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THE RIVER WEEKLY NEWS

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Vol. 16, No. 8

From the Beaches to the River District downtown Fort Myers

FEBRUARY 24, 2017



Church youth dress for folk dancing

Greek Festival Offers Culture, Food And Fun

Greek Fest returns to Fort Myers this weekend from February 24 to 26. The three-day festival runs from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. both Friday

photo courtesy www.greekfestfortmyers and Saturday and from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday on the grounds of the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, located at 8210 Cypress Lake Drive in Fort Myers.

Tickets are \$5 for the entire weekend; children under age 12 are admitted free of charge. There is plenty of free parking.

Join in sharing the Greek culture.

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Artists From Israel And United States Collaborate



Dawn by Juli Bobman

photos courtesy Alliance for the Arts

The exhibit Art Beyond Boundaries will be on view in the Main Gallery at the Alliance for the Arts from Friday, March 3 through Saturday,



On Spiritual Ascents by Carolyn Gora

March 25. There will be an opening reception on Sunday, March 5 from 6 to 8 p.m. Meet the artists during a conversational gallery walk and talk on Saturday, March 11 at 10 a.m.

The exhibit is a collection of 50 works created by artists from Israel and the United States. Eight of the participating artists are from Lee County. An artist from Israel was paired with an artist from the United States to create two separate pieces of work based upon a psalm. This exhibition

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Whimsical World Of Art Coming To ACT Gallery

Arts for ACT Gallery will hold an opening reception on Friday, March 3 from 6 to 10 p.m. during Art Walk. Artist Peter Stilton from Tampa will be featured with an exhibit that continues through Monday, April 3.

Stilton, a true Renaissance man, is an internationally known artist. He has dabbled in many different subjects and bodies of works in both representational and abstract styles. His Tampa studio embraces him from ceiling to floor with his paintings, antique settees, chairs, tables, carvings, sculptures, toys, oriental rugs and other collectibles. From his inspiring religious-themed paintings to his whimsical presentation of daily family life, Stilton's art is cherished in many cultures around the world.

In 1998, Stilton was the first American to have a one-man show at the Sorbonne (University of Paris). Later that year, one of his paintings depicting Paris was selected to hang in the office of the mayor of Paris as part of his permanent collection in the historic Hotel de Ville.

Stilton's paintings and sculptures are in private and corporate collections all over the

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Bed in the Garden by Peter Stilton

image courtesy ACT Gallery



Theresa Walker as Erma, flanked by sailors

photo courtesy Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre

Cole Porter Classic At Broadway Palm

by Di Saggau

Anything Goes, now showing at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre, captures the excitement of the golden era of sea travel, with gorgeous costumes,

plenty of choreography, especially snappy tap dancing and songs of the great Cole Porter. It opens up with *I Get a Kick Out of You*, sung by Reno (Christina Tompkins), a brassy nightclub singer. She leads the strong cast in a role that was originated by Ethel Merman. While I loved Merman, Tompkins doesn't have to take a back seat as she belts out her songs with a great voice, personality and wit. Her delivery is perfect.

The plot of *Anything Goes* is pure

continued on page 28

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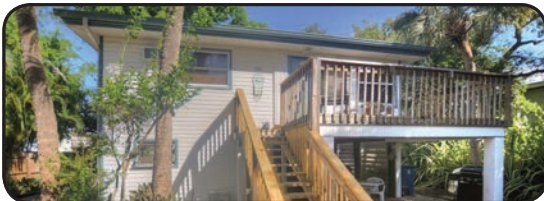
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Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

Apartment Cede To Traffic

by Gerri Reaves, PhD



This circa-1925 photograph illustrates just how completely one part of town changed in the mid-20th century, for nothing visible in the photo remains.

Pictured is an apartment building that was last known as the Park Hotel. The location is the northeast corner of Carson Street and McGregor Boulevard – later Main Street, for the street address changed about a decade after it as built.

The spot was transformed from a quiet residential corner to a perilous tangle of multi-lane traffic and bridge ramps. It's difficult to even imagine the area as it once existed, even with the aid of an historic photo and maps.

This handsome three-story structure was built by Frank A. Butterfield circa 1917 and briefly named Butterfield Apartments. Evidence suggests it was two-story in the early days.

Butterfield had bought the land from pioneers Frank and Katie Carson (thus the street name) in 1916.

In those days, the street was newly established, and the deep parcel extended along the street's east side all the way from McGregor to the river.

In November 1919, the land was sold to Margaret Smith Furen, wife of John W. Furen. They renamed the building Furen Homes Apartments. It contained 12 apartments and had a full wrap-around porch.

John Furen was extensively involved in the citrus business, owned many groves, and built the Furen Packing Company in East Fort Myers in 1915. He was also active in a variety of businesses throughout the county, including real estate and a wholesale and retail grocery and fertilizer business.

In the 1930s, he was elected to serve three terms on the Fort Myers City Council.

Around that time, the apartments became the Park Hotel and remained so until the end.

In the early 1950s, it advertised as a European-plan hotel. All rooms had steam heat a private bath. It also offered locked garages.



Pictured in this circa-1925 photo is the Park Hotel at McGregor Boulevard/Main Street and Carson Street

photo courtesy SWFL Historical Society



All traces of the apartment building and the surrounding neighborhood vanished with the construction of the Caloosahatchee Bridge. At the center is Carson Street, and in the far distance are West First Street and the river.

photo courtesy Gerri Reaves

One of its last uses was as temporary city offices in the early 1950s while a new city hall was being built at Main and Heitman, where a bank is now.

In fact, one way to place the historic photo in the context of the rest of downtown is to visualize the Park Hotel "behind," or next door to, the bank just east of it.

By the mid-1950s, changes were already in progress for what had once been Frank Carson's land. The Park Hotel was gone and ramps for the Caloosahatchee Bridge were under construction.

But building that bridge was a long process and involved many negotiations on the ground. As late as 1960, aerial photos show modest-size family homes still dotting a landscape that would soon be cleansed of them.

Early in 1961, pilings were being driven for the bridge.

Take a walk – cautiously – to Main and Carson, where you'll see the former site of a World War I-era apartment building that progress converted into a side road by a bridge exit.

Learn more about the town's many apartment houses and hotels 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 www.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 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

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

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

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THE RIVER
WEEKLY NEWS
FROM THE BEACHES TO DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS

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Pulitzer Prize Winner Leads Panel

Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist Leonard Pitts, Jr. will highlight a Journalism as Activism panel discussion in Rush Auditorium (Building J, Room 103) at the Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) Thomas Edison Campus on Thursday, March 2 at 2 p.m.

The panel will also include local journalists Melanie Payne of *The News-Press* and Chris Cifatte of *WINK News*, who will discuss journalism's impact on society and how it stimulates change. The event is free and open to the public.

Pitts is an award-winning journalist whose columns appear in newspapers around the country. He has written a series of critically acclaimed books, including his latest novel *Grant Park*. Among his many awards, Pitts is a three-time recipient of the National Association of Black Journalists' Award of Excellence, a five-time recipient of the Atlantic City Press Club's National Headliners Award and a seven-time recipient of the Society of Professional Journalists' Green Eyeshade Award. In 2004, he was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary.

Payne investigates scams, corruption and bad deals, providing advice on consumer issues every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday in



Leonard Pitts, Jr. photo courtesy FSW

The News-Press. She is active in the community, volunteering for various community groups and tutoring at-risk youth and young adults. Also, she is a member of the professional organization, Investigative Reporters and Editors.

Cifatte has anchored the *WINK* evening news since 2002. Previously, he worked at *WYFF-TV* in Greenville, South Carolina, *WMDT-TV* in Salisbury, Maryland and as a management and financial consultant in Los Angeles.

In 2002, Cifatte received an Emmy award for coverage of Dale Earnhardt's death, along with various other awards through the years for investigative coverage. He was awarded Lee County's Big Brother of the Year in 2006.

"Leonard Pitts, Jr. has used his influence to promote progressive societal reform, and Melanie Payne and Chris Cifatte have made an impact within our local community," said Dr. Amy Trogan, FSW English professor. "Our students and the community will

be inspired by our guests, who have used their voices to stimulate societal change."

The discssion is presented by FSW Writes, a FSW faculty group that plans writing events for FSW students, employees and the public. It is sponsored in part by the FSW Foundation.

FSW is located at 8099 College Parkway in Fort Myers.

For more information, contact Dr. Trogan at 433-6930.*

Children's Class At Edison Ford

Edison & Ford Winter Estates will host a 3-D art sculpture class for homeschoolers on Monday, February 27 at 10 a.m. Children will design and create a 3-D sculpture. The theme this year is birds. The completed projects will be displayed in the annual Art in the Gardens event throughout March and April in the Heritage Gardens at Edison Ford. A second class will be held on Thursday, March 2 at 2 p.m.

The cost per student is \$5 for Edison Ford members and \$10 for nonmembers.

For more information or to register, contact Leeanne Criswell at LCriswell@edisonfordwinterestates.org or call 334-7419.*



Children in a past 3-D art sculpture class photo courtesy Esidon Ford Winter Estates

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The Gershwin Experience

The Southwest Florida Symphony, continues its 56th season of Pops with The Gershwin Experience featuring highly celebrated Broadway veteran Lisa Vroman, who most notably starred for several years as Christine Daaé in the Broadway production of *Phantom of the Opera*. The performances, conducted by Maestro Nir Kabaretti, will take place at Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall on Friday, March 3 and Saturday, March 4 at 8 p.m. Tickets cost between \$27 and \$87 per person and may be purchased at www.swflso.org, by visiting the Southwest Florida Symphony Box Office located at 8290 College Parkway, Suite 103 in Fort Myers, by calling the Symphony Box Office at 418-1500 or at the door, one and a half hours prior to the concert.

Maestro Nir Kabaretti makes an unusual appearance on the Southwest Florida Symphony Pops stage to conduct The Gershwin Experience, leading the orchestra in George Gershwin's most memorable tunes like *Porgy & Bess's Summertime*, *Strike Up the Band*, Ella Fitzgerald's hits, *Someone to Watch Over Me*, *S'wonderful* and more. Maestro Kabaretti and Vroman light up the stage with warm stage rapport, including



lisa vroman photo courtesy SWFL Symphony

Vroman's engaging stories about her days on Broadway, experiences working with some of musical theater's most famous conductors, musicians and choreographers.

Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall is located at 13350 FSW Parkway in Fort Myers. Southwest Florida Symphony is Lee County's only professional orchestra and one of the oldest on Florida's gulf coast.*

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TOWN & RIVER**OPEN 2/25 1:00PM - 4:00PM****9850 CYPRESS LAKE DR., FT. MYERS**

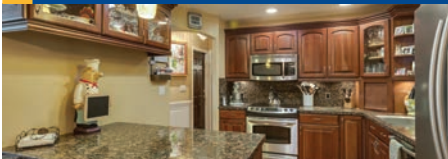
• 3 BR, 3 BA Updated Contemporary
\$1,129,000 MLS 216064291
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 Marc Wozny 239.297.0760

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GULF ACCESS IN TOWN & RIVER**OPEN 2/25 1:00PM - 3:00PM****6643 JOANNA CIR., FT. MYERS**

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 Tom Kiddy, McMurray & Nette 239.410.8047

WATER'S EDGE**OPEN 2/24 1:00PM - 4:00PM****14920 LAGUNA DR., FT. MYERS**

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DESIRABLE LOCATION!**OPEN 2/25 & 2/26 12:00PM - 3:00PM****2851 SW 49TH TER., CAPE CORAL**

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THE COMMODORE**OPEN 2/24 - 2/26 11:00AM - 4:00PM****4211 SE 19TH PL. #1D, CAPE CORAL**

• 2 BR, 2 BA, 1st Floor, Fully Remodeled
\$219,000 MLS 217011190
 Marc Wozny 239.297.0760

OBITUARY



RALPH R. BOESER

Ralph R. Boeser, age 75, of Prior Lake, Minnesota, passed February 14, 2017. He was a charismatic man who loved fishing, boating and smoking a good cigar with friends. Ralph especially enjoyed spending winters on Fort Myers Beach with his wife. He is survived by his children, Christine "Bucky" Boeser, Colleen (James) Christensen, Brian (Cheri) Boeser, Julie Boeser; six grandchildren; and one great-grandson. He was preceded in death by wife, Carol Boeser; brother, Dennis Boeser. Services were held in Minnesota on February 20. ✱

Famed Movie Producer To Speak At Church

Southwest Florida Film and Television Academy founder and CTN-10 general manager Paul Lodato has announced DeVon Franklin will be the guest speaker at First Church of the Nazarene in Fort Myers on Thursday, March 2 at 7 p.m. Franklin's message is entitled, *The Influence of Faith-Based Film & Television to Engage Today's Media-Driven Culture*.

Prior to launching his own company, Franklin Entertainment, Franklin served as senior vice president of production for Columbia Tri-Star Motion Picture Group, a division of Sony. He is best known for his work on films including *The Karate Kid*, *The Pursuit of Happiness*, *Jumping the Broom* and *Heaven Is for Real*. In 2016, he produced the hit film *Miracles from Heaven* starring Jennifer Garner and Queen Latifa. Franklin is also a best-selling author and motivational speaker described by Oprah Winfrey as "a bonafied dynamo ... a different kind of spiritual teacher for our times."

"We are so excited that DeVon Franklin has accepted our invitation to speak to a diverse local group of individuals including media industry professionals, civic leaders and anyone interested in making a positive impact on culture through entertainment media," says Lodato. "We're also



DeVon Franklin

photo provided

honored to have Fort Myers Mayor Randall P. Henderson Jr. joining us to speak to the audience and introduce Mr. Franklin."

Audience members will have the opportunity to meet Franklin immediately after the program at a book signing for his best-selling books, *Produced by Faith* and *The Wait*, which he co-authored with his wife, Meagan Good.

Actor-producer-songwriter Will Smith said, "In the 15 years I've known DeVon, he's lived his life the same way

he makes his movies: with commitment, humility, and a work ethic that demands respect. I'm honored to have been a part of his journey from stellar intern to studio vice president. His story is one to be shared with anyone chasing a dream."

First Church of the Nazarene is located at 13545 American Colony Boulevard in Fort Myers. Admission is free; however, an RSVP is requested for DeVon Franklin Hosted by CTN10 at www.facebook.com/events/599775993549749/. ✱

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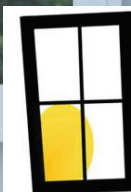
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Blind Raccoon Connects With Singer's Music

by Jeff Lysiak

Music can bring together different generations, people from various locations around the world or – in a few rare instances – animals and humans.

Such is the case of Trouper, Southwest Florida's famous blind raccoon, and worldwide recording artist and classical crossover singer Jackie Evancho.

According to Trouper's caretaker Dot Lee, her furry companion first connected with the standout soprano – who became an overnight sensation after wowing audiences on NBC's *America's Got Talent* – about five years ago.

"I had been watching a special on PBS with Jackie and David Foster," recalled Lee, a resident of Fort Myers who rescued the raccoon as a young kit. "Trouper was walking around in front of the television, and when Jackie started to sing, he stopped. He just sat there, listening to her voice. His ears went up, his eyes got wide and he stayed there for the entire show."

Lee knew that Trouper liked listening to music, but she had never seen the raccoon transfixed on one person's voice that intently. The next day, she went out and bought Trouper a Jackie Evancho CD and his own portable CD player, so he could listen to her music all the time.

Not too long afterwards, Lee and Trouper were attending an arts and crafts fair on Sanibel. While walking the grounds of The Community House, the raccoon seemed to be getting restless, so Lee put Trouper's specially-designed headphones on and played Evancho's *O Holy Night* CD for him to listen to. Immediately, the music calmed him down.

During appearances she made with Trouper, Lee often shared the story of how big a fan of Evancho's music



Dot Lee holding Trouper the blind raccoon as he listens to a CD of his favorite singer, Jackie Evancho photo by Jeff Lysiak

the remarkable raccoon was. On one occasion, during an appearance at Toys Ahoy in the Periwinkle Place Shopping Center, Lee received a call from Evancho's grandmother. Word had spread about Trouper's love of her granddaughter's vocals, and she asked if Lee could send her a copy of Kyle Miller's book *Trouper – The True Adventures of a Blind Raccoon: The Beginning*. Of course, Lee sent the book to be passed along to Evancho, later learning that the young singer read the story and shared it with her friends.

But the comical critter and famous recording artist had never met in person... until last year.

Evancho, who has released several Billboard charting albums since 2010 and has performed with artists including Barbra Streisand, Placido Domingo and Andrea Bocelli, met Trouper and Lee following her concert at The Lakeland Center.

A Celebration Of ArtPoems

Poets and artists affiliated with ArtPoems, the collaborative multimedia project of Southwest Florida, celebrated their 11th year at Bonita Springs Center for Performing Arts on February 22 and will celebrate again at Alliance for the Arts on Wednesday, March 8. There will be a reception beginning at 7 p.m. with the presentation to follow at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$10.

Ranging from Peace River to Sanibel, from Cape Coral to Fort Myers and Naples, the group of 11 artists and 11 poets has collaborated to produce poems inspired by artworks and artworks inspired by poems. Poets will perform their poems while the paired

paintings, sculptures, photography and mixed media artwork are exhibited on stage and on the screen.

This year, artists are Paul David Adamick, Maria Bouloux, Dennis Church, Honey Costa, Eleanor Dominek, Beth Everhart, Scott Guelcher, Linda Lally, Terry Lynn, Roy Rodriguez and Berry van Boekel.

Collaborating poets are Marissa Douglass, Dan Reed England, Joyce Berrian Ferrari, Christine Godwin, Sandy Greco, Mary Beth Lundgren, Doug MacGregor, Gary McLouth, Joe Pacheco, Sid Simon and Lorraine Walker Williams.

Alliance for the Arts is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers Call 939-2787 for more information.

Visit www.artpoems.org to learn more.✴



Jackie Evancho will perform in Fort Myers on February 26 photo provided

Trouper, Lee and Judy Lewis (Lee's friend and assistant) were invited to see the show by Evancho's mother, Lisa, who had earlier reached out to Lee via phone after finding a young abandoned raccoon near the family's home in Pennsylvania.

"It was a great experience for all of us," said Lee. "We met her whole family. Trouper gave Jackie a bouquet of roses and she sang a couple of songs to him. It was a very sweet moment."

"Jackie's dad, Michael, recorded the whole thing on his cell phone," added Lewis. "And, by the time we got home

that night, he had already posted the video on YouTube!"

In the video – which has been view more than 38,000 times – Evancho receives a small bouquet from Trouper before she sings *Come What May* and *Amazing Grace* to him. In response, Trouper begins to purr. "You're a real life Dr. Doolittle," Michael Evancho tells his daughter.

"I was really honored when I learned that my voice soothes him and that he listens to my music every day," said the 16-year-old superstar.

This Sunday, February 26, Jackie Evancho will be performing for the first time in Fort Myers at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall. As you might expect, Trouper will be there, too.

"Jackie graciously invited us to come and see her perform again, and we are so grateful," added Lee. "It's so wonderful that she has connected with him and his message... of love, of peace and of respect for all living things. He might not be able to see, and he doesn't know what color, race or religion you are... and he doesn't care. He only knows that he wants to be loved."

For more information about Trouper, visit www.trouperandfriends.org.✴

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Fort Myers Art:

Artist's Success With Store Aids County Economy



by Tom Hall

Following an appearance on FOX4's *Morning Blend*, Matlacha artist Leoma Lovegrove headed over to Bealls Department Store on Cleveland Avenue (just north of Daniels Parkway)

to "paint out loud" and autograph purchases for a host of fans and Valentine's Day shoppers.

Lovegrove became associated with the Bradenton-based department store four years ago, in February 2013. The department store chain saw some of her paintings and liked Lovegrove's bold, vibrant colors and the way her images capture Southwest Florida's active, healthy, water-based lifestyle. But being a prudent, smartly run company, Bealls deem it prudent to test the water by doing market analysis and focus group testing.

