you laugh ‘til you jiggle like a bowlful of jelly” as you are reminded of the true meaning of Christmas.

This show will be staged in Broadway Palm’s Off Broadway side theater, a cozy 100-seat environ that boasts a great view from every seat. Dinner is available, but unlike productions taking place in the main theater, dining for Off-Broadway shows is in a separate dining room. Matinees, twilight and evening performances are available. For days, times and ticket information, visit www.BroadwayPalm.com or call 278-4422. The Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre is located at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.

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.*



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Along The River

The River District Alliance in **downtown Fort Myers** is celebrating another month of **Art Walk**, held this Friday, December 2 from 6 to 10 p.m. and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Art Walk is a free, self-guided tour.

On Friday night, First Street is closed to traffic and local artists will be set up in the street selling their art. There will be face painting at several locations on First Street and at the Broadway and First Street intersection. The Fort Myers Art League will be hosting a Make It/Take It table for children of all ages. American Legion Veterans Gallery on Jackson Street will be showing art created by veterans.

On Saturday, most of the galleries will be open to visitors.

Fort Myers Art Walk features live music, live art demonstrations, and food and drinks available at local restaurants. A number of local boutiques participate as well.

Fort Myers Art Walk is hosted by The River District Alliance. For more information, visit www.fortmyersriverdistrictalliance.com.

While downtown on Friday, check out the **Nowhere Band** on the steps of the **Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center** (SBDAC). The free Beatles tribute band concert will feature all the best Beatles songs throughout Art Walk from 6 to 10 p.m.

Covering the full spectrum of The Beatles' long and varied career, the Nowhere Band creates an unparalleled reproduction, entirely live (with no pre-recorded material) of 1960s-era Beatles performances. The band blends period costumes, authentic instruments, modern lighting and an abundantly talented quartet of musicians to create an experience any true Beatles fan, young or young-at-heart, simply can't afford to miss.

For more information about the Nowhere Band, visit www.thenowhereband.com/

The **Edison & Ford Winter Estates Holiday Nights** continues each evening through January 1, except Christmas Eve and Christmas night. The Edison Ford Museum and Botanic Research Laboratory, as well as the Ford Cottage Shoppe, Museum Store and Garden Shoppe, will be open until 9 p.m. every evening. There will also be nightly entertainment and refreshments available for purchase.

Guided Holiday Tradition Tours will be offered at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m. nightly as well as Inside-the-Homes Holiday Tours on December 6, 13, 20 and 27 at 6:30 p.m. A sightseeing river cruise and sunset cruise are offered through Pure Florida at the Marina at Edison Ford.

Holiday Nights tickets for adults are \$20, teens (13 to 19) are \$10 and children (6 to 12) are \$2. Edison Ford members get in free. Guided Holiday Tradition Tours are \$30 for adults, teens are \$25, children \$18 and \$10 for Edison Ford members. Inside-the-Homes Holiday Tours are \$50.

Lee County residents will receive \$5 off an adult ticket on December 30 and 31 and January 1.

For more information, call 334-7419 or visit www.EdisonFordWinterEstates.org.

Take a nature walk along the paths at **Lakes Regional Park** with a **bird patrol guide** this Saturday, December 3 beginning at 8 a.m.

Participants will meet at Shelter A7. Enter the park's main gate and turn right. Drive to the end of the road and then continue through the parking lot. Shelter A7 is located near the train station.

The easy walk along clear paths offers an opportunity to see birds in native vegetation with experienced bird patrol guides pointing out the many species in Lakes Park. Participants should wear comfortable shoes and dress to be outside. Bring water, sunscreen and binoculars. For more information, call 533-7580 or 533-7576.



Holiday decorated boats in succession will be lighting up the sky at the Christmas Boat Parade along Matanzas Pass by Fort Myers Beach

photo courtesy FMB Chamber

The tour, provided in cooperation with Lee County Parks & Recreation, is free with paid parking. Lakes Regional Park is located at 7330 Gladiolus Drive in Fort Myers.

Visit Santa in **downtown Fort Myers** this Saturday, December 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. During **Santa's Block Party**, watch the jolly fellow ride down First Street in a fire truck before he stops to meet and greet kids of all ages. Join in the fun and make arts, crafts and holiday cards during Brunch with Santa. Plus, kids can decorate Publix cookies and make wood crafts with help from The Home Depot during the workshop.

Cost to attend the December 3 workshop is \$6, the brunch is \$12, or attend both the workshop and brunch for \$15. Visit www.sbdac.com for more information.

The 28th annual **Christmas Boat Parade** along Matanzas Bay by **Fort Myers Beach** takes place this Saturday, December 3 from 3 to 6 p.m. It is presented by the Greater Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce.

The dazzling, lighted parade begins and ends at Salty Sam's Marina, located at 2500 Main Street. It goes past Parrot Key Caribbean Grill and Bootleggers Waterfront Barbeque, heading northwest, passing by Doc Ford's, Bonita Bill's Waterfront Café and under the Matanzas Pass Bridge, then in and out of Siesta Isles and around Bowditch Point, turning in front of the Pink Shell Beach Resort and Marina, before idling past Nervous Nellie's Crazy Waterfront Eatery and Matanzas on the Bay on the return.

After the parade, Salty Sam's Marina will host the winners' party and awards presentation.

Decorated boats will be judged and winners recognized. Prizes will be awarded.

Register to enter boats by calling 454-7500, going to the chamber office, located at 1661 Estero Boulevard #8, or visiting www.FMBBoatParade.com. All sizes and types of boats are eligible to participate. There is a \$25 fee for boats and a \$50 fee for business-sponsored boats.


The marina is offering free overnight dockage to all participating decorated boats with advance registration based on availability. Boats will only be required to pay for electricity. For advance reservations at Salty Sam's Marina, call 463-7333.

Stop by the **Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center**, located at 2301 First Street in the historic downtown Fort Myers River District, for a last look at the **Festival of Trees** before it ends on Sunday, December 4.

Goodwill of Southwest Florida is partnering with the Davis Art Center to bring the 10th anniversary of Festival of Trees to the River District. The Festival of Trees is a showcase of lovely trees designed and decorated by local businesses, individuals and organizations. Trees are auctioned and raffled, so attendees could win a beautifully decorated tree.✧

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Theatre Conspiracy Annual Fundraiser

by Di Saggau

Theatre Conspiracy recently held its annual fundraiser at the Alliance for the Arts. Also taking place that evening was the selection of the winner in their 18th annual New Play Contest. Artistic Director Bill Taylor told us that he received over 600 entries, including some from Canada, India, Israel and Australia. After an hour of socializing, everyone entered the Foulds Theater to listen to play readings from the three finalists in the competition. Taylor introduced each play and then local actors took part in reading a 20-minute excerpt. After the third reading, those in the audience cast their votes and the winner was announced. *Noli Timere* (Don't Be Afraid) by Jared Michael Delaney of Philadelphia, was the winner. The play is based on an actual event of the playwright's uncle who is a Catholic priest. The reading left us in suspense as to what will happen. We'll find out in May 2017 when the play will be produced. Taylor also announced that Theater Conspiracy will be merging with the Alliance of the Arts as one entity, and says it will be a win-win situation.*



From left, Stephen Hooper, Fay and Ken Graetz photos by Di Saggau



From left, Judi Braid, Vicki Triolo and Ann Hintz



From left, Nancy Hensley, Jim Yarnes and Mimi Edwards



From left, Dena and Ryan Galyean and Lyn Yarnes

Christmas Cantatas By Gulfshore Opera

Gulfshore Opera presents two Christmas cantatas – *A Ceremony of Carols* by Benjamin Britten and *Lauda per la Natività* by Ottorino Respighi. Both 30-minute-long classical vocal works comfortably oscillate between 20th century and Renaissance style with allusions to 16th century madrigals. The result is a charming, touching and quietly joyful celebration of the Nativity.

Each concert will be performed in Renaissance costume with nationally recognized soloists, chorus, harp and chamber orchestra. Celebrated Maestro Paul Nadler will lead the opera orchestra.

Gulfshore Opera's Christmas cantatas will be held at Naples United Church of Christ on Saturday, December 3 at 7 p.m., at Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ on Sunday, December 4 at 7 p.m., at Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center on Friday, December 9 at 8 p.m. and at Charlotte Performing Arts Center on Sunday, December 11 at 3 p.m. Tickets start at \$38.

Soloists for these concerts include professional artists Felicia Gavilanes as Maria, Edgar Miguel Abréu as the Shepherd and Gulfshore Opera Emerging Artist Nadia Marshall as the Angel. Gavilanes has been praised for her "rich mezzo-soprano" sound and passionate delivery of text and poetry. Felicia has performed the roles of Asakir in the Boston premiere of *Fairouz's Sumeida's Song*, Mrs. DeRocher in Boston Opera Collaborative's acclaimed production of *Dead Man Walking* and Mrs. Gibbs in Ned Rorem's *Our Town*. She is a current resident artist with Boston Lyric Opera. Abréu, a Dominican-American tenor, made his Florida Grand Opera debut this season. He recently performed as Fernando in *Così Fan Tutte* and Eisenstein in *Die Fledermaus*. Abréu was heralded by the *El Nuevo Herald* as "...the biggest applause for Edgar M. Abreu...with an abundant vocal and dramatic talent...achieving a long ovation at the end." The choral ensemble includes volunteers from Collier and Charlotte counties.

These concerts are generously underwritten by the Blagojevic group of Morgan Stanley. Tickets are available at www.gulfshoreopera.org. For season tickets or more information, visit gulfshoreopera.org or call 529-3925.*



Choir rehearses the cantatas with Maestro Nadler

photos by Anthony Zollo



Soprano soloists Nadia Marshall, left, and Sarah O'Brien both studied voice with Steffanie Pearce as high school students, earned college degrees in voice performance, and returned to perform with the company

FORT MYERS FARE

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

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

IL TESORO

Il Tesoro serves authentic Italian food "with the taste and feel of a Tuscan holiday," according to owner Chef AJ Black. He infuses flavors from the old world to the new world of cooking using only fresh seasonal ingredients to bring his dishes to life. Daily specials focus on pairing authentic meals with a bold array of fine Italian wines.

Il Tesoro (The Treasure) serves dinner seven nights a week from 5 to 10 p.m. 751 Tarpon Bay Road, Sanibel. Call 395-4022.

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.



Summerlin Jake's has a wide selection of entrees and appetizers

photo courtesy Summerlin Jake's

15660-225 San Carlos Boulevard,
Fort Myers, 482-5505

SUMMERLIN JAKE'S

Summerlin Jake's Seafood and Steaks, a sunset dining water view restaurant in Fort Myers, located near the Sanibel Bridge, offers new American cuisine prepared in the old Florida tradition. Paying tribute to the rich history of Punta Rassa, where Jake Summerlin owned a wharf that he used to ship his cattle to Cuba and the local waters that are famous for being the home to big game fishing, Summerlin Jake's offers freshly caught local seafood, tender, juicy prime steaks, smoked ribs, brisket & chicken and heart-healthy, vegan choices that are locally sourced, hand-selected and artfully prepared. Summerlin Jakes is open Monday through Friday 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. (Breakfast served 8 to 11:30 a.m.). Happy Hour is 3 to 6 p.m. daily. Live music on Friday and Saturday 5:30 to 10 p.m.

17501 Harbour Pointe Drive, 466-5377

LAMOTTA'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT

LaMotta's Italian Restaurant & Pizzeria was established in 1979 and is one of the longest-running family eateries in the Fort Myers area. Chef Camelo LaMotta serves traditional Italian dishes such as chicken parmesan, lasagna, pizza and calzones as well as specialty creations like osso bucco, lobster risotto, pescatore and filet Florentine.

Try LaMotta's New York-style pizza, cooked in a 500-degree oven for the perfect crunchy slice. For specialized desserts, treat yourself to cannolis and tiramisu along with a cappuccino or coffee.

Summer hours include Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday from noon to 9 p.m.; closed Sunday and Monday.

TERRA NOSTRA

Terra Nostra Ristorante Italiano serves classic Italian fare in the former Cork & Barrel suite in the Target center at 15880 San Carlos Boulevard.

Owners Fernando and Sao Uva welcome you to their new location after spending many years on Fort Myers Beach. They bring over Chef Anthony Grandepioggia and Maitre d' Reginald Beach. The establishment seats 156 people, including outdoor dining.

The mission of Terra Nostra is to serve homemade food in a restaurant environment. Try some of Fernando's hand-crafted specialties: Bouillabaisse, Chicken Monte Carlo and Penne la Fiero. With these selections and house favorites, you will never leave hungry. Have a drink from the full liquor bar or sip from the many hand-selected wines or ports. A family atmosphere and attentive service will make your dinner a dinner to remember.

Terra Nostra is open six days a week from 4:30 to 10 p.m. It is closed Tuesday until further notice.

15880 San Carlos Boulevard, Suite 110, Fort Myers, 590-8147.

Hope Hospice Tree Of Lights

Hope Hospice's Tree of Lights tradition offers a way to commemorate loved ones while providing essential funds for those in need of hospice care and bereavement support.

In each Hope Hospice House, a Tree of Lights will be adorned with white paper butterflies designated "in honor of" or "in memory of" a loved one by \$25 donors. Along with having a butterfly placed on the tree of their choice, \$50 donors will also receive a keepsake metal ornament engraved with the Hope Hospice logo.

In addition, with a gift of \$250, a dedication stone will be engraved with the donor's personal message and placed in one of Hope's Tribute Gardens.

To learn more or make a donation, visit www.donate.hopehcs.org/treeoflights.

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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 Father Dean Nastos, Orthos Service Sunday 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy Sunday 10 a.m., Fellowship Programs, Sunday School, Bible Study. 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 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 3 p.m., Wednesday 1 to 3 p.m. www.christiansciencefortmyers.net, www.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. Reverend Anton DeWet, pastor. Morning Worship: 10 a.m., Church School: 10:15 a.m. Friendship Time follows worship.

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@embarqmail.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 Lorenzo Gonzalez. Monday 6:30 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday 8 a.m. Saturday 3 p.m.; Sunday 8, 10 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Reconciliation Saturday 9 a.m. or by appointment.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE

METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN CHURCH & SCHOOL (LCMS)

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

SAINT PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH

3751 Estero Boulevard, Fort Myers Beach, 463-4251, www.stpeterfmb.com.

Sunday worship service at 9:30 a.m.

SAINT NICHOLAS MONASTERY

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

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TEMPLE BETHEL SYNAGOGUE

16225 Winkler Road Fort Myers. 433-0018, www.templebethel.com. Religious School Director Dale Cohen, Learning Tree Director Jesyca Virnig, Office Manager Karen Kagan. Union For Reform Judaism Shabbat Service Friday 7:30 p.m., Torah Study Saturday 9 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.

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Holiday Favorite At Broadway Palm



From left, Sami Doherty, Nic Casaula, Troy Bruchwalski and Katherine Walker Hill

by Di Saggau

There is a whole lot of Christmas in the air and on stage at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre. Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* is in full swing, putting everyone in the holiday mood. The show begins on Christmas Eve, 1944, somewhere on the Western Front of World War II. Bob Wallace (Troy Bruchwalski), Phil Davis (Nic Casaula) and Ralph Sheldrake (Benjamin Neumayer) are putting on a show for the troops and for their much respected General Henry Waverly (Dale Given.) After this prologue, the show jumps 10 years ahead to 1954 where the professional song-and-dance-men are on the *Ed Sullivan Show*. They audition two girls for a spot in their performance. Judy Haynes (Sami Doherty) and Betty Haynes (Katherine Walker Hill) audition with the popular song *Sisters*. The two duos begin to mesh romantically.

Soon the new quartet finds themselves in Vermont for a snow concert, only there is no snow. They discover that the inn and accompanying barn is owned by their old General Waverly. As the saying goes, the show must go on, and it does, in the barn. When the men discover their beloved former commanding officer is in jeopardy of losing the property, they decide to put on a show to raise money and save the day. Unfortunately, through miscommunication, Bob and Betty part ways. But don't worry, it all works out in the end.

The costuming and choreography for this show are incredible. From one musical number to another, the performers are decked out in impressive festive costumes. The show's finale adds an extra yuletide surprise that underlines the show's title. The four leads are seasoned performers with lovely voices, and the supporting cast couldn't be better. The dance numbers are a delight to watch, and you also hear such memorable tunes as *The Best Things Happen While You're Dancing*, *Count Your Blessings Instead of Sheep*, *Blue Skies*, *I Love a Piano*, *White Christmas*, *How Deep is the Ocean?* and many more.

Welcome in the holidays with Irving Berlin's *White Christmas* playing through December 25 at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre. Tickets can be reserved by calling 278-4422, by visiting BroadwayPalm.com or by stopping by the box office at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.✱

Gulf Chorus Presents Annual Christmas Show



Spirit of the Gulf Chorus

photo courtesy The Spirit of the Gulf Chorus

The Spirit of the Gulf Chorus presents their holiday performance *The Spirit of the Season* on Sunday, December 4 at 2 p.m. at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, located at 13350 FSW Parkway in Fort Myers.

The award-winning chorus has performed for the last 15 years at the Mann hall. They recently returned from Las Vegas where they placed 12th in the world at the Sweet Adelines International competition. They will perform their performance package of *The Polar Express*.

For more information, contact Christy Kelly at 560-9798, the Barbara B. Mann box office at 481-4849 or visit www.SpiritoftheGulf.com.✱

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Plant Smart

Spatterdock

by Gerri Reaves

Spatterdock (*Nuphar advena*) might not be as showy as a water lily or lotus, but it's still a desirable plant for a bog or water garden.

This native aquatic species is common throughout the state, except in the Florida Keys. It benefits wildlife, specifically fish, frogs, snails, waterfowl and other animals who find cover in its dense growth. Fish breed where it grows and birds eat the seeds.

In the wild, this member of the waterlily family grows in fresh-water ponds, marshes, and sluggish rivers and streams.

Other common names include cow lily, yellow pond lily, yellow water lily and water collard.

The large smooth leaves, or pads have deeply notched bases and wavy edges. A foot or more across, they can be submerged, floating or emergent, varying in shape from rounded to heart- or arrow-shaped.

The solitary, cup-like flowers measure two to three inches across. Unlike other water lilies, they never fully open.

The six to nine yellow fleshy petals that form the "flower" are actually sepals. The real petals are small and scale-like.

The leaves have thick stems that can be as long as six feet. They differ from the leaves of other water lilies in that they curl up off the surface of the water.

The plant grows from large spongy rhizomes, root-like stems, a portion of which is edible, according to several sources.

Rhizomes gathered at the right time of year are crisp and filled with starch, and can be used in soups and stews or dried and ground into flour.

However, the taste and nutrition level don't particularly recommend it as a food source.

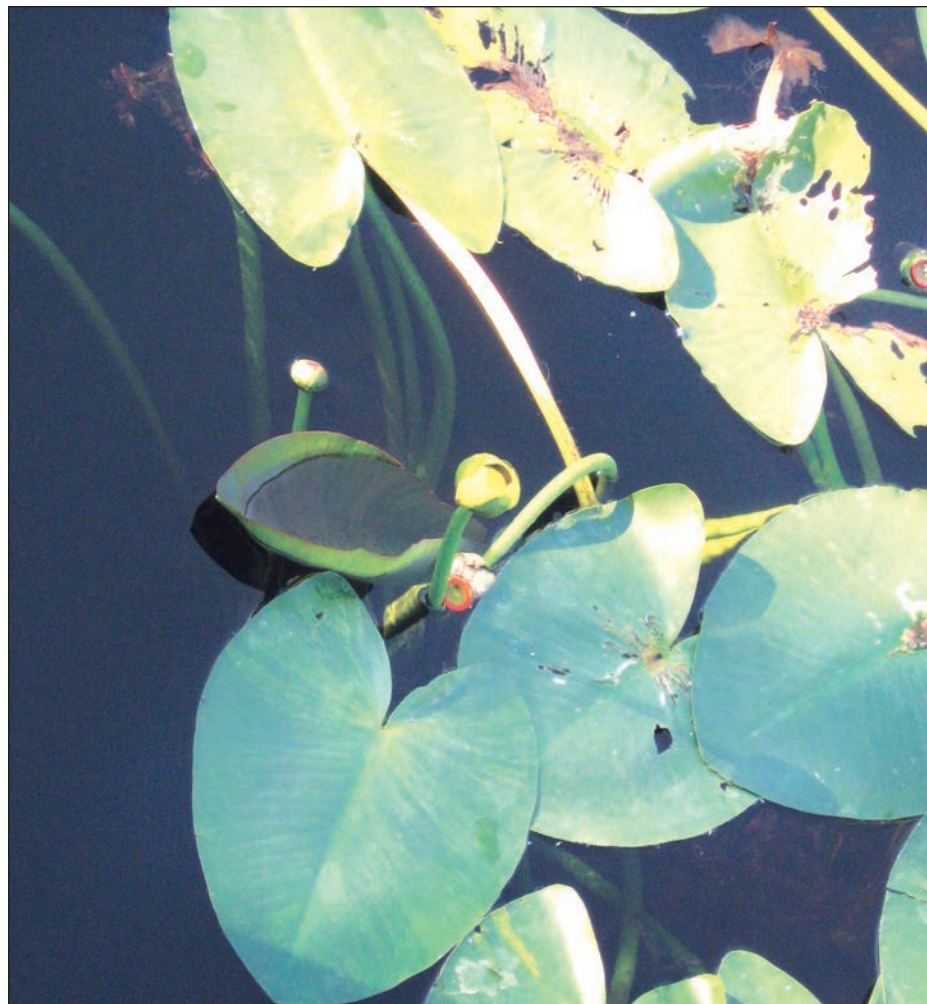
The leaves also have many traditional medicinal uses.

The urn-shaped pods hold small round seeds that can actually be popped like popcorn, cooked or ground into flour. The mature pods, which have red-orange rims, fall in the water and release the seeds.

Give spatterdock full sun to partial shade. Propagate it by dividing the rhizomes or with seeds.

Sources: *Everglades Wildflowers* by Roger L. Hammer, *Florida's Incredible Wild Edibles* by Richard J. Deuerling and Peggy S. Lantz, *Native Florida Plants* by Robert G. Haehle and Joan Brookwell, eatheweeds.com, ifas.ufl.edu and wildsouthflorida.com.

Plant Smart explores the diverse flora of South Florida.✱



Spatterdock is a native aquatic species whose spherical flowers remain half open. Note the red-orange rim of the ripe seed pods (center and top right). photo by Gerri Reaves

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CROW Case Of The Week:

Pied-Billed Grebe



by Bob Petcher

A pied-billed grebe (*Podilymbus podiceps*) is regarded as a small, chunky swimming bird that is often hidden in the middle of vegetation and not viewed frequently in flight. Basically

the reason is they rarely fly. The Cornell Lab of Ornithology refers to the duck-like animal as "part bird, part submarine" due to expertise in diving and an ability to float with just the upper half of its head above the water like a periscope.

Pied-billed grebes have small, compact bodies, slender necks and relatively no tail. They tend to live in sluggish rivers, freshwater marshes, lakes and estuaries. These water birds build floating nests out of grasses, cattails or whatever other vegetation they can find.

With thick, powerful bills, this particular grebe has the ability to kill and devour large crustaceans and a variety of fish, insects, amphibians and other invertebrates. Its bill is yellowish-brown but turns to whitish with a black band (thus the name pied) during breeding season. Interestingly, this water bird does not have webbed feet, but instead has lobes that protrude from the side of each toe for easy paddling.

The body of the pied-billed grebe is mainly brown and serves as good



Patient #16-3625 did not survive a head injury suffered from a suspected car collision

photo by Kenny Howell

camouflage in the marshes where they reside. It lives approximately 10 to 12 years.

While still plentiful, this species of grebe has suffered a decline in recent years. The shy bird does make itself known by creating bizarre whinnying, gobbling and cooing noises day and night. It is a sound similar to the yellow-billed cuckoo.

Related birds include the eared grebe (often residing on a few major western lakes), least grebe (southern Texas bird that flies more often than other grebes) and horned grebe (summers in the northern lakes, winters in the southern oceans).

Juvenile pied-billed grebes have black and white stripes and look more like winter adults. Within four weeks of birth, they

start swimming and eventually will mature to dive like their parents.

At CROW, a juvenile pied-billed grebe arrived at CROW on November 20 from a backyard in Cape Coral after it was suspected of being hit by a car and assumed to have dragged its leg to where it was found. After X-rays were taken, medical officials reported no broken bones or internal injuries were found. However, it did suffer head trauma and had a swollen left eye. Treatment involved eye ointment and mannitol to help reduce head swelling. On November 22, after some initial nervousness, the grebe was stated to be eating well and receiving oral medication with no regurgitation. It was also spending time swimming in a tub and drinking a lot

of water.

Medical officials continued to monitor the neurological status of the grebe. Supportive care (food and water) was regularly provided. The patient appeared to be getting healthier, and wildlife rehabbers expected it to make a full recovery with a release tentatively slated during the first week of December.

But, like many neurological conditions, prognosis for head trauma is often times hard to predict. On Thanksgiving Day, the young pied-billed grebe stopped eating on its own. Then, the next day on Friday, it succumbed to the swelling in its head, even though the swelling was showing signs of improvement.

"When a patient arrives with a head injury, we do frequent checks to make sure the swelling does not increase. In this particular case, the swelling started to reduce and the grebe seemed alert and was swimming in the tub," said CROW Certified Veterinary Technician Missy Fox. "Unfortunately, with neurological issues, the condition can change rapidly and that's why they are monitored closely. On Thursday, it stopped eating and became very quiet. Both are not good signs, and it passed during the night. On Friday morning, the grebe was found deceased in its cage."

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

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Fishing Improves As Temperatures Warm



by Capt.
Matt Mitchell

As forecast, the strong cold front brought some really unseasonably cold temperatures and drastically dropped our water temperatures more than 10 degrees.

As usual, with the passing of a cold front, the first day after was extremely tough fishing, then action gradually began to improve, getting better by the day as things slowly warmed back up.

Taking a charter on the coldest morning right after the front had passed, I did still manage to catch shiners but also took 100 live shrimp along as insurance and was really glad I did. After shiner fishing for the first few hours and catching only a handful of snook, I really needed to bend the rods with basically anything that would bite. Heading into

some deeper sheltered "Ding" Darling creeks, we began slow bouncing chunks of shrimp on a jig head along the bottom. Every cast, the small chunks at least got bit. Even though most of it was small stuff, we did manage to put some meat on the table with the first few keeper-sized sheepshead of winter and a couple of keeper-sized trout.

Over the next few days as water temperatures slowly rebounded, I found the snook were still on the same oyster bars and mangrove shorelines where we caught so many before the cold front moved through. Many of these places held great numbers of snook, although they would just not eat baits like they had for weeks earlier. Slow moving day time tides did not help the situation much either. All these places produced a few fish with a couple at each stop.