After completing their due diligence, they started out slowly, introducing a limited line of casual wear bearing new images they commissioned Lovegrove to create. The designs caught on, and so the following year, Bealls expanded

its Lovegrove product line, adding handbags, totes, luggage, beach towels, Tervis drinkware and more. The new products were rolled out at the same outlet in the Cypress Trace Shopping Center in Fort Myers, where they first announced their affiliation with the artist. To mark the occasion, Lovegrove painted a seahorse live for a crowd of nearly 200.

Since then, Bealls has expanded its Lovegrove product line, which it offers in each of the department store's 74 brick-and-mortar department stores throughout the State of Florida as well as online.

It is rewarding whenever any artist attains commercial success, but Southwest Florida residents and business owners have reason to be particularly appreciative of the popularity of her designs with Bealls patrons. Each of the millions of Lovegrove products offered and sold by Bealls mentions Matlacha Island, and over the course of her four-year affiliation with Bealls, scores of Bealls customers have embarked upon a pilgrimage to visit her island gallery and gardens or attend one of her Paint Out Loud performances at a local Bealls outlet. When they come, they don't just spend money at Lovegrove Gallery & Gardens or Bealls. They buy gas at an area service station, a meal at a local café or bistro and shop the other galleries and boutiques that line Pine Island Road, Cleveland Avenue or downtown Fort Myers. Her success benefits the community's economy. Art means business, whether on an individual or public scale.

Lovegrove is no stranger to the



Artist Leoma Lovegrove at a past Paint Out Loud performance at Bealls

photos courtesy www.artsfwf

interplay between art and tourism. She worked for years with the Lee County Visitory & Convention Bureau (VCB) to bring international tourism to Southwest Florida destinations. And two years ago, the VCB and Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce Inc. honored Lovegrove during its annual Chrysalis Awards luncheon with its prestigious Junonia Award. Created in 2006, the Junonia Award recognizes individuals who have positively impacted the local tourism community by demonstrating unique capabilities, leadership, commitment and dedication. Lovegrove was chosen for her tireless promotion of the destination.

In presenting the award to Lovegrove, Tamara Pigott, executive director of the VCB, described Lovegrove's contagious love of Florida that has been instrumental in encouraging tourism from around the world.

"The VCB has enjoyed a long-standing partnership with Leoma in promoting our destination. I have personally had the pleasure of working alongside her on many of our national and international marketing programs," said Pigott.

Lovegrove brings her passion for Southwest Florida to every Bealls design and live art demonstration, as the more than 200 customers saw first-hand during Lovegrove's Paint Out Loud performance at Bealls this past Valentine's Day. Bealls commemorated the occasion by releasing a brand new "heart" T-shirt for everyone to enjoy.

Beall's Department Stores is a division of Bealls, Inc. Founded in 1915 as a dry goods store, the Bradenton-based company now operates more than 540 stores in 17 states under the names Beall's, Beall's Outlet and Burke's Outlet. Today, Beall's is the destination of choice for casual lifestyle and priced right apparel and home merchandise.

To learn more about Bealls, visit www.BeallsFlorida.com.

Classic Inspires Hope In Face Of Inequality

To Kill A Mockingbird recently opened at Florida Repertory Theatre for a limited run. The timeless American classic will play in the historic Arcade Theatre through March 8.

Adapted from the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel, *To Kill A Mockingbird* continues to inspire hope in the face of inequality. It tells the compelling story of racial injustice and loss of innocence through the eyes of 6-year-old Scout, the tomboyish daughter of small-town lawyer Atticus Finch. As a tense tug of war between justice and bigotry heats up in their small town of Maycomb, Alabama, Atticus and his family must learn to temper violence and hatred with courage and compassion.

"We are honored to bring this timeless classic back to the stage for Southwest Florida audiences," says Producing Artistic Director Robert Cacioppo. "This play's message about empathy and walking in another man's shoes is timeless. We all know the film starring Gregory Peck, and there is something even more compelling about seeing this story and these characters live. This is a time for healing and coming together, and *To Kill A Mockingbird* is the perfect story to help begin that in our community."

The production features one of the largest casts to ever take the stage in the historic Arcade Theatre and includes Florida Rep favorites, ensemble members, New York and regional veterans as well as community members making their Florida Rep debuts and some of Fort Myers most promising rising stars as the children at the center of the play.

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 **Lee Civic Center and Fairgrounds** is currently hosting the **93rd annual Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair**. The fair began on February 23 and will run until Sunday, March 5. Tickets are now on sale at www.swflcfair.com/tickets, along with the Mega Pass, granting admission and unlimited rides for one day of the fair.

A lineup of free entertainment is in store, from Ron Diamond's Hypnosis Magic to the Timberworks Lumberjack Show. The Fire Fighter Training Show returns for its second year along with Dale's Scott's The Future of Magic Show. Marc Dobson's One Man Band and Billy "Elvis" Lindsey – winner of the ELVIS Extravaganza Contest at the Florida State Fair – will also perform. Tadpole the Clown, Carrie McQueen Stilt Walker and the Moogician will be on hand, and Rocky Da Roosta and his cast of cackling hens will entertain you throughout the day.

The 4-H Livestock competitions, shows and sales are held throughout the 11 days, with over 1,300 entries including beef breeding, goats, horses, small animals and swine from more than 400 4-H exhibitors. Specialty goat shows and competitions are presented by the American Dairy Goat Association, National Pygmy Goat Association and the American Boer Goat Association. The Market Animal Livestock sale will be held on Saturday, March 4.



The 93rd annual Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair will have plenty of rides

photo provided

On Senior/Military Day, there will be many workshops presented by Lee County Master Gardeners on 18 topics from worm composting to citrus growing to Florida Friendly Landscapes. An Ask the Gardener session will help answer fairgoers' gardening questions.

Senior/Military Day is Wednesday, March 1 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is \$5.

Visit the website for the full lineup of entertainment, community stage happenings, plus a downloadable brochure that is your ultimate guide to all of the excitement.

The 4th annual **Sing Out Festival** will be held this Friday and Saturday, February 24 and 25 at **New Hope Presbyterian Church**, 10051 Plantation Road in Fort Myers.

Sing Out begins with a workshop at 6 p.m. on Friday. The workshop will continue on Saturday, along with a morning and afternoon rehearsal. A festival concert that is open to the public will be the culmination of these efforts, beginning at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and complete with all Sing Out participants, soloists and instrumentalists.

Registration forms can be found at www.symphonicchorale.org. Registration fee is \$50 per participant. Tickets to attend the Saturday concert can also be purchased at the website. Tickets are \$10 for students, \$25 for general admission and \$30 for preferred seating.

Pure Florida's Fort Myers location will present **Bark on the Ark** cruise from 8 to 11:30 a.m. this Saturday, February 25. Guests will have the opportunity to bring their dogs aboard the *M/V Edison Explorer* for a sightseeing river cruise to Picnic Island, an island located between Sanibel and Pine Island.

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

fresh air. While Pure Florida cannot guarantee animal sightings in the wild, the captain will alert passengers to wildlife such as 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 *M/V Edison Explorer* departs from **The Marina at Edison Ford**, located at 2360 W. First Street in Fort Myers.

Registration for the tour is \$44 per person. Groups of six or more can call for discounted group rates. Reservations are required as room is limited to 25 passengers and their pets. All dogs that can follow basic commands are welcome. For more information or to make reservations, call 919-2965 or visit www.PureFL.com

Breath of Hope Lung Foundation will host the first-ever **A Breath of Hope Lung Run/Walk** in Fort Myers at **Lakes Regional Park** this Saturday, February 25 from 7:30 to 10:15 a.m. The event's intent is to raise awareness about lung cancer and available screening, support cancer patients and their families, and raise money for lung cancer research.

The run/walk will feature a 5K chip-timed run or walk for all ages. Included will be kids' activities, snacks, music, free T-shirts for participants, a remembrance ceremony for those lost to lung cancer, patient resources and a lung cancer field update by a leading oncologist.

Registration fees include \$35 for adults age 13 and older, \$15 for children age 5 to 12 and free to children under age 5. Children under 5 do not receive a race T-shirt unless a \$15 registration fee is paid.

Volunteers and college students receive \$10 off registration. For discount information, email molly@abreathofhope.org.

To register online, visit www.act.abreathofhope.org/site/TR?fr_id=1090&pg=enry.

Registrants can check-in early on Friday, February 24 from 3 to 7 p.m. at The Run Shoppe, 6900 Daniels Parkway in Fort Myers. That way they can pick up their T-shirt and runner bib to beat the lines on Saturday morning. Lakes Regional Park does not allow day-of registration at the park. The final chance to register will be in-person on Friday, February 24.

For more information, contact Nancy Torrison, executive director for A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation, at 952-807-6111 or nancy@abreathofhope.org.

This Saturday, February 25, Southeastern Guide Dogs is hosting a fundraiser called **Pancakes and Puppies at Applebee's**, located at 13550 South Tamiami Trail in Fort Myers. The event begins at 8 a.m.

For \$10, supporters will enjoy a hearty breakfast of pancakes, sausage, eggs, juice and coffee, served up the puppy raisers and The Calendar Girls.

For more information, call Linda Floyd at 560-0167.

continued on page 27

SHELL POINT PRESENTS *Spectrum of Sound* THE **BARBARY COAST DIXIELAND BAND**

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Shell Point is located just off Summerlin Road in Fort Myers, 2 miles before the Sanibel Causeway.

Soup Kitchen Benefit Donors Announced

Menu donors have been announced for the 14th annual Sam Galloway Jr. & Friends Soup Kitchen Benefit on Thursday, March 9 at the Sam Galloway Ford, located off Boy Scout Drive in Fort Myers. Cocktail hour begins at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m.