The morning low incoming tide set-up was a good time to fish deep mangrove creek mouths either with shrimp or shiners. During the first few hours of this low incoming tide, most creek mouths held lots of jacks along with a few snook for anglers pitching live shiners. Anglers using shrimp in these same creek mouths caught lots of snapper and sheepshead, although the vast majority were undersized. Until things get colder, catching keeper-sized sheepshead or



Snook proved a little harder to come by this week

being productive while only fishing shrimp will remain a challenge.

Cold conditions, along with some slow moving daytime tides, made things much tougher going than the fishing we have been lucky enough to experience for months now. When your average 1/2 day trip was 30-50 snook, then suddenly the rug is pulled out from under your feet and you're only catching an average of 10 snook per trip for a few days, it just feels like you're having a bad day. Switching it up and catching lots

of jacks someday had to be the go-to option. Without another strong cold front in our 10 day forecast, snook fishing will improve drastically as water temperatures climb back into the 70s and we finally move into a better tide pattern.

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

We 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 a photograph with identification. Email to press@islandsunnews.com or call 395-1213.

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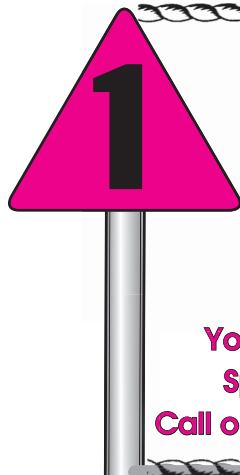


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From left, board treasurer David Hall and wife Gail with Victoria Stephan



From left, board secretary Kay Higgins with husband David and Sunshine Bobo



From left, Mil Vesera with sponsors Fran Fenning and Madeleine Taeni



Sponsors Ruth and Rob Diefenbach



Gloria and John Fassett

photos courtesy Fort Myers Community Concert Association



Series underwriter and new board member Alexandra Bremner and David McCormick



Fort Myers Community Concert Association President Mary Lee Mann and board member Frank Mann Sr.

Concert Association Board Announces Series Underwriter

The Fort Myers Community Concert Association Board of Directors announced that Alexandra Bremner and her mother Eunice Bremner have agreed to be the underwriters of the 2017 concert season.

Alexandra and Eunice are the niece and sister of the late Berne Davis, who was the series underwriter for many years prior to her death in March.

"Berne was a program sponsor every year for the past 18 years and a member of the community concert association for 68 years," said association president Mary Lee Mann. "This gracious gesture by her sister and niece ensure that Berne's memory will live on and make possible the continuation of the association for many years to come. We are eternally grateful to them."

Alexandra Bremner was elected as the newest member to the board.

The announcements were made at the association's fall meeting on November 6 at FineMark National Bank & Trust Co.

Mann also announced that Madeleine Taeni of Cape Coral will sponsor *Carmen*, to be performed February 16 by Teatro Lirico D'Europa as well as the ballet *Swan Lake*, performed by the Moscow Festival Ballet on February 27.

Other sponsors include: Pamela Templeton of Fort Myers, sponsoring men's vocal ensemble Cantus March 5; Rob and Ruth Diefenbach of Fort Myers, sponsoring the March 20 performance by the Royal Scottish National Orchestra; and Friends of the late Barbara B. Mann, who will sponsor the National Symphony of the Ukraine on January 18.

The association also confirmed officers for 2017:

- Mary Lee Mann, president – community leader and long-time officer of the community concert association

- Ian Mann, vice president – attorney

- Kay Higgins, secretary – community volunteer

- David Hall, treasurer – Sanibel Captiva Community Bank

Other board members in addition to Bremner are:

- Frank Mann Sr. – Lee County commissioner

- Ian Mann

- Wiley Parker – architect with Parker/Mudgett/Smith Architects

- Barbara Shafer – Judge Robert Shafer, her late husband, was a long-time board member

- Bobbi Stage – administrative staff of Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School.

Mann told the board that few tickets remain for this year's 68th concert series, which begins in January with five shows:

- National Symphony Orchestra of Ukraine on January 18. Founded in 1918 and considered one of the finest symphony orchestras in Eastern Europe, they will present Verdi's *Overture to LaForzza del Destino*, Stankovych's *Symphony No. 5* and Tchaikovsky's *Violin Concerto No. 2*.



Board vice president Ian Mann and Bobbi Stage



Board member Wiley Parker and wife Betty

- Teatro Lirico D'Europa performing G. Bizet's *Carmen* on February 16. *Carmen* tells the story of a peasant girl and her on-again, off-again love for soldier Don Jose. 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.

- Moscow Festival Ballet set for February 27. The ballet will perform *Swan Lake* by Tchaikovsky. Since its founding in 1989, the ballet has completed two tours of Europe, two tours of the United Kingdom and extensive tours of the U.S.

- Cantus on March 5. This men's vocal ensemble will honor the men and women who have answered the call to arms during the tribute, *No Greater Love Than This*. Cantus performs more than 60 concerts each year both nationally and internationally, including performances at Lincoln Center and the Kennedy Center. They have released 17 albums.

- Royal Scottish National Orchestra on March 20. The orchestra celebrates 125 years of bringing the best in classical music to audiences around the world. The orchestra will present Debussy's *Prelude to the Afternoon of a Faun* and feature violinist Nicola Benedetti in Brahms' *Violin Concerto*, D Major and Beethoven's *Symphony No. 5*.

Performances are at the Barbara B. Mann Hall, located at 13350 FSW Parkway on the Florida SouthWestern College campus in Fort Myers. All five concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. and are included in one ticket price, which ranges from \$155 for orchestra seats, \$85 for lower balcony seating and \$65 for upper balcony. Mezzanine seating is sold out, said Mann.

For tickets and more information, visit www.fortmyerscommunityconcerts.org or call 489-4171.*

Bring Your Dogs Aboard For Sightseeing River Cruise



Pets can take a peaceful cruise on the Caloosahatchee

photos courtesy Pure Florida



Pure Florida guests are invited to bring their dogs aboard the M/V Edison Explorer for a sightseeing cruise to Picnic Island

Pure Florida's Fort Myers location will present a Bark on the Ark cruise from 8 to 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 17. Guests will have the opportunity to bring their dogs aboard the M/V Edison Explorer for a sightseeing river excursion to Picnic Island, located between Sanibel and Pine Island.

Passengers will sail along the Caloosahatchee, then stop for playtime on the island. During the excursion, dogs and owners can run, swim and play catch. While Pure Florida cannot guarantee animal sightings in the wild, potential wildlife sightings include dolphins, eagles, manatee, native birds and more.

Water, Frisbees and dog treats are included for the canines. Soda, wine and

beer will also be available for purchase. The cruise departs from The Marina at Edison Ford, located at 2360 West First Street in Fort Myers.

The cost is \$44 per person. Reservations are required since space is limited to 25 passengers and their pets. All dogs that can follow basic commands are welcome.

For more information, call 919-2965 or visit www.PureFL.com.

Train Depot To Transform Into Technology Hub

At a workshop presented to Fort Myers City Council on November 10 at City Hall, Sarah Owen, executive director of the Southwest Florida Community Foundation, presented a proposal for a long-term lease that would restore the historic train depot to its former glory, curate the region's rich history and provide infrastructure for a state-of-the-art technology hub.

The proposal includes renovating the former home of the Southwest Florida Museum of History as well as constructing a 10,000-square-foot, two-story building next door and beautifying the surrounding streetscape.

The project represents a collaboration between Fort Myers, the Southwest Florida Community Foundation, Parker Mudgett Smith Architects and other community organizations.

Mayor Randy Henderson said the intent is to create a Southwest Florida regional technology center that will also bring together the region's nonprofit organizations. Henderson added that

the Community Foundation could help improve the lives of those struggling in Dunbar, as well as become a resource down the road to help bring a university campus to downtown Fort Myers.

It could offer training opportunities for potential college students and technology firms looking to relocate downtown, City Manager Saeed Kazemi said, adding this could foster growth of the high-tech industry in Fort Myers.

Technology plans include high-speed fiber access provided by Florida Lambda Rail, an Internet highway available only to nonprofits.

"Without complete cooperation from city staff and the Southwest Florida Community Foundation's board and staff, we would not be at this point right now," said Owen. "We are excited about the steps ahead, and we cannot express enough our appreciation to the city."

According to architect Jeff Mudgett, plans call for the new energy-efficient building to be LEED Gold certified, and designed to accommodate a technology-oriented environment for the region's nonprofit organizations. The center will be open as a resource for people to use, including students from nearby Dunbar High School, which focuses on technology programs. A space will allow

continued on page 26

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Students and professionals listen to presentations by leading water resources experts at a previous conference photos courtesy FGCU

Register Now For Water Resources Conference

The Steering Committee of the Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference announces the lineup of speakers for this year's conference, held at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) in the Cohen Center Ballroom in Fort Myers on Friday, January 13.

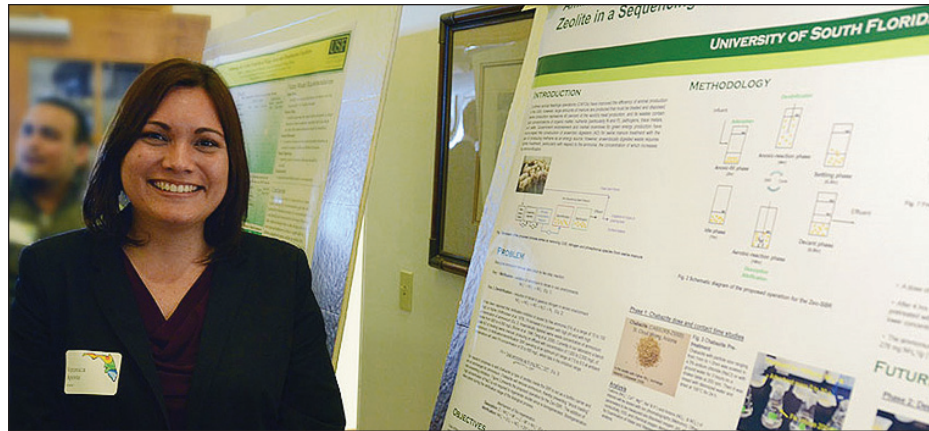
The theme, Cooperative Solutions: Working Together to Address Water Challenges, recognizes the region's

need for cooperation in pursuing actions that will improve water systems and the environment. The conference will showcase how agencies, engineering firms and nonprofits have worked together and can continue to join forces on specific projects and larger initiatives.

Leading experts in water resources and some of the top decision makers responsible for water resource planning and management in Southwest Florida, the state and the nation will present.

Registration opens at 8 a.m. Sessions conclude around 4:30 p.m. and will be followed by a networking social.

The conference brings together



Students showcase their research at the Southwest Florida Water Resources Conference

researchers, managers, agency staff, consultants and other interested parties to discuss ongoing technical and social research and innovative projects, to share ideas, and to increase awareness of the issues of water supply, water use efficiency, waterbody protection, watershed health and environmental sustainability facing Florida.

The conference also offers cash prizes for a statewide water resources student poster contest. Prizes are awarded for the best research posters, with first, second and third place awards in two divisions, graduate students and undergraduate/high school students.

Sessions include:

- Successful cooperative projects/realities of cooperative projects
- Regional cooperative approach to water management projects - keynote speaker Carol Collier, Drexel University:

Chesapeake Bay Cooperative Programs for Water Management Improvement

- Blueprints for cooperative projects

Advance registration is recommended. View the full technical program and other details online at <http://awra.caloosahatchee.org/2017>.

Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are available.

Conference host organizations include American Society of Civil Engineers Southwest Florida Branch, American Water Resources Association Florida Section, Audubon of Southwest Florida, Caloosahatchee River Citizens Association, Waterkeeper Alliance Affiliate, Florida Association of Environmental Professionals, Florida Engineering Society Calusa Chapter, Florida Gulf Coast University, Real Estate Investment Society and the Southwest Florida Watershed Council.✱

From page 1

Cultural District

Road, up to Colonial Boulevard and returning to McGregor Boulevard. SoCo Second Saturdays feature local artists in a night filled with family fun and artful entertainment.

The December participating cultural stops are:

- Alliance for the Arts
- Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre
- Catch 22 Sports Bar
- DAAS CO-OP Art Gallery & Gifts
- The Union Artist Studios at the Art Loft
- Ocasiosca at the Art Loft
- Luciano Deandrade's Studio Os Urbanos
- David Gittleman Studios
- Yoga Bird

The Alliance for the Arts, located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers, is one of the headliners. The Alliance Off The Wall: 200 Under \$200 exhibit will be on display from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Coinciding with the onset of the holiday shopping season, this non-traditional art show features works of all mediums priced at \$200 or less. All sales are "cash and carry," meaning purchasers will get to take the piece with them when they buy it, instead of waiting until the end of the exhibit. This exhibit is sponsored by Clif and



Shawn Holiday offering an art demonstration

photos courtesy SoCo Cultural District

Tina Parker.

Theatre Conspiracy will present *The Country Wife* at 8 p.m., a classic comedy by William Wycherley. This bawdy, hilarious, subversive and wickedly satirical comedy pokes fun at the humorless, the jealous and the adulterous. It features a country wife, Margery, whose husband believes she is too naive to cuckold him; and Horner, who pretends to be impotent in order to have unrestrained access to the women keen on "the sport." Tickets to this production are \$24 for adults, \$22 for Alliance for the Arts members, or \$11 for students and can be purchased at www.ArtnLee.org/theatre.

Prior to *The Country Wife*, Theatre Conspiracy will be performing the short one-act play *Revenge of the Magi* by Jeff Goode at 5:30 and 7 p.m. These performances are free to attend.

Artists Marilyn Hedlund and Shawn Holiday will demonstrate onsite. Hedlund's impressionist style with acrylics began in Gale Bennett's classes in Southwest Florida and grew in France at his 2001 Art Study Giverny summer session. Holiday has been teaching area residents, students and visitors how to make baskets using the spade of the royal palm frond for 10 years.

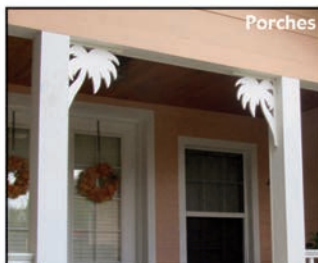
For a full list of programs and cultural stops, visit www.SoCoSWFL.com.✱



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How Long Will Brian Kelly Remain As Notre Dame Football Coach?



by Ed Frank

You might not agree, but can you think of more passionate fans than those of the Boston Red Sox, the Chicago Cubs and Notre Dame football ?

Unless they win the National Championship every year, Notre Dame fans are not satisfied. Well, you can sure hear the thunder under the Golden Dome right now after the Irish finished this season with a miserable 4-8 record.

In seven years at the helm of the Irish, Brian Kelly has compiled a 59-30 record, but that could be reduced by 21 victories in 2012 and 2013 if the NCAA vacates those 21 wins due to an academic misconduct penalty.

After a lackluster 45-27 season finale loss last Saturday to USC, Kelly insists he remains on solid ground in South Bend with a guarantee “I’ll be back.”

That’s not the case if you listen to the growing disenchantment with Kelly by large numbers of Notre Dame faithful.

There have been other lop-sided losing seasons in Notre Dame history: 3-9 in 2007 under Charlie Weis; 2-7 in 1963 with Hugh Devore; 2-8 in 1960 under Joe Kuharich and 2-8 in 1955 with Terry Brennan as coach. And every one of those coaches was eventually fired.

Kelly’s problems are more than his team’s poor performance on the football field. Before the 2016 season even began, six of his players were arrested in two separate incidents on the same night. Max Redfield was kicked off the team after he was charged with illegal possession of a firearm. He and four teammates were pulled over and a large amount of marijuana was found in the car.

That same night, Devin Butler was charged with resisting arrest, first being charged with felony battery of a police officer. He was suspended from the team.

Then just last week, the NCAA lowered the hammer on Notre Dame, stripping the school of its victories in 2012 and 2013 because of academic misconduct. Notre Dame acknowledged that a certain number of football players received “unauthorized academic assistance” from a student trainer.

The school plans to appeal the penalty claiming the student trainer was not a member of the academic support team and thus Notre Dame should not be penalized so severely.

There had been reports that Kelly, in view of his mounting problems in South Bend, had started looking for coaching options elsewhere.

He vehemently denied those rumors, saying, “I have not been, am not and will not be interested in options outside Notre Dame. I am fully committed to leading this program in the future.”

Strictly from a financial standpoint, it is likely that Kelly will be given at least another year to resurrect his program. He was given a six-year contract extension early this year that runs through 2021 at about \$4 million a year.

It would be an expensive firing, but remember that Notre Dame paid Weis more than \$18 million after his dismissal.

The rumbling no doubt will continue in South Bend, placing growing pressure on Kelly to return the Irish to winning football soon or else out the door you go.

Twins Turn To Former Stars As Special Assistants

As part of their rebuilding program, the Minnesota Twins announced this week that they have hired Michael Cuddyer, LaTroy Hawkins and Torii Hunter as special assistants with a wide range of responsibilities.

Their duties will include player development, organizational philosophies, amateur draft, talent evaluation, preparing for the Major League Draft and Twins community work.

Cuddyer played 15 years in the Major Leagues, 11 with the Twins, was a two-time All-Star and played a key role in six Twins American League Central Division titles.

Hawkins was a Major Leaguer for 19 seasons with 11 different teams, including eight with the Twins. He is only one of 13 relievers in baseball history to record at least one save against all 30 Major League teams.

Hunter played 19 years in the Majors, 12 with the Twins. He was a five-time All-Star and a member of the Twins Hall of Fame. He has long been recognized as one of the most popular players to wear a Twins uniform.✽

SPORTS QUIZ

1. Name the two Pittsburgh Pirates to have recorded 150 home runs and 150 steals.
2. In 1973, the first year of the designated hitter, the American League set a pitching record for most 20-game winners. How many was it?
3. Miami’s Dan Marino led the NFL in touchdown passes in three different seasons (1984-86). Name the other Dolphins QB to lead the NFL in TD passes for a season.
4. What was the lowest number of losses in a season for Dean Smith as coach of the North Carolina men’s basketball team?
5. Three times in four years (1964-67), the No. 1 pick in the NHL Draft never played in an NHL regular-season game. Name any of the three players.
6. Name the first NASCAR Cup driver to win two season championships.
7. Who was the last male tennis player other than Andy Murray, Novak Djokovic, Roger Federer and Rafael Nadal to win a Wimbledon singles title?

ANSWERS

1. Andrew McCutchen (2009-present) and Barry Bonds (1986-92). 2. Twelve. 3. Bob Giese tossed 22 touchdown passes in 1977. 4. Two losses in the 1981-82 season, when the Tar Heels won the NCAA championship. 5. Claude Gauthier (1964). Andre Veilleux (65) and Rick Pagnutti (67). 6. Herb Thomas, who won titles in 1951 and 1953. 7. Leyton Hewitt, in 2002.

Men’s Club Pancake Breakfast

Bayside Estates Men’s Club will host its monthly pancake breakfast on Sunday, December 11 from 8 to 11 am. in the Bayside Recreation Hall, located just off San Carlos Boulevard, south of Pine Ridge Road.

Everyone is invited to attend. There will be all-you-can-eat pancakes, scrambled eggs, sausages, coffee and orange juice for \$5. For only \$1 more, get a made-to-order omelet. Bayside Estates signs are at both entrances. Other dates for the season are January 8, February 12 and March 12.✽

Top Basketball Teams In Town

Seven of America’s top high school boys’ basketball teams, according to USA Today’s recently revealed Super 25 rankings, will be among the field at the 44th annual Culligan City of Palms Classic. This Southwest Florida holiday tradition takes place Friday, December 16 through Wednesday, December 21 at the new Suncoast Credit Union Arena on the campus of Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW), located at 8099 College Parkway in Fort Myers.

Seven top teams will make the trip to Fort Myers: #4 IMG Academy (Bradenton, Florida), #6 Montverde Academy (Montverde, Florida), #10 Patrick School (Hillside, New Jersey), #11 Westtown School (West Chester, Pennsylvania), #13 Memphis East (Memphis, Tennessee), #19 Hudson Catholic High School (Jersey City, New Jersey) and #25 Neumann-Goretti High School (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania).

“Every year we strive to bring the best boys’ basketball teams to Southwest Florida, and this year as we move into our new home at FSW, we couldn’t be happier with the field of 28 we have put in place,” said John Taylor, tournament executive director. “We’re looking forward to an exciting week of basketball.”

Tickets options include: A six-day Preferred Ticket Package. A single-seat, six-day ticket package for \$250 plus a \$20 processing fee (third party ticket vendor fee) with seating in the first two

rows directly behind the team benches and scorer’s table (west side of the arena) or the opposite second row (east side).

The six-day Reserved Ticket Package. A single-seat, six-day ticket package for \$128 plus a \$9 processing fee (third party ticket vendor fee) for the remaining courtside seating (east and west sides of the arena).

VIP parking. A six-day Reserved Parking Pass for \$40 plus a \$3 processing fee (third party ticket vendor fee).

For more information and to purchase tickets, call the box office Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. or Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 800-440-7469 or 481-4849.

Culligan returns for its fourth year as Title Sponsor and Enterprise Rent-A-Car is Presenting Sponsor for the third year.

See the lineup of the teams scheduled to play and other tournament information by visiting www.cityofpalmsclassic.com.

No fees are collected from players and teams, and Classic Basketball Inc., a 501(c)3 not-for-profit corporation that acts as a foundation for the tournament, covers all expenses for the players. For many on the team, the tournament represents their first opportunity to travel outside their own city.

One hundred thirty-five Culligan City of Palms Classic players have been named McDonald’s All-Americans and 117 have been drafted by the NBA since 1989, including 71 first-round picks. Fifty-five are current NBA stars and 120 are current NCAA Power 7 conference stars.✽



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From page 1

Trio Of Artists

of her healing process and is also a spiritual practice for her. The act of creating serves two important functions for Morales: it propels her into an immediate state of awareness and it raises her to a state of consciousness above thinking. Creating is a way for her to express universal stories or experiences that may resonate with others.

Reflections is a selection of paintings from a series titled A Love That Bleeds Lies, created over the course of almost three years. The paintings are a contemplation of Morales' journey and

transformation through art after years in an unhealthy relationship. Each work represents an emotion, starting with oppression and ending with joy.

Nick Masiello, born in Dover, Delaware, and raised in Port Charlotte, earned his art degree from Florida Gulf Coast University and has since been actively exhibiting, curating and developing a body of work. Creating largely in abstraction and an urban expressionistic style, his pieces reflect social commentary and greater issues around current events, as well as the exploration of personal themes and surroundings. Masiello incorporates a variety of media, including but not limited to, aerosols, markers, oil, acrylics, ink, found objects and collage.

He operates out of his studio in Punta Gorda's Artisan Atelier. He is curator at Space 39 in Fort Myers, art installer to several local artists and institutions, and is the head coordinator of Alive After 5 Gallery Walk in Punta Gorda. The exhibit is a retrospective of the last 10 years of his career and will feature a blend of abstracts, landscapes, portraits and his Word Vomit pieces.

Arts for ACT Gallery is located at 2265 First Street in downtown Fort Myers.*



Painted gourd turtle by Kim Kraft-Beckler
image courtesy Arts for ACT



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River District

Wednesday, Nov. 30 11 am – 9 pm
Thursday, Dec. 1 11 am – 9 pm
Friday, Dec. 2 11 am – 10 pm
Saturday, Dec. 3 10 am – 9 pm
Sunday, Dec. 4 11 am – 6 pm



Tuesday

Nov.

29

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Preview Party & Wine Tasting

Enjoy five wine tastings with food pairings, a silent auction, early entry into the Tree Raffle, and an opportunity to bid on the Very Beary Christmas Tree in a live auction!

Tickets \$50

www.GoodwillTrees.com or (239) 652-1613

Friday

Dec.

2

6:00 pm - 10:00 pm

Art Walk & Holiday Stroll

Enjoy the River District Art Walk, then light up first street during the Fort Myers Holiday Stroll. Join the Nowhere Band for a Beatles tribute concert on the steps of the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center!

No Tickets Required

www.GoodwillTrees.com or www.SBDAC.com

Wednesday

Nov.

30

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Ugly Sweater Contest & Party

'Tis the season for tacky holiday attire! Join us for an evening of food, drink, and fun with craft beers from Millennial Brewing Co. Things will get UGLY when a panel of celebrity judges picks the most hideous holiday garb.

Tickets \$15

www.GoodwillTrees.com or (239) 652-1613

Saturday

Dec.

3

10:00 am - 6:00 pm

Santa's Block Party

Santa Claus is coming to town! Join us for Brunch with Santa from 10 am – 2 pm
Holiday Vendor Showcase from 10 am – 3 pm
And the Festival of Trees Children's Workshop from 10 am – 6 pm

Tickets and Information at:

www.GoodwillTrees.com or www.SBDAC.com

Thursday

Dec.

1

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Painting with a Purpose

Have a twisted good time with our friends from Painting with a Twist for an evening of art and amusement. Painting with a Twist provides all painting supplies and instructions.

No art experience is needed.

Tickets \$35

www.GoodwillTrees.com or (239) 652-1613

Sunday

Dec.

4

Tree Raffle Drawing

Sunday is your final day to get tickets for the Festival of Trees Raffle! Tickets are available every day at the Festival of Trees—we'll draw the winning tickets Sunday at 4:00 pm. You could win a tree filled with gifts!

More information at www.GoodwillTrees.com

2016 Tree Raffle

\$10/ticket or 3 for \$25

(suggested minimum donation)

Proceeds benefit The Southwest Florida Goodwill Foundation. Winner selection to be held via random drawing on Sunday, December 4, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. during the Festival of Trees at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center in Fort Myers. Each Festival of Trees Raffle winner will receive one of a fixed quantity of fully-decorated Raffle Trees, each valued at a minimum of \$400.

Tree selection is determined by ticket holder at time of raffle entry. No purchase is necessary.

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Community Foundation Showcases Wide Open Spaces Exhibition



Ginny and Katy Yates
photos courtesy SWFLCF



Sarah Owen and Lois Taylor

The Southwest Florida Community Foundation (SWFLCF) recently hosted more than 50 guests at its Community Hub for the launch of its new art display entitled Wide Open Spaces. The exhibit features the Florida outdoors through the eyes of local artists Martin Gembecki and Brad Phares.

Buckingham resident Gembecki is a North Fort Myers High School and Ringling School of Art and Design graduate in the field of illustration. After graduation, he worked for local ad agencies before becoming a firefighter but remained self-employed as an artist. While fishing with friends, he would photograph local wildlife and produce pieces of art based on the Matlacha, Pine Island Sound areas.

“My love of Florida cowboys and their culture began with the help of Latt Armada,” Gembecki said. “Latt and his family invited me to visit their ranch in Alva to photograph and help work their cows.”



Jim and Deb Penuel

This invitation led to Gembecki to be able to pursue painting what he captured in acrylic, and today he is living his dream of being a Florida cowboy artist.