This year's menu, which is donated by local restaurants and individuals, includes appetizers from Sandy Stilwell of Summerlin Jake's Seafood & Steaks and The Rao Family of Mastello Ristorante and A Touch of Italy Market; garden salad from Will Prather of The Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre; barbecue chicken and sauce from Don and Angela Hanchey of Hanchey's Up n Smoke BBQ; smoked pork and swamp cabbage from Wesley and Deanna Hansen; fried shrimp and cheese grits from John and Paul Browning of The Three Fishermen Restaurants; gourmet meatloaf and mashed potatoes from Jordan Webster of JG Webster's Catering; broasted chicken by Steve and Jeanne Sexton of The Alva Diner;

collards, corn bread and hot pepper sauce from Chip and Betsy Barnwell of The Farmer's Market Restaurant; green beans and dirty rice from Vickie and Andre Jones of Jonesez BBQ, Inc.; okra and tomatoes from The Soup Kitchen at Community Cooperative; desserts from Norman and Mary Love of Norman Love Confections, Christof Danzi of Cristof's on McGregor and Uncle Charles' Cookie Ministry; and beverages from The Ranch Concert Hall & Saloon, Mast Family Culligan and the Mitchell family of Suncoast Beverage.

The goal of this event is to raise over \$450,000 for Community Cooperative, the umbrella agency for the Community Cafés and Markets, the Soup Kitchen, Meals on Wheels, Healthy School Pantries and Food Literacy in Pre-School (FLIP) programs, Mobile Food Pantries, and Social and Education Resource Centers for area hungry and homeless residents in need. The event has sold out for several years and continues to be one of the signature events in the Southwest Florida community.

To purchase a seat or sponsorship for the event or for more information, contact Nicole Rieg at Nicole@CommunityCooperative.com or visit www.CommunityCooperative.com.✱

Interactive Tour On Reality Of Life In Poverty

Compassion International, a leading authority on child sponsorship that releases children from poverty globally, will be bringing its tour, The Compassion Experience, to New Hope Presbyterian Church in Fort Myers from Friday, March 3 to Monday, March 6. The event will educate visitors about the realities of life in poverty as well as provide an international experience to visitors who may not ever have the opportunity to travel abroad to a developing country. To sign up for a free 20 minute tour, visit www.newhopefortmyers.org/compassion-experience/

The Compassion Experience will be set up in the church parking lot at 10051 Plantation Road in Fort Myers. Visitors will take a self-guided journey where they will be immersed in the lives and stories of two children living in Uganda or Bolivia. Each child's story starts in hardship but ends in hope. The experience includes more than 2,000 square feet of exhibit space, featuring replicas of the homes and environments of these two compassion beneficiaries. The event is free and family-friendly.

"We built The Compassion Experience in order to really bring the developing world to America," said Mark Hanlon, Compassion International's senior vice president

of global marketing and engagement. "When people think of poverty, they often think of the lack of things, the lack of stuff, the lack of money. Those are all symptoms of poverty. The real issue of poverty is the lack of hope. Through our holistic child development program, compassion stirs hope in children. And you'll see that hope comes to life at this event."

The tour is highly interactive, using individual iPods and headsets to offer visitors a sense of what life is like in extremely poverty-stricken areas around the world where the World Bank estimates that 700 million (9.6 percent of the global population) live on less than \$1.90 a day. In the areas that the tour serves, nearly one in five children die before age 5, mostly from preventable causes, and 124 million children worldwide do not attend school, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Institute for Statistics (UIS). Tour-goers will have the opportunity to change the story of children living in poverty by learning more about the issue as well as Compassion International's child sponsorship program, which tackles global poverty one child at a time. Compassion International currently serves more than 1.9 million children in 26 of the world's most impoverished countries.

For more information, visit www.CompassionExperience.com and www.facebook.com/CompassionExperience on Facebook.✱



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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

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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. RRev. Dr. Jean M. Simpson and Rev. Ellen Palmer Marsey. 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.lambogodchurch.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.speterfmb.com.

Sunday worship service at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m.

SAINT NICHOLAS MONASTERY

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

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

SOUTHWEST BAPTIST CHURCH

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

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.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

CHURCH FORT MYERS

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

UNITY OF BONITA SPRINGS

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

UNITY OF FORT MYERS

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

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (PCA)

9065 Ligon Court, Fort Myers, across from HealthPark Hospital, 481-2125. Pastor: Byron West. Sunday Services: 9:30 a.m. Discipleship Classes for all ages, 10:30 a.m. Fellowship & Coffee, 10:45 a.m. Corporate Worship.

WORD OF LIFE CHURCH

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

ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

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 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 featuring Chinese and Japanese cuisine for both lunch and dinner. Lunch is served from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and dinner is served from 3 p.m. to close. Restaurant hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and noon to 10 p.m. on Sunday.

The name Ichiban means "Number One" in Japanese, something its staff takes to heart by offering customers a perfect balance of great quality and affordable prices.

With its main entrance located in the lobby of Hotel Indigo, Ichiban has been family owned and operated for 14 years and its enduring popularity is a testament to its exceptional, friendly service. The extensive menu (check out all selections at www.ichibandowntownfortmyers.com) features the freshest Asian specialties and a wide selection of sushi and sashimi. Try Ichiban's personalized sushi combinations and rolls, not found at any other Japanese/sushi restaurant.

Amenities include: inside or lobby seating; beer, wine and sake; sushi bar; and take-out or delivery services.

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



Cheers! Island Cow on Sanibel offers full liquor island cocktails

photo by Bob Petcher

ISLAND COW

Where can you go when you're in the "moood" for some great cookin', local fun and prices that won't make you lose the farm? Try Island Cow on Sanibel.

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

2163 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel. Call 472-0606.

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.

Hours include Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Saturday from noon to 9 p.m.; Sunday from 4 to 9 p.m.

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.

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1451 Middle Gulf Drive, Sanibel 472-4151.

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 Grandepiogga 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 a 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.

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Lake Kennedy Senior Center

Musical Offered At Center



Scene from the play/musical photo courtesy The Lake Kennedy Center

Betty's Performing Arts presents The Hopeful Diamond Caper, a two-act play/musical filled with comedy and mystery at the Lake Kennedy Senior Center on Friday, March 3 and Sunday, March 5. Doors open at 6 p.m. on Friday and 1:30 p.m. on Sunday. Cost is \$20 per person for the dinner show on Friday and \$10 per person for the matinee show on Sunday.

The show will offer songs, dances and skits. The Friday evening performance features a Bob Evans dinner with your choice of salmon, mashed potatoes with gravy, green beans, roll, and banana bread, or a premium garden salad, roll and banana bread for dessert.

Both shows are Bring your own beverage. Pre-registration required. For more information, call 574-0575.

Lake Kennedy Senior Center is located at 400 Santa Barbara Boulevard in Cape Coral. For more information, call 574-0575.*



Cantus vocal group photo provided

Men's Vocal Group To Perform

Middle school students of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School will have a rare opportunity to hear a nationally acclaimed touring men's vocal group on Monday, March 6, when Cantus performs a private concert for the students in the school auditorium.

The concert is provided courtesy of the Fort Myers Community Concert Association as part of its outreach program for Lee County public school students.

"We provide seats for each of our concerts at no cost to students in Lee County public schools, but we realize that not all students have the ability to get to our weeknight performances. To expose as many young people as possible to classical music, our board of directors decided to take some of our concerts to the students," said Community Concert Association President Mary Lee Mann.

The musicians will perform for about an hour beginning at 10:30 a.m. and answer questions from students interested in the arts and music.

Mann said the Community Concert Association Board of Directors chose Cantus for its school outreach because "they have been so well received by other communities, and we thought they would be perfect for our student outreach program."

The school performance follows the Cantus performance the night before for approximately 1,700 people at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall on the Florida SouthWestern State College campus in Fort Myers. For tickets visit www.fortmyerscommunityconcerts.org or call 489-4171. Prices are \$45 for orchestra and mezzanine seats, \$35 for lower balcony seats and \$25 for upper balcony seats.

Cantus performs more than 60 concerts each year both in national and international touring, including performances at Lincoln Center and the Kennedy Center in New York City. The group has released 17 albums.

The Washington Post has hailed the Cantus sound as having both "exalting finesse" and "expressive power" and refers to the "spontaneous grace" of its music-making. This premier men's vocal ensemble will honor the men and women who have answered the call to arms during the inspiring tribute, *No Greater Love Than This*.

Cantus is the recipient of three prestigious Chorus America awards, including the 2016 Dale Warland Singers Commission Award (presented in partnership with the American Composers Forum), the Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence (2009) and the Education Outreach Award (2011). Cantus was also the 2010-11 Artist in Residence on Minnesota Public Radio and American Public Media's Performance Today.*

Art League

The Art League of Fort Myers will host an exhibition and classes during March.

There will be a March Exhibition "March Madness" reception on Friday, March 3 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served. Free family crafts and activities welcome kids and parents of all ages. The exhibition will run until March 31.

There will be an acrylic class on March 7, 14, 21 and 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cost is \$80 for members and \$90 for non-members. The instructor is Sue Dunham.

There will be a new stained glass class starting March 4. Call 275-3970 to register.

The Art League of Fort Myers is located at 1451 Monroe St, Fort Myers. Visit www.artleagueoffortmyers.org for more information.*

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Symphony Presents Concerts



Tim Berens photo courtesy SWFL Symphony

The Southwest Florida Symphony, Lee County's professional orchestra and one of the oldest symphony orchestras on Florida's gulf coast, presents the final concert in its 2016-17 Small Stage Symphonies series, *Concierto de Aranjuez*, with special guest artist, Cincinnati Pops guitarist Tim Berens. In addition to a performance of Joaquin Rodrigo's *Concierto de Aranjuez*, this concert features performances of Franz Joseph

Haydn's *Symphony 101 The Clock* and *Mater* by contemporary Italian composer Cristian Cararra at three Lee County venues.

Concerts take place at BIG ARTS on Sanibel Island on Wednesday, March 8; at Shell Point Village Church on Thursday, March 9; and at the Southwest Florida Performing Arts Center on Friday, March 10. All concerts start at 7:30 p.m. Ticket prices begin at \$25 and vary by venue. They may be purchased at www.swflso.org, by visiting the Southwest Florida Symphony Box Office located at 8290 College Parkway, Suite 103 in Fort Myers, or by calling the Symphony Box Office at 418-1500. Tickets may also be purchased at each venue.

Small Stage Symphonies are chamber orchestra concerts that take place at smaller venues throughout Lee County in order to provide patrons with a more intimate concert experience and an opportunity to sample an even broader variety of classical repertoire. Like Masterworks Concerts, Small Stage Symphonies feature internationally renowned guest soloists and conductors, including Maestro Nir Kabaretti.

Nir Kabaretti is in his third season with the Southwest Florida and his 10th with the Santa Barbara Symphony in California, where he serves as music and artistic director. He has been described as "a conductor with immense musicality and warm personality" by Maestro Zubin Mehta. Maestro Kabaretti has earned an impressive reputation worldwide for his command of a vast symphonic and operatic repertoire.

Upon graduation from the prestigious University of Music and Performing Arts in Vienna, Kabaretti began working as coach and chorus master at the Vienna State Opera and at the Salzburg Festival. He later served as personal assistant to Maestro Zubin Mehta at Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino in Florence, Italy.

Nir Kabaretti has worked with some of the world's most sought-after musicians, such as Lang Lang, Plácido Domingo, Itzhak Perlman and Hélène Grimaud. He has conducted many of the great orchestras of the world, including the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra, the Tokyo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Orquesta Filarmonica de Buenos Aires, the Orchestre National du Théâtre du Capitole de Toulouse, the Lausanne Chamber Orchestra, the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra, the Jerusalem Symphony Orchestra, and many others.

He was appointed principal conductor of the Raanana Symphonette Orchestra in Israel in 2002, and later its music director until 2008.

Maestro Kabaretti's operatic experience includes productions at the Vienna State Opera, the Teatro alla Scala, the Maggio Musicale Fiorentino, Teatro Real in Madrid, The Israeli Opera, Opéra de Lausanne, and Opera Santa Barbara, among many others.

Maestro Kabaretti received the America-Israel Cultural Foundation Grant for Young Conductors. In 1993, he won the Forum Junger Künstler Conducting Competition in Vienna. In 1994 he was among the finalists in the International Competition for

Conductors in Douai, France.

The Southwest Florida Symphony's 2016-17 sponsors include The City of Fort Myers, The State of Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, The Florida Council on Arts & Culture, The Southwest Florida Symphony Endowment Foundation, The Southwest Florida Symphony Society, Scanlon Lexus, The LAT Foundation, Bell Tower Shops, Uhler and Vertich Financial Planners, Burgess Brant Engineers, Sheeley Architects & Lotus Architects, Advanced Pain Management & Spine Specialists, Madeleine Taeni, Mr. and Mrs. Charles B. Munsch, The Enterprise Foundation, Tween Waters Inn, Bailey's General Store, Sanibel Captiva Community Bank, Crowne Plaza, Shoeless Joe's, IberiaBank, Ernie Fogg and Margot Flinn, The Friends of the Symphony on Sanibel, Steve and Charlotte Qua, Don Fjellin, Mastello Ristorante, Rob and Ruth Diefenbach, Eric Diefenbach and JK Brown.✱

From page 1

Greek Festival

For over 40 years, the Greek parish has entertained Lee County with a display of sights, sounds and tastes of Greece. The festival includes authentic Greek food and pastries, colorful dance performances, live music, carnival rides and games, merchandise vendors, church tours and a car raffle, where a \$50 ticket can win a 2017 Lexus IS250 or \$25,000 in cash.

Visit www.greekfestfortmyers.com for more information. Call 481-2099 for tickets for the festival or car raffle.✱

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Let The Tide Plan Your Day's Fishing



by Capt. Matt Mitchell

With far from desirable tides this week, fishing was good as long as you chose to target the right species at the right time. As always, fishing while we have

moving water just makes things easier and will always be the better bite. During periods of any tide movement, the catch-and-release snook bite continued to be outstanding, along with some of the bigger trout I have seen while fishing in the mangrove bays and creeks. Once the tide quit moving, trying to get any species of fish to eat a bait is going to be tough. This proved very true this week.

One option for bending the rods during these no-tide periods was to get in or close to the passes. Our passes have at least a little bit of water movement when no where else does. Another good choice during windy days

is to set up on a wind-blown shoreline. Find any kind of water movement during the few hours of slack tide and your odds of catching fish are drastically increased. Most days this week, we had to deal with at least a few hours of slack tide. That was a little bit of a challenge. All species of saltwater fish just feed better in moving water as they stage up, letting the current bring the bait to them.

If you can plan your day's fishing according to what the day's tide movement is, you will catch more and better fish. Fish during the periods of the most water flow as this is when gamefish simply feed the best. During these fast moving water periods, target your more glamorous species of snook, redfish and trout. During the slack tide periods, sheepshead fishing is a good choice. Sheepshead saved quite a few days on the water this week. Wind-blown docks both in the sound and in the passes where productive for sheepshead even during zero-tide movement. If one dock was not happening, I would move to the next. Once we got these fish feeding, it was bite after bite all on chunks of shrimp.

Having some shrimp in your live well to fall back on when things get tough is a must have. Small chunks of shrimp



Dean Niehus from Sioux City, Iowa with a 24-inch trout caught while fishing with Capt. Matt Mitchell this week

bounced across the bottom in narrow, shell-bottomed creeks will almost always get a strike when nothing else will. A few narrow creek entrances I fish had a wide variety of species including pompano, flounder and black drum that all ate the slow-moving, bottom-bounced chunk of shrimp during lousy tides. When the current is not moving, a slow-bounced jig head with a chunk of shrimp is a great way to cover some ground.

Learning how our tides work only comes from time served along with the

understanding of what certain species of fish do during the different stages of the tide. The tide decides what species, where and how I will fish on any given day and is the single most important factor to having a successful days fishing.

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 395-0113.

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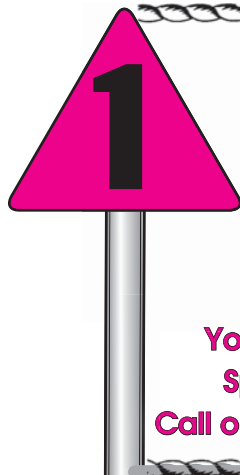


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Dave Doane

CROW Case Of The Week:

River Otters



by Bob Petcher

The North American river otter (*Lontra canadensis*) is known as a fun animal. Its youthful and playful antics with other otters involve sliding, belly flopping, somersaulting and wrestling.

The aquatic mammal, whose life span averages eight to nine years, is a strong swimmer that relies on its powerful tail and flexible, long slender body for propulsion. Couple

that with webbed feet and water repellent fur that is thick and protective to keep it dry and warm and you are only flippers shy of ranking as high as the seal in swim strength.

Interestingly, river otters have the ability to close their noses and ears underwater. In fact, the natural swimmers learn early when they are pushed in the water by their mother at less than two months old. Not bad for creatures that are blind and helpless at birth. As they age and acclimate to the water, adult river otters can hold their breath underwater for some eight minutes.

The nocturnal hunters also have long whiskers that are used to detect prey in dark or cloudy water and clawed feet that can grasp onto slippery prey. They also have scent glands near the base of their tails that produce a strong, musky odor as a scent mark.

The river otter, a member of the weasel family, is equally adapted to land. In fact, it can traverse on ground just as effective as in water and can reach speeds of 15 miles per hour when running. The river otter is known to be very sensitive to environmental pollution.

At CROW, two juvenile North American river otters arrived on February 12 after being found in a drainage ditch near a construction site in North Fort Myers. They came to the clinic in a weak condition suffering from

hypothermia and dehydration and were covered in flea bites and mud. It was reported that the mother had been trapped one week prior to their finding. The young otters were cleaned and warmed up before medical officials used a nebulizer chamber to treat them for possible signs of upper respiratory tract infections. There was also a chance for lower respiratory complications, such as pneumonia. Upon intake, they both weighed only about 800 grams, but were said to be eating well and increasing their weight.

After another weekend of care, an update on the two youthful patients was given on Monday. The larger of the two juveniles was reportedly healthier.

"The prognosis for the larger of the two, patient number 17-298, was 'good' and the smaller of the two, patient number 17-297, was 'guarded,'" said CROW DVM intern Dr. Spencer Kehoe. "The smaller otter had dangerously low sodium levels, hyponatremia, which led to seizures and abnormal neurologic behavior. This has improved with very careful treatment and is still being monitored closely."

Young otters have been typically known to stay at CROW for months at a time. In the wild, otters tend to be dependent on their mother during this early time period so that they may learn vital skills like hunting and swimming behavior.

Five days prior to the otter pups arrival, CROW received a juvenile otter (patient #17-252) that was transferred from a rehabilitation facility in Fort Lauderdale after it was orphaned by its mother. Officials were unsuccessful in locating her for a reunion. It is said to be a few weeks older than the two infants. Otters are very social creatures and depend on social interaction with other otters.

"At this time it is difficult to determine a release date," Dr. Kehoe said. "Young North American river otters are usually in our care for up to nine months so they can learn skills that are key to survival."

CROW (Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife, Inc.)