Phares is an eighth generation rancher, artist, poet, writer and attorney from Okeechobee. After graduating from the University of Florida with a bachelor of science degree in agriculture and later from St. Thomas University School of Law with a juris doctor, he chose to focus on his art rather than pursuing a career as an attorney.

“I’ve channeled my childhood experiences working on my family’s ranch with my multi-faceted background into oil paintings and writings to provide a perspective on ranch life unlike any other,” Phares said. “I want to enlighten others as to the invaluable benefits that Florida ranches provide to our state’s ecosystem and economy.”

The majority of Phares’s work captures and represents a realist view of ranch life in America today rather than an overly romanticized version that so many people in urban areas hold. He has exhibited throughout the southeastern U.S., and his paintings are collected by private corporations and public institutions as well as the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

The exhibit is open to the public and will run through mid-January during regular Community Foundation business hours: Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Some photos are located in meeting rooms, so those interested in seeing the exhibit are asked to call before arriving to make sure all areas are accessible. The Community Hub is located at 8771 College Parkway, Building 2, Suite 201 in Fort Myers.

The Southwest Florida Community Foundation, founded in 1976, cultivates



Nick Armada and Martin Gembecki with portrait of Armada



From left, Judi Ekholm, Reed Saunders and Ray Randlett



From left, Jane deLisser, William Schroeder, Beverly and John Dommerich



Featured artists Brad Phares and Martin Gembecki



David and Sarah Owen



Brent Kettler and Ken Buschle



Bill Crawford and Dawn-Marie Driscoll



Martin Gembecki



Brad Phares and Sarah Owen

regional change for the common good through collective leadership, social innovation and philanthropy to address the evolving community needs in Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry and Glades counties. For more information, call 274-5900 or visit www.floridacommunity.com.✪

FPRA Member Earns Professional Certification

Betsy Clayton, APR, CPRC, of the Southwest Florida Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association (FPRA), recently earned professional certification in public relations and received the designation of Certified Public Relations Counselor (CPRC).

Earning the CPRC designation distinguishes senior members of FPRA who have demonstrated understanding and mastery of core public relations principles and practices and have been certified to act as public relations counselors. Currently, there are 109 CPRCs in Florida, including 13 in southwest Florida.

Clayton is the communications director for Lee County government, where she coordinates internal and external communications and media relations for the organization of 20-plus departments and 2,500 employees. Previously, she served as Lee County Parks & Recreation waterways coordinator, which involved assisting travel writers and environmental journalists who reported on Lee County's Calusa Blueway Paddling Trail. Clayton also was a newspaper reporter at *The News-Press* and *Florida Weekly* in Fort Myers and at newspapers in Oregon, California and Washington, DC. She is a graduate of the University of Oregon School of Journalism.

To earn the CPRC credential, candidates must have 10 years of experience in the field; have earned the first tier of accreditation, the Accredited in Public Relations (APR) credential; successfully complete a verbal presentation; and pass a five-hour written exam.✪



Betsy Clayton

photo courtesy FPRA

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Awards Presented For Pro Bono Work



Don Isaac presents Lee Clerk of Court Linda Doggett the Partnership Award

Lee County Bar Association was joined by Florida Rural Legal Services at its Pro Bono Award Luncheon on October 14 to recognize those who have provided pro bono service to the community.

The luncheon was held at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center in Fort Myers.

The Pro Bono Publico Award was presented posthumously to Jerald "Jerry" John Chlipala, Esq. (1949-2016), in



Florida Rural Legal Services Executive Director Don Isaac presents the Pro Bono Publico Award, awarded posthumously to Jerald "Jerry" John Chlipala, to his wife Patricia

photos courtesy FRLS

recognition for a lifetime spent in service to the rule of law through devotion to community and people. The award was accepted by his wife, Patricia.

The Partnership Award was presented to Lee Clerk of Court Linda Doggett for partnership and dedication to ensuring equal access to the courts regardless of socioeconomic status.

Outstanding pro bono service recipients: Thomas G. Coleman, Esq.; Mary A. Cosmo, Esq.; Kelly L. Fayer, Esq.; Pauline Franklin, Esq.; Melody P. Porter, Esq.; Kayla E. Richmond, Esq.; Barbara

M. Trescott, Esq.; David E. Steckler, Esq.; Kristianna R. Soto, Esq.; and Michelle Trunkett, Esq.

Distinguished pro bono attorneys: Mark C. Anderson, Esq.; Elizabeth C. Bentley, Esq.; Bill B. Berke, Esq.; Kathleen O. Berkey, Esq.; Katheryn Smith Calvo, Esq.; Thomas G. Coleman, Esq.; Spencer A. Cordell, Esq.; Christopher W. Crowley, Esq.; Daniel S. Dalesandro, Esq.; Joshua O. Dorsey, Esq.; Daniel J. Endrizal, III,

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Financial Focus

Everyone Benefits When You Make Charitable Gifts



by Jennifer Basey

Now that we are in the heart of the holiday season, you may be thinking about ways you can put your money where your heart is. Specifically, you might be pondering which groups you

should support with charitable gifts. And as long as you choose groups that meet the right criteria, your generosity can also be rewarding to you, in the form of tax benefits.

To begin with, you'll want to make sure you are giving to a reputable charity. That means you'll need to ask some questions. How does a group measure its effectiveness? Is it devoting as much of its contributions as possible to the actual work of the organization, or is it spending too much money on administrative costs? Generally, a worthwhile charity should spend at least 75 percent of its income on programs. You may be able to find this type of information on a charitable group's annual report and its website. You can also go to the website of one of the agencies that evaluates charitable groups. On these sites, you can get a lot of information dealing with a charity's effectiveness, income, spending and other topics.

After you've identified a charity, or charities, you can decide how much you want to give and how you want to give it. If the charity has 501(c)(3) status (named after the section of the Internal Revenue Code that governs such groups), your

gift can offer you a tax deduction. So, for example, if you are in the 25 percent tax bracket, and you give \$1,000 to a qualified charity, you can subtract the \$1,000 from your adjusted gross income, which will result in tax savings of \$250. Upon making your gift, make sure you get a receipt that lists the name of the organization and the date and amount of your contribution. (Your maximum deduction will be limited to a percentage of your adjusted gross income.)

You can do more than simply write a check, however. If you have stocks that have grown significantly in value, you may want to donate them to a charitable group. You will be allowed a charitable deduction for the full, fair market value of the gift on the date of the transfer, even if your original cost was only a fraction of today's value. Furthermore, you will avoid the capital gains taxes you'd have to pay if you sold the stock, provided you've held the stock for at least a year.

If you do contribute appreciated stocks, you will want to be cognizant of the effect of your donation on your portfolio. If you were to give a sizable amount of growth-oriented stocks, would it affect your overall growth potential? Conversely, if you are primarily giving away relatively conservative, income-producing stocks, would it end up moving your portfolio in a riskier direction? When donating stocks, if at all possible try to do so in a way that does not harm your portfolio's balance.

In any case, whether you give cash or appreciated assets, you'll need to make your gift by December 31 if you are going to deduct it on your 2016 taxes. So, be as generous as you can afford, think about the effect of your gift on your own financial situation – and be prepared to act soon.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor. Jennifer Basey is a financial advisor in Fort Myers. She can be reached at jennifer.basey@edwardjones.com.✱

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From page 19

Train Depot

for up to 180 people to host educational meetings and special community events.

Although the City Council will not vote on ratifying the lease until December 12, there was positive response to the presentation.

"We have a great community project here," said Councilman Michael Flanders. "It's going to be fantastic. The concept respects the old, while at the same time being bold and beautiful with the new."

Owen and Maria Joyner, City of Fort Myers director of finance, explained the financing structure of the \$10 million project. A New Market

Tax Credit Allocation was secured by the Southwest Florida Community Foundation which will allow the project to take shape. After seven years, the city will be responsible for a "not to exceed" amount of \$7.3 million, giving the city ample time to reach out to potential technology firms for partnerships and other economic development opportunities.

Owen presented a timeline which was highlighted by the December 12 City Council ratification: December 29 deadline for the tax credit deal, a mid-February 2017 site work start date and a May 2018 anticipated completion date.

"This will be a world-class oasis within our great city," said Henderson.✱

United Way Launches New Initiative For Veterans



Roger Trifshauser

photos courtesy United Way

The United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades, and Okeechobee officially launched the new Mission United initiative to assist veterans on November 18 at the United Way campus in Fort Myers.

Mission United is a United Way initiative that uses the existing United Way 211 comprehensive Information and Referral program. Mission United is a collective effort that addresses the complicated and fragmented systems for veteran services currently in place.

Mission United will serve as a single phone point of entry utilizing the 211 number to help local United States active military, veterans and their families in Lee, Hendry and Glades counties navigate and access needed services. Trained United Way 211 Information and Referral specialists will assess the caller's needs and refer callers to the appropriate resources in the community.

The new initiative is sponsored by the Military Officers Association of America, the Captiva Island Crab Races, The Place on First and the Far-Mar Fund, a fund of the Southwest Florida Community Foundation.

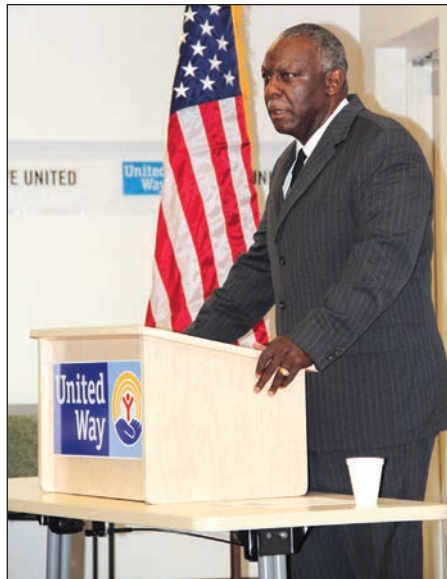
Larry Hart, Mission United champion and Lee County Tax Collector, opened the meeting to welcome the attendees. Hart is a veteran and spoke about what going into the military did for him as a young man. He also talked about how difficult it is to navigate the maze of services for veterans, and that this program will make it easier. United Way President Cliff Smith spoke on the history of the development of the project, which has been developing over the past two years.

Retired U.S. Navy Reserve Rear Admiral Roger Trifshauser, of the Military Officers Association, talked about his support of Mission United, and how overjoyed he is that it has come to fruition. Kevin Boyd, American Legion Post 38 Commander, talked about having developed a food pantry for veterans and how a veteran with three children who had been living in her car called and cried while thanking them because her children could go to sleep with their stomachs full.

David Fry, United Way Board member and the developer of The Place on First, spoke about his support of both the United Way and Mission United. "United Way does so much to support and unite the Southwest Florida community, and our team at The Place on First is proud to contribute a portion of our sales to uphold this organization's mission," Fry said. "We are excited to support our neighbors and make a difference within our community by furthering United Way and its many programs and partnerships that enhance quality of life for families in need."

United Way Mission United Program Manager Jeremy Gentile said, "All a veteran needs to remember is to dial 211 when they need assistance. United Way 211 has already answered over 500 calls from veterans during the soft launch of the program over the past couple of months. We not only find resources for the veterans who call, but follow up by calling them back to be sure they got the help they needed."

Core elements of launching Mission United in our community include developing the following:



Larry Hart



David Fry

- Diverse multi-stakeholder advisory committee including veterans and veteran organizations.
- System of navigation and coordination.
- Project manager to coordinate initiative components and stakeholders.
- Utilization of pro-bono services for veterans.
- Single access to comprehensive Information and Referral.
- Ongoing outreach and database management.

Three veterans spoke about the need for services, their own experiences and how agencies involved can work together to improve the experience of returning home from military service. Additional speakers included U.S. Navy Retired Scott Hartford, Veteran's Center Outreach Program Specialist and Retired U.S. Coast Guard Chief Warrant Officer and Dwight Powell, Goodwill Job-Link manager and coordinator of Veterans Programs and U.S. Marine Corps.

The first meeting of the stakeholders of the Mission United initiative will be January 13 at the United Way Campus in Fort Myers.

For more information, call United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades, and Okeechobee at 433-2000 or visit www.UnitedWayLee.org.✱

Donations Sought For Gift Drive

The Heights Center is seeking organizations and individuals to participate in the annual Harlem Heights Community Gift Drive. The community is asked to donate new, unwrapped gifts for more than 800 local children, ranging from 3 to 15 years of age.

Suggested donations are gifts under \$25 including Legos, dolls, art sets, footballs, basketballs, soccer balls, remote control cars, tea sets, action figures, board games, coloring books and crayons. Personal items are also needed, including pajamas, jewelry, body lotion, spray, soaps, hair accessories and wristwatches. Donations of gift cards from Target, Kmart or Walmart are also appreciated. Monetary donations can be made at www.heightsfoundation.org/donate.

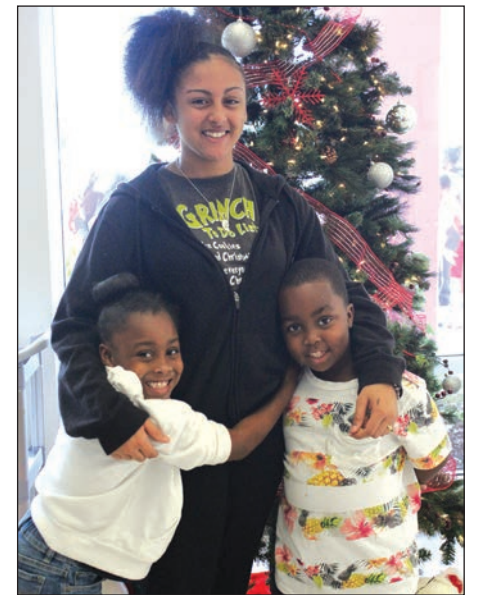
The gifts will be distributed on Saturday, December 17 from 10 a.m. until noon at The Heights Center. Each child will visit Santa, have cookies with hot chocolate, and make Christmas crafts, while their parents choose gifts for their children, keeping the surprise in Christmas.

"This holiday season will again be challenging for many families in the Harlem Heights neighborhood," said Kathryn Kelly, president and CEO of the Heights Foundation. "This is a great opportunity to bring joy to the children of our community. We are thankful for the generous support of our neighbors."

Items can be dropped off at The Heights Center, located at 15570 Hagie Drive in Fort Myers. Toys will be collected through Friday, December 16.

Volunteers are also needed to assist with set up and during the event.

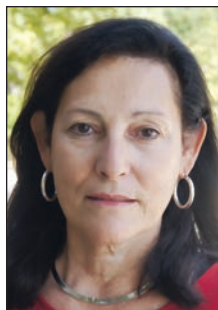
For more information, contact Emily Roman at 482-7706 or emily@heightsfoundation.org. All donations are tax deductible.✱



The Heights Foundation is seeking contributions for Christmas Giving Tree

photos courtesy Heights Foundation

School Smart



by Shelley M. Gregg, NCSP

Dear Shelley, The teachers at my son's high school use the term service learning often. I sort of understand it but please clarify

how it is different from community service. The students at his school have a community service requirement to complete before they graduate. Is this the same thing?

Julie W., Fort Myers

Julie,

This is an excellent question. There is confusion between the terms service learning and community service. They are similar activities in some ways yet quite different in others. "Service learning is a method of teaching that combines classroom instruction with meaningful community service. This form of learning emphasizes critical thinking and personal reflection while encouraging a heightened sense of community, civic engagement and personal responsibility."

Loyola University defines these experiences by saying that, "Community service can be performed at any time for any reason. Although meaningful community service often leads to transformative learning, this connection becomes explicit in service learning. Service activities are embedded within academic classes and are meant to help participants achieve specific learning goals."

Community service has been a part of many educational systems for years. Lately, service learning has also been included in many schools and the key difference of service learning is that it takes community service to the next level. It combines serving the community with planned academic instruction, assessment and reflection.

In a service-learning unit, goals are clearly defined and there are many kinds of projects that classrooms can adopt. Classes can be involved in direct issues that are more personal and include one-to-one participation, like working with the homeless. Or involvement can be indirect and may include some advocacy, where the students are working on broader issues, such as local environmental problems and conservation education. Additionally, service learning is often research-based, especially at the college level where the students choose an appropriate manner of data collection, analyze the data collected then present the information based on public needs.

Service learning is a much deeper experience than community service. Service learning includes important components for students. Typically, a service learning unit will have four

important parts. They are as follows:

- **Pre-Reflection:** students brainstorm in writing the ways in which they can help their world or their local community. They review local news and/or papers for articles on current events and issues of interest. They may read professional literature as well to become more aware of specific issues.

- **Research:** Students learn techniques to help them search wisely and efficiently. They should conduct online polls or in person polls and create graphs to chart their findings. Students should summarize their findings using embedded images, graphs, and other multimedia elements. Power Point or Prezi slide shows are often the media format of choice for presentation.

- **Presentation:** Students present their findings to the school, each other, and outside stakeholders. They can develop posters to promote their call to action, write a letter campaign or develop a simple website. Students can share their findings with other local schools and organizations or produce screencasts for the school website.

- **Reflection:** Students need to think back on what they gained from their study through this project. Appropriate reflection questions should include:

- What did you learn about the topic?
- What did you learn about yourself?
- How do you now think differently?

Another element that makes service learning unique is that the community, the teachers and the students themselves evaluate their learning. In community assessment, the community partners typically use a rubric to assess the students. They often may help develop the rubric or criteria for evaluating the students. Teacher assessment includes evaluating students on the content and may additionally assess them on how well they accomplished the writing, graphing, researching or speaking. Students assess themselves through a self-assessment as a form of reflection. They may also assist in developing the rubric that other stakeholders use to assess them.

The benefits of service learning are extensive. Riverside Community College says that, "Service Learning enriches student learning of course material by moving them from the margin of the classroom experience to the center. It 'brings books to life and life to books.'" Students come to see the relevance and importance of academic work in their real life experiences.

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

The Mystery Of The Scarlet Homes Of Sherlock



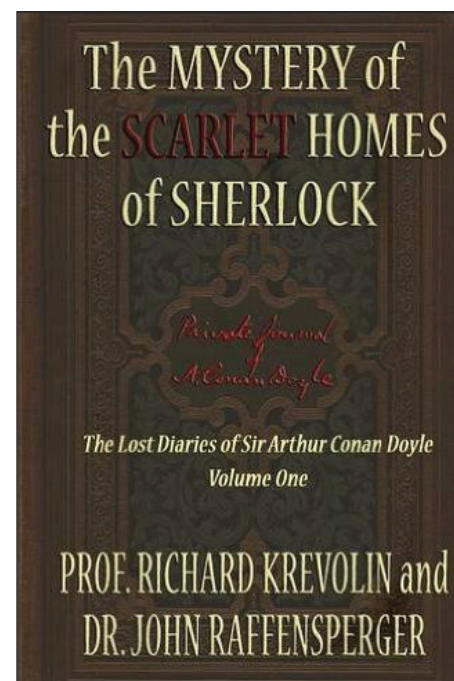
by Di Saggau

If you stumbled upon the lost diaries of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, what would you do with them? Sanibel author Dr. John Raffensperger, a collector of Sherlockiana, came up with an idea.

He imagined placing a bid at Sotheby's to win an old footlocker from the estate of Doyle. Following through with this fictional idea, he discovered three leather-bound, hand-written journals which he turned over to Professor Richard Krevolin. In truth, Krevolin, a screenwriter, playwright and novelist, read an article written by Raffensperger, published in the *Journal of Pediatric Surgery*, titled Was the Real Sherlock Holmes a Pediatric Surgeon? Krevolin suggested they combine talents and pen a novel based on Dr. Joseph Bell and Arthur Conan Doyle, who was his clerk. This book is the result of their efforts.

The book chronicles Doyle's clerkship with Bell, a renowned surgeon who was the model for Doyle's great detective Sherlock Holmes. At the time, Doyle was a 19-year-old student at the University of Edinburgh Medical School. Along the way, they encounter Robert Louis Stevenson, Allen Pinkerton and Rev. Henry Ward Beecher, whose sister authored *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. There are several other interesting characters. Do the names Captain Hook, Jesse James and Dr. Jekyll ring a bell? Their journey begins September 25, 1878 and continues through December 10, 1878. During that short period of time, the pair travels to America where they are involved in solving a string of grisly and mysterious murders.

Bell has uncanny powers of observation as to medical ailments, backgrounds of patients and solving the murders. Doyle learns a great deal from him. During the



1800s, medical students had a hard time finding cadavers upon which to work to learn more about the human body. Although it was illegal, gravediggers often helped out by providing bodies.

Once Bell discovers the string of homicides, he places everyone in great danger. As he often said, "the game was afoot." Pinkerton, of the famous detective agency, is enlisted to help out. As Doyle writes in his journal, he questions his decision. "What have I gotten myself into? When Bell asked me to accompany him I should have flatly refused. Aye, my family is poor, but back in Scotland I was safe and happy and my stomach was always full. And no one was trying to kill me. Maybe I am not cut out for a life of adventure, after all."

During their murder investigation, they come across a startling fact, the thyroid gland has been removed from each body. As they solve this mystery, they are thrown into a conspiracy involving an assassination of the president. The book is filled with murder, literary history and humanity. If you are a Sherlock Holmes fan, *The Mystery of the Scarlet Homes of Sherlock* is a must read. It's available online through MX Publishing and Amazon.*

Nominations Open For Alumni Awards

Florida Gulf Coast University's (FGCU) Alumni Association is accepting nominations for its annual Alumni Awards. Deadline for submission is Friday, January 13.

Since 2004, the association has recognized outstanding alumni for their professional accomplishments and dedication to their communities and FGCU.

Alumni are invited to enter two categories: Alumni of Distinction and Soaring Eagle. The Alumni of Distinction is the most prestigious award the association bestows upon a graduate.

It honors those who have upheld the tradition of excellence through personal accomplishment, professional achievement and/or humanitarian service.

The Soaring Eagle recognizes graduates from each college (within 10 years of graduation) for outstanding achievement or service in their professional or volunteer life.

Winners will be recognized Friday, February 10 at 6 p.m. during the Alumni Award Celebration at FGCU's Cohen Center Ballroom, located at 10501 FGCU Boulevard South in Fort Myers.

Nominations must be submitted online at alumni.fgcu.edu/alumniawards. Alumni may nominate themselves or be nominated by someone else.

For more information, call Kimberly Wallace at 590-1087 or email kwallace@fgcu.edu.*

Winning Play Announced



Cast of *Caesar's Blood* by Rich Rubin, from left, Greg Longenhagen, Chris McCarter and Juan Alejandro
photos courtesy Theatre Conspiracy



Cast of *Highness* by Carolyn Kras, from left, Mitch Haley, Steve Hooper, Juan Alejandro, Shelley Sanders, Tera Nicole Miller and Stephanie Davis

Theatre Conspiracy held its New Play Contest Fundraiser on Saturday, November 19 at the Alliance for the Arts, located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers.

The contest, now in its 18th year, provides an opportunity for audiences to get involved with the contest process itself, rather than just the end result.

Unlike most new play competitions, Theatre Conspiracy welcomed works that had been produced before. The three finalists for the 2016-2017 New Play Contest were selected from over 600 entries across the United States, Canada, Israel, Thailand and England. Finalists were: *Noli Timere* (Don't Be Afraid) by Jared Michael Delaney, *Caesar's Blood* by Rich Rubin and *Highness* by Carolyn Kras.

An excerpt from each play was presented as staged readings, without costumes and props. After the conclusion of the final reading, the audience voted on which play they wanted to see, which will be given a full production in May 2017.

The winner is *Noli Timere* (Don't Be Afraid) by Jared Michael Delaney. The play tells the story of a newly ordained priest and his sister who are made to confront something from their past that neither is expecting when a strange man knocks on the rectory door late one night. A confrontation occurs that leads them both into a frightening world that may, in fact, just be our own.

"The impact of a good script will be felt immediately. I think the audience would agree all three play finalists are worthy of production," said Theatre Conspiracy Founder and Artistic Director Bill Taylor. "Unfortunately, we only pick one winner, and we look forward to the production of *Noli Timere* in May. The script captivates you from the beginning and you're left wondering what's coming next."

Tickets for *Noil Timere* and other upcoming shows can be purchased at www.ArtInLee.org or by calling 936-3239.

The Alliance campus and galleries are open to the public from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.✱



Front, from left, Barbara and Peter Krivilisky, Ronda and Mike Bressler. Back, from left, Ruthie and Dan Struble, Beth Haely.
photo provided

Dining Club Rally

The Fort Myers Dining Club held a rally on November 30 at Edison Restaurant, Bar & Banquet Center. The group raised \$25 for the Lee Health Military Support program.✱

Church Craft Fair

A holiday craft fair and bake sale will be held on Sunday, December 4 and 11, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church

of Fort Myers, located at 3411 Shire Lane. Shop for holiday gifts, buy special treats and enjoy a \$3 chili lunch.

For more information, contact Suzanne Ziemer at suzanneziemer@gmail.com or call 463-9020.✱

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The Club At Shell Point Now Open

Shell Point Retirement Community recently held a ribbon cutting ceremony and grand opening to celebrate the completion of The Club at Shell Point.

Located at the Shell Point Golf Course, this \$14 million, 35,000-square-foot clubhouse opened its doors after a 525-day project involving hundreds of participants. The entire project required an estimated 120,000 man hours working with more than 60 subcontractors and vendors, resulting in:

- More than 22,000 square feet of custom-color concrete roof tile
- An estimated 15,000 man hours for concrete/masonry work: 1,054 cubic yards of concrete; 33,849 masonry blocks; and 119,084 pounds of reinforcing steel
- A wind rating of 173 mph, to withstand a Category 4 hurricane

To complete this project, Shell Point partnered with Christopher J. Lee Architects, Inc., RDG Planning and Design, Wright Construction Group and Noller Design Group.

Brimming with sports, wellness and fitness opportunities, The Club at Shell Point offers memberships to the local Fort Myers community, who will share the facility with Shell Point residents. Varying levels of membership offer year-round access to Shell Point's Audubon-certified, 18-hole championship golf course, fine and casual dining options, fun-filled social events, a state-of-the-art fitness club and the Seagrape Salon & Spa.

The Club at Shell Point is located at 17500 On Par Boulevard in Fort Myers, two miles before the Sanibel Causeway. For membership information, call 255-2959; dining reservations, 225-2953; salon appointments, 225-2960; and to schedule a golf tee time, call 433-9790 or book online at www.shellpointgolf.com.✽



Shell Point residents Jerry and Peter Nanfelt toured the new facility during the grand opening
photo by Garth Francis



At the ribbon cutting, from left, Fred Edman, Wright Construction Group president; Scott Moore, Shell Point COO; Martin Schappell, Shell Point EVP; Shell Point President Peter Dys; Charlie Howlin, general manager of The Club at Shell Point; John Birge, RDG Architects; Bob Southern, Shell Point Project Development director; and Scott Loiacano, project manager for Wright Construction Group



Shell Point resident Gerry Wilson tests newly purchased equipment in the fitness center during the grand opening, with assistance by Resort Services and Wellness Manager Michelle Tompkins

Candy Cane Christmas Show



The Calendar Girls in their holiday costumes

photo courtesy Linda Floyd

The Calendar Girls brought their Candy Cane Christmas Show to both Fleamasters Fleamarket and to the Lee Civic Center for Small Business Saturday on November 26.