Patients #17-298 and #17-297 take a nap together

photo by Brian Bohlman

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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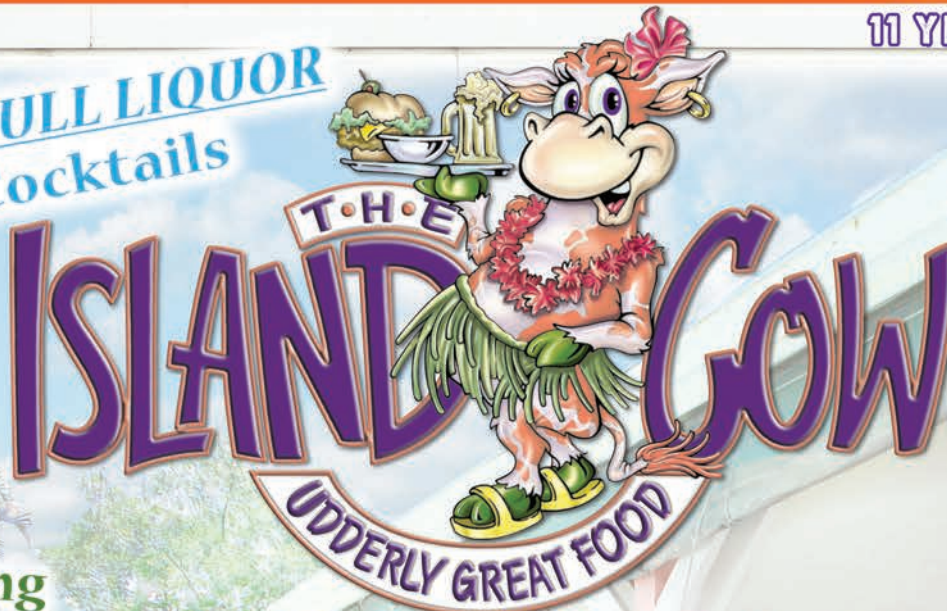
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Plant Smart

Palms, Not Really Trees

by Gerri Reaves

Most of us are accustomed to thinking of palm trees as just that, trees. After all, they have trunks topped by green leaves, flowers and fruit.

But chop down a palm and you won't see concentric rings like those you would see on the interior of a true tree.

Look at the photo of the injured royal palm (*Roystonea regia*) that looks like a bunch of knobby violin strings have popped out of it.

That photo illustrates one of the reasons that palms, strictly speaking, are not trees.

Simply put, palms are monocots and true trees are dicots. The two classifications of flowering plants differ in leaf, stem, flower and fruit characteristics.

"Mono-" and "di-" indicate that monocots have one embryonic leaf in the seed and dicots have two, respectively.

Palms, lilies, orchids, bananas,

ginger, onions, sugarcane, grasses, bamboo and grains such as wheat, corn, rice and millet are monocots.

Magnolias, legumes, roses, wild cotton and the red mangrove, for example, are dicots.

Monocots are the first modern plant family to be clearly present in fossil records. The palm family (*Arecaceae* or *Palmae*) has about 2,600 species, with palms appearing about 80 million years ago.

As monocots, palm have long strands of scattered vascular bundles within the stem (or trunk), forming a cylinder. Curiously, in palms, more bundles tend to be located near the outer part of the stem than in the center.

It's those strands that are visible in the photo.

That scattered arrangement versus a dicot's ring-like arrangement means that palms are not capable of what botanist term secondary growth because there is no cortex.

A palm's interior is herbaceous (soft and succulent) versus a dicot's (usually) woody interior. Dicots can produce wood and bark and increase in diameter.

Palms are not capable of the same type of secondary growth as a live



The interior of this injured royal palm resembles a bunch of broken, knobby violin strings

photos by Gerri Reaves

oak or red maple tree. However, unlike some other monocots, they do nevertheless manage what's called diffuse secondary growth.

The division, enlargement, and thickening of the cells that make up most of the plant mass makes possible an increase in the trunk diameter.

Those enlarged cells, in addition to overlapping leaf bases and prop roots, make it possible for an enormous and



Countless strands like these are arranged cylindrically within the palm stem

heavy royal palm to support itself.

So, there's a reason South Florida pioneers favored slash pine or oak for building houses, despite the wide availability of several palm species.

Sources: biology.stackexchange.com, diffen.com, newworldencyclopedia.org, and ucmp.berkeley.edu.

Plant Smart explores the diverse flora of South Florida. ✨

Lake Kennedy Senior Center

Babcock Ranch Wilderness Tour

The Kennedy Kruisers are taking a walk on the wild side with Babcock Wilderness Adventures during a 90-minute eco-tour through the Babcock Ranch on Thursday, March 9. Participants are expected to arrive by 8:15 a.m., leave at 8:30 a.m. and return by 5 p.m.

The tour goes through the working cattle ranch as riders learn its history, wander through Florida eco-systems, all the while getting up close and personal with the local wildlife. There is a gift shop and exhibits as well. A dutch lunch will be offered at Fisherman's Village.

Cost is \$49 per member and \$54 per non-member. Pre-registration required.

For more information, call the senior center at 574-0575

Lake Kennedy Senior Center



Babcock Tour

photo provided

is located at 400 Santa Barbara Boulevard in Cape Coral. For more information, call 574-0575. ✨

March In The Park Plant Sale

Preparations are under way for the 9th annual March in the Park, a plant and garden art sale, to be held on Saturday, March 11 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Jaycee Park in Cape Coral. The Garden Club of Cape Coral is once again looking for plant vendors and crafters of garden related items.

March in the Park is the major fundraising event for the Garden Club of Cape Coral. All proceeds from March in the Park help the Garden Club achieve their goals of awarding local high school students merit awards in horticulture, civic beautification, Habitat For Humanity, Wekiva Youth Camp sponsorships, and to promote civic awareness of environmental and conservation concerns.

Last year, the Garden Club had over 30 vendors in attendance selling all kinds of plants, from ground cover to palm trees, and garden art, from stepping stones to fish faces. Master gardeners will be available to answer questions. Every hour, there will be informative speakers. Children's creative projects will be found at the Kids Booth, along with a face painter. Opportunity drawings, food and music will be available throughout the day.

The Garden Club of Cape Coral

meets the second Wednesday of each month, at 7 p.m. at the Cape Coral Art League, located at 516 Cultural Park Boulevard in Cape Coral. Meetings are open to the public, where all can learn about Florida gardening and promote fellowship among gardeners.

If you are a vendor selling plants, food or do a craft that is garden-related and want to enter the juried show, contact Ginny Huffer at 257-2654 or Huffmom5@aol.com, or visit www.gardenclubofcapecoral.com. ✨

Garden Center Holds Free Workshop

All Native Garden Center, Nursery and Landscapes is offering a free workshop that is for the birds. Join Southwest Florida Master Gardener Kitty Tyler as she shares her knowledge and experience of Native Landscaping For Birds on Sunday, February 26 beginning at 2 p.m.

Space is limited. Email your name and phone number to seminars@nolawn.com.

All Native Garden Center is located at 300 Center Road in Fort Myers. Call 939-9663 or visit www.allnative.biz for more information. ✨



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Golf Tournament To Benefit Breast Cancer Care

Heron's Glen Ladies Golf Association will hold its 3rd annual Pretty in Pink Golf Tournament on Wednesday, March 15 at Heron's Glen Golf Course, located at 2250 Avenida Del Vera Drive in North Fort Myers.

The tournament is benefitting Partners for Breast Cancer Care, a community funded non-profit organization that helps Lee County residents with low income and no health insurance receive breast screening, diagnostic testing, surgery and treatment including mammograms, ultrasounds, biopsies, MRI, lumpectomy, mastectomy, radiation and chemotherapy at no cost to the client. The program is funded by grants and donations from Southwest Florida residents.

Fuccillo Kia of Cape Coral is the tournament title sponsor for the second year in a row. The automotive dealer is hosting a Hole-In-One Contest for all tournament players and donating an iPad mini 32GB to the silent auction held during the tournament's luncheon. In addition, a \$1,000 donation will be made to Partners for Breast Cancer Care.

The tournament will kick off at 7 a.m. with arrival of the Pink Heals

pink firetruck. Pink Heals is a non-profit volunteer group dedicated to supporting women and families who are fighting illnesses through fundraising and awareness campaigns. The local chapter started in 2013 and has since been touring its signature pink fire truck across Southwest Florida. Breast cancer survivors at the event will have the chance to sign the truck.

The tournament will begin at 7:45 a.m. with a shotgun start. The luncheon will run from noon to 2 p.m. with a raffle and silent auction. This year's silent auction will have over \$14,000 worth of items donated by Fuccillo Kia of Cape Coral, Kelley Fine Art, Sozio Builders, AIS Shower Door, Atlantis Paradise Island in the Bahamas and many others.

According to Bernadette Schirra, Heron's Glen Ladies Golf Association Pretty in Pink Golf Tournament co-chairwoman, "Our community has been involved with raising funds for breast cancer for years as it has touched many of our residents' families and friends. Last year, we raised \$28,000 and are looking forward to beating that amount this year."

"We are pleased to work with Partners for Breast Cancer Care to help Lee County residents struggling with this disease. We feel strongly about giving back locally and we chose Partners because of their amazing work and what they have been able to accomplish with limited funds," Schirra said.

Partners for Breast Cancer Care

Executive Director Janet Darnell said there are over 54,000 women in Lee County with no health insurance and who are very low-income, desperately seeking help.

"We are pleased to work with the women of Heron's Glen to offer hope to those who otherwise would have little or no resources to deal with this illness," Darnell said.

The tournament is open to all members of the Heron's Glen Ladies Association. Resident non-members will be able to play in the tournament, space permitting.

Tickets are \$50 and include lunch. For those wishing to attend the luncheon only, tickets are \$37. Ticket prices include a donation to Partners for Breast Cancer Care.

For more information, call Bernadette Schirra at 543-0062 or Linda Birecree at 470-5932.✱

America's Boating Course

The San Carlos Bay Sail & Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons that serves South Fort Myers, Fort Myers Beach, Bonita Springs and Estero, will be offering America's Boating Course beginning Saturday, March 4 from 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

This course is recognized by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators. The State of

Florida recently passed legislation requiring anyone born after January 1, 1988 to have passed a safe boating course and obtain a Boating Safety Education ID card, which is valid for life, in order to operate a boat with more than 10 HP. Each student will receive a card/certificate from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission upon completion of the class.

The course consists of two sessions on consecutive Saturdays. The second session will be during the same time period on Saturday, March 11. Topics covered include hull design, docking, anchoring, handling boating emergencies, reading channel markers and many other topics to make each boating experience safer and more enjoyable. Successful completion of this course entitles the boater to six months free membership in the United States Power Squadrons with the purchase of a 12-month membership. In addition, students who join the squadron will also be eligible for a free three-hour On The Water training session.

The cost of the course is \$60 with a \$20 cost for a second person sharing the instruction materials. The cost includes lunch after the second Saturday class.

The course is being taught at the San Carlos Bay Sail & Power Squadron Classroom, located at 16048 San Carlos Boulevard at the corner of Kelly Road.