For more information about The Calendar Girls, call Katherine at 850-6010.✽

City Seeks Public Input On Parks

The City of Fort Myers Parks and Recreation master plan committee will host two workshops to gather feedback for planning the city's direction for its parks and recreation for the coming decade.

Attendees will have the opportunity to participate on Tuesday, December 6 from 4 to 7 p.m. at the STARS complex, and on Wednesday, December 7 from 1 to 7 p.m. at the Fort Myers Library in downtown Fort Myers. Refreshments will be served.

"Our parks and recreational facilities are key components of the overall quality of life that the city provides for its citizens and visitors," said Richard Moulton, interim director of Public

Works. "We are inviting our residents and stakeholders to join in crafting a vision for bike paths, walking trails, neighborhood parks and/or regional green spaces. The scheduled workshops can help shape the way our parks and green spaces evolve over the next several years."

The workshops are designed in an open house format so attendees can drop in at their convenience during the allotted timeframe. For those who cannot attend either workshop, there is an online survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FortMyersParksandOpenSpacesSurvey> to offer feedback. The STARS complex is located at 2980 Edison Avenue in Fort Myers. The Fort Myers Library is located at 2450 First Street.

For more information, call 321-7590 or visit www.cityftmyers.com.✽

Medical Speaker Series Offers Four Sessions

Shell Point has announced the roster for its 2016-17 Medical Breakthroughs & Discoveries speaker series, a free community health care resource for residents in the greater Fort Myers area.

This educational series will feature prominent local and national experts who will address recent advances in the fields of joint replacement, grief recovery, genomics and oncology:

- Thursday, December 8 at 2:15 p.m. – Advances in Minimally Invasive Hip and Knee Replacement with orthopedic surgeon Dr. Daniel Harmon, Lee Health

- Thursday, January 5 at 2:15 p.m. – Grief Is a Journey: Dealing with Loss As We Age with Dr. Kenneth Doka, professor of gerontology at College of New Rochelle and senior consultant to the Hospice Foundation of America

- Monday, February 13 at 2:15 p.m. – Genomics & Precision Medicine: One Size Healthcare Does Not Fit All with



Dr. Daniel Harmon

photos courtesy Shell Point

cancer epidemiologist Dr. Alexander Parker, Mayo Clinic

- Tuesday, March 28 at 2:15 p.m. – Shifting Landscapes: Controversies, Updates and Advances for Prostate Cancer with radiation oncologist Dr. Jason Efstathiou, Massachusetts



Dr. Kenneth Doka

General Hospital

All four Medical Breakthroughs & Discoveries presentations are free to the public, and will be held in The Village Church Auditorium at Shell Point. Parking will be available at The Springs, located at 13901 Shell Point Plaza in Fort Myers. Sign up is required by



Dr. Alexander Parker

calling 433-7936.

The 2016-17 season of Medical Breakthroughs & Discoveries is sponsored in part by: Lee Memorial Health System Foundation, UBS Wealth Management, 21st Century Oncology and Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, PA.✱

Retirement Community Appoints New President



Shell Point Retirement Community's board of directors has appointed Martin Schappell, left, as president
photos courtesy Shell Point Retirement Community

Shell Point Retirement Community's board of directors has appointed Martin Schappell as president, following the November retirement of Peter Dys, who served as president for the past 31 years.

"After a rigorous and skillful search, the board found an ideal candidate close to home and unanimously endorsed Martin for the role of president. He brings a strong faith base, professionalism, knowledge and strategic leadership skills to guide Shell Point, as the community focuses on the expansion of its services and campus," said Dr. Mark O'Farrell, chair of the board. "There is no doubt that this is the man sent by God to lead this community."

Schappell is well acquainted with the nonprofit's mission and core values, culture and operations after more than eight years of service as a Shell Point board member, and serving as executive vice president throughout the past year. In his new executive role, Schappell will oversee every aspect of the organization, including healthcare, residential life, marketing, business operations and employee relations.

His professional background includes substantial experience in the healthcare industry. For the past 15 years, Schappell served as senior vice president of the Behavioral Health Division of Universal Health Services, Inc., one of the largest hospital management companies in the nation. Schappell holds a BA degree, magna cum laude, from Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida, and a MEd degree



Martin Schappell, right, has more than eight years as a Shell Point board member and has served as executive vice president the past year

in community counseling from Georgia State University in Atlanta.

"Shell Point is a healthy, vibrant and successful community. I am passionate about maintaining this reputation and position as an industry leader among continuing care retirement communities, as we continue to grow," said Schappell, emphasizing his commitment to the organization's mission to care for, serve and satisfy residents.✱

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dearRPharmacist

Acid Blockers May Raise Risk Of Stroke



by Suzy Cohen, RPh

Dear Readers: Most of you assume that if a medication is sold over-the-counter (OTC), it's safe, but that's not true. Even OTC drugs are drug muggers of nutrients that you need to prevent blood clots,

keep your heart beating rhythmically and your bones strong.

OTC medications are a multi-billion dollar business, especially drugs for stomach discomfort. An estimated 20 million Americans buy OTC drugs to get quick relief from indigestion, esophageal burning, belching, chest (sternum) pain and other symptoms of excessive stomach acid or gastroesophageal reflux (GERD). I bet you take these drugs without batting an eye. In fact, most of you think harder and longer about what you'll record on TV tonight than you do popping one of these "acid" pills. Taking them occasionally for heartburn is probably no big deal, but some of you self treat for months, or years because the drugs are sold OTC.

I am not fond of using the PPI (proton pump inhibitors) acid blocking drugs

indefinitely; these drugs are known as Omeprazole (Prilosec), Esomeprazole (Nexium), Lansoprazole (Prevacid), Pantoprazole (Protonix), Rabeprazole (Acihex), and there are others.

Some of these meds are sold OTC, and safe for short-term use, in fact the label says 14 days only. But because some of them are sold OTC, you can self-treat and therefore misuse them. Some doctors advise you to stay on them forever too. Scary, because if you are suppressing acid 24/7, you are causing undigested food particles to leak into your bloodstream and this induces food allergies, including gluten sensitivity, whether or not you have the gene SNP for Celiac.

Keep in mind, acid suppression 24/7 is unnatural. PPIs are potent drug muggers of magnesium and other minerals causing a higher risk for fractures, asthma attacks, depression and arrhythmias. That's not all, a new disturbing paper has just been released indicating that PPIs might raise your risk for stroke by about 20 percent, and more for certain drugs. It depends on the PPI you take and your basic health. This risk doesn't mean you'll ever have to deal with it, so don't panic. have a more comprehensive version of this article that I can send to you when you sign up for my newsletter (suzycohen.com).

Symptoms of stroke happen quickly and include sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arms or legs, confusion, trouble speaking, poor coordination or vision problems. If you've been taking a PPI drug and feel like your vascular system has been impacted,

or you've developed hypertension, explore your treatment options with your physician.

I totally understand that some of you reading this are worried about your condition, as well as the safety of your medication. I don't mean to alarm you, my intention is to keep you safe, and it's pretty easy to restore essential nutrients mugged by PPI drugs and other acid blockers. Consider lowering

the medication dose because stroke risk appears to be dose-dependent. Remember, I have a longer version and natural options to help which you'll get in my newsletter.

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.✱

Empowering Veterans Through Entrepreneurship

Southwest Florida veterans have until Wednesday, December 14 to apply for the second installment of the Veterans Florida Entrepreneurship Program. Florida Gulf Coast University's (FGCU) Institute for Entrepreneurship is a network partner to the free program.

The next session begins in January 2017. An open house for the course is scheduled for Thursday, December 15 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Emergent Technologies Institute, an off-campus FGCU building located at 16301 Innovation Lane off Alico Road in Fort Myers. Veterans who are either FGCU students or non-students, have been honorably discharged or active duty, or are Reserve/National Guard are welcome to apply.

The program is a two-part initiative that provides students with both

academic coursework specific to the fundamentals of entrepreneurship and ongoing mentorships with local business leaders. The program is funded by a grant given by the state to seven different Florida universities and colleges to provide a program free of cost to veterans.

Selected participants work in a hybrid of campus and online entrepreneurship training and will attend in-class training every other week on Saturdays. The curriculum during this 15-week period covers topics ranging from perfecting a Lean Startup business plan and learning to raise funds to implementing a proposed business. At the end of the course, participants will pitch their proposals to an investment committee with hopes of receiving seed funding to implement their idea.

For more information and to apply, visit www.entrepreneur.veteransflorida.org.

For information about the application process or volunteering, contact Amy Ridgway at aridgway@fgcu.edu.✱

Doctor and Dietician

Heart Benefits Of Wine



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

For many who have an appreciation of wine, or had a wonderful experience traveling to wine regions in Tuscany, California, or France, you know how nicely wine can complement a meal. When you combine the perfect wine with a delicious home-cooked meal shared with friends and family, you get a match made in heaven.

Wine can provide heart-healthy, cardio-protective benefits, due to antioxidant compounds, such as resveratrol, which are primarily found in grape skins. White wine generally contains lower levels of resveratrol than red wine. Other beneficial compounds in wine include polyphenols, antioxidants and flavonoids. To fully get the benefits of resveratrol in wines,

it is recommended to sip slowly, to decrease inactivation in the gut and liver. Absorption via the mucous membranes in the mouth, with slow sipping, can result in close to 100 times the blood levels of resveratrol.

Red wines from the south of France and from Sardinia have been found to have the highest levels of procyanidins, which are compounds in grape seeds also suspected to be responsible for red wine's heart benefits.

Evidence also suggests that the pulp of grapes appears to be just as heart-healthy as the skin, thanks to other types of antioxidants present in the flesh. In addition, tests show that both extracts appear to have the same level of antioxidant activity.

Red wines such as cabernet sauvignon, merlot, chianti and pinot noir may or may not be better for the heart than white wines such as chardonnay, sauvignon blanc and Riesling. According to various studies, they may be equally as good.

Portion control is important if you do choose to drink alcohol. For wine, one drink is usually considered five ounces. Keep wine portions small and enjoyed slowly.

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@caringmedical.com.✱

Mom And Me



by Lizzie and Pryce

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

Dear Mom & Me,

This past Christmas, we decided to give our daughter and our daughter-in-law money for their Christmas presents. We seemed to be unable to choose the right size or color for gifts in the past, so we thought it a very good idea to give money.

A month later, to our horror, we found they spent our hard-earned cash for manicures and pedicures.

We think that this is disgusting and a total waste, when the money could have

been spent in a far better way. What is your opinion?

Harry and Mary

Dear Harry and Mary,

Professionally done, manicures and pedicures now seem to be a necessity for many of the boomer generation, and even for some of their 10-year-old-daughters. These procedures do not come cheap and I am amazed to see how many women and young girls line up outside these special salons waiting to get in on a Saturday.

That being said, when you give a gift of money, it belongs to the recipients and rarely comes with a manual of special instructions as to how the money is to be spent.

You may not approve of their choice, but this is just a perfect example of the many differences between the generations

Lizzie

Dear Harry and Mary,

I am sorry you feel the money gift you gave is being squandered. However, how the gift is spent is not about you, it is about the receiver – your daughter – and what she wants to do with the money.

Manicures and pedicures fall into the same category as day spas, massages, facials and eyebrow plucking. All of these services pamper and make one feel special. I believe that it is a great gift to give any loved one.

Pryce

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

PETS OF THE WEEK

Hello, my name is Shasta. I am a 3-year-old spayed female American bulldog who loves to play fetch. If you throw me a ball, I will bring it back and am ready to go again. I have a very gentle nature. I show my enthusiasm by wagging, not just my tail, but my whole body. I would love to be the great American dog for a great family.

Adoption Fee: \$75 (Check Animal Services' website for December specials on select dogs)

Hi, I'm Sammy. I am a 1-year-old neutered male domestic short hair whose favorite playtime activity is chasing laser lights. However, this frisky little kitty does loves to cuddle. I am the total package – lovable and cute. Why not make me a part of your family for the holidays and ever after?

Adoption Fee: \$10 (regularly \$50) during Animal Services' Home 4 the Holidays Adoption Promo (now through December 30th)

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.*



Shasta ID# 678469



Sammy ID# 679627

PAWS Of Sanibel

Luna

Sweet little Luna needs a new home. Her owner has to relocate and cannot bring Luna with her. She is a 5-year-old black and white shih tzu. To adopt Luna call GG at 940-7878.*



Luna

Holiday Pet Adoption Campaign

Lee County Domestic Animal Services will join thousands of pet shelters and adoption centers across the United States, Canada and Mexico for Home 4 the Holidays 2016, a national event to raise awareness of the joy of owning shelter-adopted pets.

During December, Animal Services' goal is to empty the shelter of all pets by having them adopted into life-long homes by December 23. The adoption fees for cats and kittens will be discounted to \$10 and \$20, respectively. The adoption fee for specially marked dogs will be reduced as well. Adopters receive a free gift with each adoption while supplies last.

The adoption fee for all pets includes spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, flea treatment, de-worming, a heartworm test

for dogs six months or older, feline AIDS and leukemia tests for cats, a Lee County license for pets three months or older, behavior help line, microchip pet ID and a 10-day health guarantee. The total adoption package is valued at more than \$500.

In the past, some shelters have discouraged families from adopting pets during the holidays. However, without the option to adopt, many chose to support the puppy mill industry. As always, Animal Services works to match the needs of the pets with the lifestyles of the families regardless of the time of year.

Adoption hours at Animal Services are 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The shelter will be closed December 24 and 31. For more information call 533-7387 (LEE-PETS). Pet information and pictures can be viewed at www.LeeLostPets.com. Adoption applications also may be submitted online. The website updates hourly.*

THE RIVER WEEKLY NEWS

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 Choral 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
Esterio/South Fort Myers	898-1921
Notre Dame Club of Lee County	768-0417
Organ Transplant Recipients of SW Florida	247-3073
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	334-7419
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

PUZZLES

Answers on page 37

Super Crossword

VOWELS ON VACATION

ACROSS

1 Throat ailment

6 Rial earner

12 Final Four inits.

16 "It was only OK"

19 English dramatist George

20 Singer/fiddler Krauss

21 MP3 player attachment

23 Took a big step to relieve debt [IEOAUY]

25 Worker "standing by"

26 Enjoy

27 Surpasses

29 Wanton man

30 Carry on, as business

34 Mind-altering chemical substances [YOAIEU]

38 Rip off

39 Musical gourd

42 Composer of many marches

43 Withdrawn

44 Hebrew "A"

47 Transformed

49 Tirade

51 Cooking contest since 1949 [IUYAEO]

53 Study of bonds between atoms [OEUYAI]

59 Poker-pot promise

60 Of an average

62 Episodic drama

63 Basic human intelligence

66 U. URL ending

69 Hunter constellation

71 Fencing move

72 Spanish for "that"

73 President before Rutherford Birchard Hayes [UYEIOA]

77 "Imagine!"

78 Disney movie

80 Daughter of Desi Arnaz

81 Posed (for)

82 Suffix with Oktober

83 Zedong's theories

85 "G'day" sayer

88 Shower with flowers, e.g. "Sicko" and "Super Size Me," e.g. [QUEAYI]

92 "Dear Abby" is one [YIAEOU]

98 Mazar of "Entourage"

99 From sunup to sundown "had a farm"

101 Follower of "had a farm"

102 Morris, e.g.

105 Gone up

108 Naval clerk

110 Flutter

111 In great demand [IYOUAE]

114 Trapped by a blizzard

117 Sheltered, nautically

118 Plaza Hotel girl

121 Leslie Caron musical

122 Seder time

126 Thwarters of Boris Badenov [OYAUIE]

131 Neighbor of a Sudanese

132 "SOS!"

133 "So do I"

134 The, to René

135 Suffix with disk

136 Palace of Paris

137 For — (dirt-cheap)

DOWN

1 UV-blocking stat

2 — Aviv

3 Johnnie Walker blend

4 Pixie-like

5 Livens (up)

6 TV chef

7 Caribou kin

8 Joan of art

9 NBA

10 Steno's aid

11 Ear bone

12 Kansas river

13 Upper limit

14 Consist of

15 Wet mo.

16 Part of GMC

17 Adequate

18 Joan of Arc's crime

22 Like steel

24 Joist or lintel

28 Windows boxes?

30 Web, to flies

31 Bun

32 Low- — diet

33 Major hike

35 Perm part

36 Bygone emperors

37 "Peanuts" boy Linus —

40 Radio-switch letters

41 Sidewalk eatery

45 Fraternity letters

46 "Silicon Valley" airer

48 Arab chiefs

50 No — traffic

52 Wishes away

54 Been abed

55 Obstructs

56 Burn slightly

57 Zoo pens

58 Wintry mix

61 Ding-a-lings

63 Online health info site

64 Stern with a violin

65 May greeting card opener

67 Fast Net svc.

68 Normal

70 Gun org.

73 People itemizing

74 Bathtub gunk

75 — beat (hesitate)

76 Abbr. on a food label

79 Tough spot

82 Central points

84 The head honcho

86 Capri, e.g.

87 Inside: Prefix

89 Verse tribute

91 Sole, for one

93 Obstructs

94 Blue color

95 Preface

96 Skirt style

97 Both-hands-up time

100 Rhapsodic

102 Small church

103 Blazing

104 Hurdle for a grad student

106 E'erlasting

107 Titans' org.

109 Longtime Steelers coach Chuck

112 In case that

113 Musical Mel

115 Wife of Fred Flintstone

116 Actor Cary

119 Vodka brand

120 Outer limits

123 Mined metal

124 Animal doc

125 Devour

127 2000 Peace Nobelism Kim — Jung

128 "Toodles"

129 "— -Tiki"

130 Ship record

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

19 20 21 22

23 24 25

26 27 28 29

30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37

38 39 40 41 42 43

44 45 46 47 48 49 50

51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58

59 60 61 62

63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70 71

72 73 74 75 76 77

78 79 80 81 82

83 84 85 86 87 88 89

90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97

98 99 100 101

102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110

111 112 113 114 115 116

117 118 119 120 121

122 123 124 125 126 127 128 129 130

131 132 133

134 135 136 137

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Poke

4 Crazy

8 Take a stance?

12 Bullring bravo

13 Bloodhound's clue

14 Basin accessory

15 Squid, on a menu

17 Rend

18 Knapsack

19 Biz deg.

21 Waste no time

22 Ailment

26 Actor Burr's role

29 Lustrous black

30 Pirouette pivot

31 Addict

32 Turf

33 Tittle

34 Wire measure

35 Lamb's mama

36 Pinnacles

37 Antipasto ingredient

39 Rage

40 Conventual

41 Shrimp recipe

45 "So be it"

48 Milky Way et al.

50 Stead

51 Deadlocked

52 Muumuu accessory

53 "— have to do"

54 Utility bill datum

55 Sanctions

DOWN

1 Athlete

2 Jai follower

3 Sash

4 Realm

5 Saw

6 Supporting

7 Decorated (not) factor

9 Leave unpaid

10 Vast expanse

11 Blunder

16 Detest

20 Baseball need

23 Fermi's bit

24 Shower affection (on)

25 Favorable votes

26 "— the word"

27 One side of the Urals

28 Hawk

29 Coffee, slangily

32 Monkey, at times

33 Mountain-

35 Flightless bird

36 Esoteric

38 Cancel

39 Archipelago component

42 Actor O'Shea

43 Quick look

44 Fertility goddess

45 "The Greatest"

46 Cambridge sch.

47 Moray, for one

49 Ms. Gardner

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I A X V S P L Q N K I F D A X

V T Q O M A J I H D F C A Y W

U R P N L R J H P I F D S B Z

X V T D R A N D R O I D D D D

Q O M K I N I I I R I I I I

H F D D B O D O Z O Y D O O O

W V T I L I N L V T R L M T R

R Q O B O D N A L K C B G C E

I H A V F Y D K M Y C A I A T

Z T E X W V M L C U U S S F S

R D I O E G Q A O N H M K J A

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

- Alkaloid Devoid Humanoid Sigmoid
- Android Factoid Lipoid Tabloid
- Avoids Fibroid Myoid Toroid
- Cycloid Geoid Paranoid



"Knock it off, Mac — we're just having a drink
to celebrate our _____."

answer on page 37

SCRAMBLERS

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

Deride
SNORC _____

Void
EVOKER _____

Adorn
PADER _____

Alone
ELIGNS _____

TODAY'S WORD

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

SUDOKU

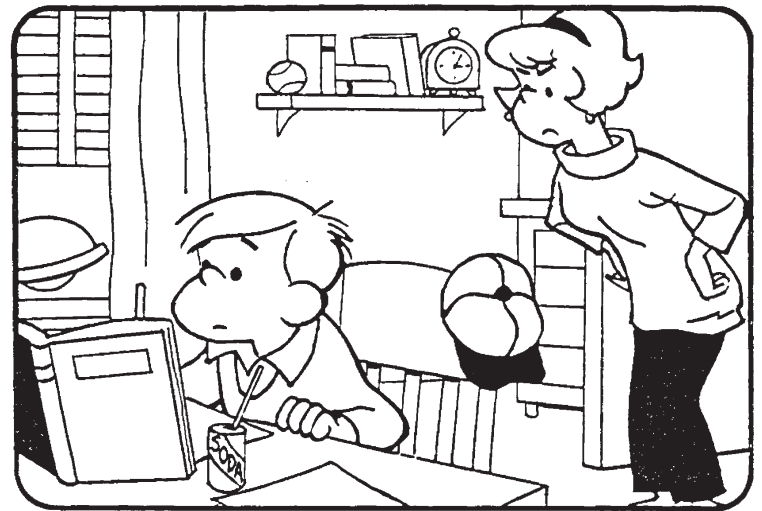
To play Sudoku:

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 37

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



FIND AT LEAST SIX DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS



Differences: 1. Blind is raised. 2. Soda can is missing. 3. Clock is missing. 4. Cap is missing. 5. Chest of drawers is smaller. 6. Arm is moved.

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Honey Citrus Stone Crab Claws with Hearts Of Palm Salad

3 pounds medium stone crab claws, cooked and chilled
 1/2 cup sugar
 1/2 cup rice wine vinegar
 1/4 cup honey
 1/2 cup orange or tangerine juice
 8 hearts of palm, fresh or canned
 1/4 cup red onions, thinly sliced
 1/4 cup red bell peppers, roasted, thinly sliced
 1/4 cup yellow bell peppers, roasted, thinly sliced
 2 medium oranges or tangerines, peeled and sectioned
 1/4 cup fresh tarragon leaves, chopped
 2 cups fresh spinach, finely chopped
 1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil
 1/4 cup rice wine vinegar
 2 tablespoon fresh parsley, finely chopped

Crack claws; remove shell and movable pincer, leaving the meat attached to the remaining pincer. Set aside. In a small saucepan, combine the sugar, vinegar, honey and orange or tangerine juice. Bring to a boil and cook until thickened to syrup. Remove from heat, cool and set aside. Slice hearts of palm into thin strips. In a bowl, combine the hearts of palm, onions, peppers, orange or tangerine segments, tarragon and spinach. Dress salad with olive oil and vinegar; toss until moistened. Serve salad in the



Honey Citrus Stone Crab Claws with Hearts Of Palm Salad

photo courtesy Fresh From Florida

center of each plate with stone crab claws arranged around the edge. Drizzle the honey citrus sauce over all and

garnish with chopped parsley. Serve extra honey citrus sauce on the side. Yields four servings.✱

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★RS 4/29 CC TFN

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★RS 9/2 CC 9/16

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★NS 11/11 CC TFN

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★RS 1/4 BM TFN

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★RS 1/4 CC TFN

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★NS 11/18 CC 12/30

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★NS 12/2 CC 12/16

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★NS 10/14 CC TFN

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LOAN NEEDED

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★NS 7/22 CC TFN

ANNUAL RENTAL

ANNUAL RENTALS

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★NS 11/18 CC 5/26

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★NS 12/2 CC 12/2

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Part Time Seasonal Hours
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Serial #J24756 - believe Model AA Sheraton circa 1930. The dimensions of the model AA are 4'-10" L x 4'-8" W x 3' - 2". Very good condition. Has been hooked to a dehumidifier to maintain integrity. Price \$300 negotiable. No delivery. Please contact Marie at 262.366.5544 for pictures or more info.

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HORTOONS



Chamber Luncheon Summit

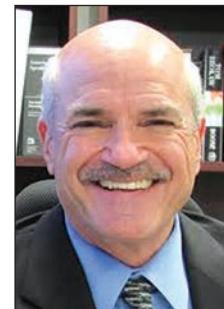
The Chamber of Southwest Florida is bringing city and county managers to the table for a luncheon summit to address the regional business community and the interested public on Thursday, December 15.

The State of Southwest Florida: City and County Managers Share Insights summit will take place from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Fort Myers Airport at Town Center, located at 9931 Interstate Commerce Drive.

Lee County Manager Roger Desjarlais, Bonita Springs City Manager Carl Schwing, Fort Myers City Manager Saeed Kazemi and Cape Coral City Manager John Szerlag will present on the state of their respective cities and counties, and provide perspective on local challenges and opportunities.

"As business owners, it is our responsibility to be a voice in our communities," said Chamber of Southwest Florida Chairman Joe Padgett. "We need to maintain an open dialogue with our city and county government in order to tell them what we need to continue to grow and improve our economy."

Member seating is \$30 and non-members are \$40. Advanced reservations are required by calling 433-4111 or visiting www.chamberswfl.com. Seating is limited and will be confirmed on a first-come basis. A limited number of corporate tables are also available.*



Roger Desjarlais



Carl Schwing



Saeed Kazemi



John Szerlag

photos provided

Top 10 Real Estate Sales

Development	City	Year Built	Square Footage	Listing Price	Selling Price	Days On Market
Bonita Beach	Bonita Springs	1973	1,800	\$2,595,000	\$2,500,000	276
Spring Ridge	Bonita Springs	2000	4,512	\$1,890,000	\$1,900,000	13
Bay Creek	Bonita Springs	2001	5,669	\$1,474,900	\$1,250,000	104
Deep Lagoon Estates	Fort Myers	2008	4,392	\$1,367,000	\$1,300,000	23
Shriver	Fort Myers	1923	2,472	\$1,289,000	\$1,100,000	401
Sea Oats	Sanibel	1989	2,870	\$1,195,000	\$1,160,000	148
El Sol	Fort Myers Beach	1999	3,834	\$999,000	\$954,000	5
Arezzo	Bonita Springs	2004	3,007	\$834,900	\$810,000	205
Fort Myers Shores	Fort Myers	2002	4,508	\$744,000	\$700,000	122
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	2013	2,638	\$695,000	\$650,000	45

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