Students can register at www.scbps.com or call the office at 466-4040.✱

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Robert Roop and Margaret Antonier
photos provided

Wine & Food Fest Auction Preview Party

On Thursday, February 9, donors, trustees and sponsors of the Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest gathered at the Southwest Florida Performing Arts Center in Bonita Springs for a preview party in anticipation of uncorking the power of giving at the upcoming 2017 Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest. Hosted by the organization's three beneficiaries, Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida, Florida Gulf Coast University and Florida SouthWestern State College, the evening included a reception and dinner featuring an



Elaine Hawkins and Brooke Denson

assortment of fine wines.

Auctioneer Scott Robertson and NBC-2 anchor Kellie Burns presented highlights of the 40 auction lots featuring exclusive getaways, luxurious wine and culinary offerings and once-in-a-lifetime experiences that will be available for bid at the live auction. In addition, this year's child artists, Leo and Lola Grabinski, made a special appearance, and Kellie Burns made a special plea in support of this year's fund-a-cause initiative for pediatric mental and behavioral health care services at Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida.

The 2017 Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest's Chef Vintner Dinner will take place on Friday, February 24, followed by The Grand Tasting and Live Auction on Saturday, February 25 at Miromar Lakes Beach & Golf Club.✽



From left, Kellie Burns, Debbie Toler, Christin Collins and Scott Robertson



Bev Cherry and Pat Gibbons



Kathy Bridge-Liles and Paul Liles



From left, Laura Grabinski, Dr. Emad Salman, Leo and Lola Grabinski, Matt Grabinski



Dave Copham and Randy Darrow



Fred Hawkins and Ron Fitzgerald



From left, Pason Gaddis, Rob Wilson, Kelly and Jason Stephens



Fron left, Rob Wilson, Rio DeArmond, Debbie Toler and Kelly Stephens



From left, Todd and Wendy Tooley with Sonya and Brian Sawyer



From left, Mitch Cordova, David Collins and Scott Kashman



From left, Dorothy Fitzgerald, Gloria Jordan, Ester and Steve Machiz



From left, Karen Pickrum, Olga Piaceres, Jason Stephens, Dave Copham, Linda Walker and Shawn Tubman



From left, Skip Leonard, Boots Tolles and David Collins

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Dreams Of Reaching Major Leagues Can Come True



by Ed Frank

For the hundreds of Major and Minor League ballplayers, managers, coaches and administrative staff that gather here in the next month or so for spring training, there is a human interest story attached to

nearly every one of them.

This week, we're going to tell you about the dream-come-true for Naples resident and former manager of the Fort Myers Miracle baseball team, Jeff Smith.

His dream, like those who ever played baseball, was to reach the Major Leagues. But his 22-year circuitous route to the "big show" is not as ballplayer, but rather as the new first-base coach for the Minnesota Twins.

"It's been a long journey, but I wouldn't change it for the world," he was quoted recently.

The 42-year-old Smith was drafted by the Twins in 1995 out of Stetson University as a catcher. He played in the team's Minor League system with such future Major League stars as David Ortiz, Torii Hunter, Doug Mientkiewicz and A.J. Pierzynski.

He advanced to Triple A before a series of knee injuries ended his playing career. In 282 Minor League games, he batted a solid .282.

With his dream of wearing a Twins Major League uniform as a catcher over, he began a coaching career at the lowest level of Minor League baseball, batting coach for the Twins rookie Gulf Coast League team.

The next year, he started an 11-year coaching career for the Twins in Low A, High A and Double A teams.

That included two stints as manager of the Miracle, 2008 and 2009, and 2015 and 2016. He compiled a record of 303-248 with the Miracle including an 80-58 record in 2009 when he was named Florida State League Manager of the Year.

He had a winning record all four years as the Miracle Manager.

In selecting Smith as his first-base coach, Twins manager Paul Molitor told MLB.com, "I've always been impressed with my time in player development when I went to his (Smith's) clubs with his preparation and thoughtfulness. He certainly improved tremendously in his ability to teach and coach."

Smith grew up in the Naples area and still resides there so there is one negative aspect to his new Major League career – leaving the area for the long baseball season.

When he discussed the new opportunity with his wife, Ronna, he said she responded quickly, "You've worked your butt off for this for 20 years. You better take it and enjoy it."

His long days and nights of long bus rides trekking through the Minor Leagues has ended. Jeff Smith's dream has come true at last.✱



Jeff Smith photo courtesy Minnesota Twins

SPORTS QUIZ

1. When was the last time before 2014 that Oakland had six players named to the All-Star team?
2. Name the last major-league player before Bryce Harper in 2015 to have 30 home runs and 100 walks in a season in which he was 22 or younger.
3. Jay Cutler holds the Chicago Bears record for most TD passes in a career (154). Who is No. 2?
4. Lon Kruger was the first men's basketball coach to take five different teams to an NCAA Tournament. Who was the second?
5. What was hockey legend Gordie Howe's age when he won the World Hockey Association Most Valuable Player Award in 1974?
6. Bill Elliott won the Daytona 500 twice during his NASCAR career. How many times did he have the Daytona 500 pole position?
7. In 2016, Angelique Kerber became the oldest women's tennis player (28) to debut at No. 1 in the WTA rankings. Who had been the oldest?

ANSWERS

1. It was 1975, when the A's had seven players be part of the team. 2. Eddie Mathews, in 1954. 3. Sid Luckman, with 137 (1939-50). 4. Tubby Smith (Tulsa, Georgia, Kentucky, Minnesota, Texas Tech). 5. He had just turned 46 years old. 6. Four times, including for both of his victories. 7. Jennifer Capriati, who was 25 years, 200 days old when she became No. 1 in October 2001.



A past Mustang car show

photo courtesy Edison Ford Winter Estates

Car Show At Edison Ford

On Saturday March 4 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Edison & Ford Winter Estates will host its annual Ford Mustang car show as a tribute to Henry Ford, the pioneer of the automobile industry. Owners of Ford Mustangs will be exhibiting their cars on Henry Ford's lawn along the Caloosahatchee.

The Mustang has been popular ever since it debuted in 1964; in two years,

more than one million Mustangs were sold.

Along with the exhibition, there will be music, food available for purchase, and visitors can see the historic homes and tour the beautiful gardens museum and laboratory.

This family event is free for Edison Ford members and \$20 for nonmembers (includes general admission). A portion of the proceeds will benefit the restoration of the antique car collection at Edison Ford.

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



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The Place On First Hosts Leadership Program



From left, David Fry, Anthony DeBono, Dean Fry and Connie Boyd photos provided

The Place on First hosted a Leadership NEXT program February 7 at its preview studio, located at 2275 Main Street in Fort Myers. During the program, emerging professionals of the Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce learned about The Place on First, a new mixed-use building coming to the historic downtown Fort Myers River District, from developer David Fry, who also shared about the strategic steps and community partnerships that led to the development of The Place on First. Anthony DeBono of d3 Creative Studio also discussed the creation and impact of the renderings and virtual and augmented reality displays that are showcased at The Place on First's preview studio. The program included networking and an opportunity for guests to explore the future property via renderings, floor plans, an interactive 3D display and virtual and augmented realities. Leadership NEXT is a group of advancing professionals representing a variety of businesses and industries throughout Southwest Florida who are actively pursuing opportunities to further enhance their careers.✧



Elizabeth Esposito and Melissa Vogt



From left, Andrea Schiebe, Tracy Siekmann and Michael DeLuca



Anthony DeBono and Matt Zwack



Kelsey Griffin and Ashley Glynn



Jeanna Hermance and Ashley Thompson



Tyler Esposito and Martin Pahnke



From left, Jan-Erik Hustrulid, Rita Miller, Connie Boyd and Ron Brodeur



Golfers warm up prior to a past open

photos courtesy Fort Myers Country Club

Annual Golf Tourney Coming To Country Club

Professional and amateur golfers alike will compete in the Yuengling Open at the Fort Myers Country Club on Saturday and Sunday, March 4 and 5. The Yuengling Open is the longest running golf event in the region. This will be the 55th year for the tournament, formerly known as the Coors Light Open.

Defending champion Derek Gillespie will be among the 144 players vying for the Yuengling Open title. Other players include past winners Tommy Tolles and George McNeill, both natives to the Fort Myers area. Fort Myers resident Nolan Henke, along with other PGA tour notables Tim Herron, Lonnie Nielsen and Derek Lamely, a former golfer at Florida Gulf Coast University, will also compete in the 2017 field.

Tolles holds the two-round tournament record of 124 (61-63), set in 2001. His single-round 61 is also a tournament record, which he shares with Nielsen and Steve Scott.

Rich Lamb, director of golf for the City of Fort Myers, says the tournament provides a unique opportunity for

spectators. "It's probably the only tournament in the country with a field of our quality where you can walk right along with the players," said Lamb. "There are no ropes, so you can listen to them, and stand just a few feet away as they choose their clubs and play. It's really something special."

Admission and parking are free for spectators.

Celebrating its 100th anniversary in 2017, the Fort Myers Country Club is one of the oldest golf facilities on the west coast of Florida. The par-70 course was renovated in 2014. Since its renovation, "The Fort" has been named the Best Public Golf Course in Southwest Florida for two consecutive years by readers of *Gulfshore Business* magazine.

"The course is getting nicer all the time," added Lamb. "It was brand new two years ago, and it's still maturing. Players come back after being away for six months and are excited that it's even better than it was the time before."

The Fort Myers Country Club is located at 3591 McGregor Boulevard. Pairings and tee times for the Yuengling Open will be available at www.cityftmyers.com/234/Yuengling-Open.

For more information, contact Rich Lamb at 321-7488.✴

Endurance Stair Climb Fundraiser

Registration is under way for the American Lung Association's Annual Fight for Air Climb scheduled for 9 a.m. on Saturday, April 29 at The Oasis Tower One, 3000 Oasis Grand Boulevard near downtown Fort Myers. During the unique endurance event, participants will climb 31 flights of stairs in the residential high rise to raise money for lung disease research, education and advocacy.

More than 300 people are expected to climb 535 steps up the high rise, including local firefighters who will ascend in 45 pounds of full gear – helmet, hood, pants, coat, gloves, boots and air pack. Firefighters have an increased risk for lung disease from the exposure to gases, chemicals and smoke in the line of duty. Other participants will climb in support or memory of people touched by lung disease or in support of their own

fitness goals. "This is a great event for fitness enthusiasts who want a unique challenge," said Kurt Goerke, director of health promotions for the American Lung Association in Florida. "At the same time, it's rewarding for anyone impacted by lung disease who just wants to climb and take a stand against illnesses like asthma and lung cancer." The April 29 stairclimb – like many that the American Lung Association hosts around the country – will be the seventh to take place in Fort Myers. Local fundraising reached more than \$40,000 at last year's event.

Fight for Air climbers can participate individually or as a team. Registration is \$25, and each climber must raise a minimum of \$100 to participate. For more information or to register, visit www.ClimbFortMyers.org or call 908-2685.

Climbers who are registered for the event may participate in weekly training sessions that begin March 4. Training runs from 9 to 10 a.m. each Saturday from March 4 to April 22.✴

Financial Focus

Use Your Tax Refund Wisely



by Jennifer Basey

It's tax time again – which for many Americans means that a tax refund is on its way. If you're going to get a refund this year, how can you use the money to your best advantage?

Of course, it's always tempting to spend the check from Uncle Sam on something fun. But a tax refund could be sizable – the average amount in 2016 was \$2,857, according to the IRS – so putting this money to work could help boost your progress toward your financial goals.

Here are some possibilities for using your refund:

- Help fund your IRA. If you were to receive a tax refund of \$2,857, you'd have slightly more than half of the \$5,500 annual IRA contribution limit for 2017, although, if you are age 50 or older, you can contribute an extra \$1,000. Consequently, you may find it much easier to fully fund your IRA for the year — and you should do exactly that, because an IRA is a great retirement savings vehicle. If you have a traditional IRA, your contributions may be fully or partially deductible, depending on your income, while your earnings can grow tax deferred. (Taxes are due upon withdrawal, and withdrawals prior to age 59½ may be subject to a 10 percent IRS penalty.) With a Roth IRA, your contributions are not deductible, but your earnings are distributed tax-free, provided you don't start taking withdrawals until you're 59½ and you've had your account at least five years.
- Help diversify your portfolio. If a

market downturn hits one asset class, and that's where you keep most of your money, you could take a big hit. Owning an array of investments – such as stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, and so on – can help prepare your portfolio to weather the effects of market volatility. By adding new investments, or increasing your holdings of existing investments, you may be able to further diversify your portfolio – and you can use your refund for this purpose. (Keep in mind, though, that diversification, by itself, can't guarantee profits or protect against loss.)

- Contribute to a 529 plan. If you have children or grandchildren whom you'd like to help send to college, consider using your tax refund to help fund a 529 plan. Your 529 plan contributions may be deductible from your state taxes, and your earnings are distributed tax-free, provided they are used for qualified higher education expenses. (However, withdrawals not used for higher education expenses may be subject to both income tax and a 10 percent penalty.)
- Pay off some debts. You can help improve your financial picture by reducing your debt load – but it may make sense to prioritize these debts. For example, rather than make an extra mortgage payment, you might want to first tackle those debts or loans that carry a high interest rate and that don't allow you to deduct interest payments. After all, your monthly mortgage payment will remain the same even if you make an extra payment, but if you can get rid of some smaller debts, you will free up some cash that you could use to invest for your future.

Think carefully about how to use your tax refund. It represents an opportunity that you won't want to waste.

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.✴

Spring Training Home Schedules

Minnesota Twins – CenturyLink Sports Complex

- February 24 – Tampa Bay; 1:05 p.m.
- February 26 – Washington; 1:05 p.m.
- February 27 – Miami; 1:05 p.m.
- March 1 – Pittsburgh; 1:05 p.m.

Boston Red Sox – JetBlue Park

- February 23 – Annual doubleheader – Boston College and Northeastern University; 1:05 p.m.
- February 24 – New York Mets; 1:05 p.m.
- February 25 – Minnesota; 1:05 p.m.
- February 27 – St. Louis; 1:05 p.m.
- February 28 – New York Yankees; 1:05 p.m.
- March 2 – Tampa Bay; 1:05 p.m.✴



From left, Past Commodore Patty Korn, Commodore Rosemary Davison, Vice Commodore Jim Kolar, Rear Commodore Joan Morris, Fleet Captain Sally Dorn, Treasurer Jack Dorn, Secretary Bonnie McClure, Director Tim McClure and Director Wayne Davison.

photo courtesy Fort Myers Beach Yacht Club

Yacht Club Inducts Officials

The Fort Myers Beach Yacht Club, founded in 1953 and currently comprised of 90 members, inaugurated its new bridge and board of directors at their 64th annual Commodore's Ball on February 9. Sixty-eight members and guests were in attendance. The festive ceremonies were held in the waterfront Clubhouse Ballroom of the Gulf Harbour Yacht and Country Club in South Fort Myers.

Following the social hour, outgoing Commodore Patty Korn was honored with verbal tributes for leadership during her term of office in 2016. Past Commodores Richard Johnson, Fern

Toomey, Tom Swanbeck and Chris Christensen were also honored.

Following the honors, incoming officials were sworn in, including Commodore Rosemary Davison and Vice Commodore Jim Kolar.

The traditional Yacht Club Change of Watch ceremony was orchestrated by Master of Ceremonies and Member-in-Good-Standing Tim Morris. After the ceremonies, dancing commenced to the melodious tunes of Cahlua & Cream.

The club has a very active boating and land-based activities calendar.

A dinner meeting is held on the fourth Wednesday of most months at American Legion Post 274 on San Carlos Island. For more information, call Membership Chairperson Pete Oiderma at 463-6240 or go to www.FMBYachtClub.org.✱

Tarpon Club To Hold Free Clinic

The Fort Myers Beach Tarpon Hunters Club, the world's oldest tarpon hunting club, invites all to attend its free annual tarpon fishing clinic at Bonita Bills Waterfront Cafe on Wednesday, March 1 at 7 p.m.

The clinic will feature speakers on how to find and catch the mighty "silver kings" and instructional displays on how to rig and choose the right bait as well as different types of tackle including conventional tackle, light tackle and fly fishing.

The 2017 featured speaker is

Captain Matt Mitchell, a local tarpon fishing guide who will share his secrets.

Participants will also learn about membership benefits, monthly meetings and newsletters, fishing reports, VHF communication and fishing local Lee County gulf, bay and rivers.

Annual fees include \$40 for single membership and \$50 for family memberships. Memberships include costs for the annual club picnic and awards banquet trophies.

Bonita Bills Waterfront Cafe is located at 702 Fishermans Wharf on San Carlos Island.

Contact Matt Ponzio at 549-3474 or fmbtarponhunters@gmail.com for more information.✱

Junior Achievement To Induct Business Owners Into Hall Of Fame



Teri Hansen

photos provided

Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida will induct Teri Hansen, APR, owner and president of Priority Marketing, and Sandy Stilwell, CEO and owner of Stilwell Enterprises & Restaurant Group, into the 2017 Business Hall of Fame, Lee County, during a dinner and awards ceremony on Tuesday, May 2 with a cocktail reception at 5 p.m. and dinner at 6:30 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa in Bonita Springs.

The prestigious award recognizes outstanding entrepreneurs who serve as role models for youth through their professional accomplishments and commitment to the community. Hansen and Stilwell will join a distinguished group of individuals who have been inducted into the Business Hall of Fame since it was founded in 1999. To learn more about the upcoming event, or for information on sponsorship opportunities and individual tickets, visit www.JASWFL.org.

Hansen is owner and president of Priority Marketing, which she founded in 1992. A native of Fort Myers, her 32-year marketing career has earned her a reputation for exceptional integrity, leadership and spirit. During her career, she has been the recipient of many honors. In 1992, she was the first



Sandy Stilwell

person to be named Marketing Director of the Year by the Lee Building Industry Association, and she was the Florida Public Relations Association (FPRA)'s PR Professional of the Year in 1999. In all, Hansen has been honored with more than 150 local, state, national and international awards.

Stilwell is the CEO and owner of Stilwell Enterprises & Restaurant Group. She owns Keylime Bistro, Sunshine Seafood Café and Wine Bar, RC Otter's Island Eats, Latte Da Coffee Shop, Captiva Island Inn, Celebration Center of Captiva, Paradise Shopping Center and Cantina Captiva on Captiva Island, and Summerlin Jake's Seafood & Steaks in Fort Myers.

She serves as immediate past-chairman of the board of PACE Center for Girls of Lee County, and sits on the board of trustees for Hodges University and Hope Healthcare Board of Directors. Stilwell is a trustee and treasurer of Children's Charities of Southwest Florida. She is a member of the Advisory Board of Florida Gulf Coast University School of Resort & Hospitality, *Gulfshore Life Magazine*, Stonegate Bank and Uncommon Friends Foundation, and serves on the Captiva Community Panel and the Healthy Lee Steering Committee.✱

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Mrs. Edison's Hymn Sing Donations Benefit The Soup Kitchen



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

A new donation record of 5,000 pounds of food was collected to help feed the hungry at the 28th annual Mrs. Edison's Hymn Sing on February 7.

More than 2,000 people attended the event that was presented by First Presbyterian Church and sponsored by the Galloway Family of Dealerships to



Lee County Supervisor of Elections Tommy Doyle and his wife Donna enjoy the hymn sing

honor the work of Mina Edison, wife of inventor Thomas Edison.

The donated canned goods will benefit The Soup Kitchen of Community Cooperative.

"We are so thankful to the people of our community who stepped up in this time of great need. It truly shows the impact that a few people can make in



Soloist Beth Filiowich sings *City of Palms*

the lives of many," said Organizer Sam Galloway, Jr. Galloway said the food will be distributed immediately to those in need in Lee County.

Attendees sang hymns with the 60-member Sanctuary Choir of First Presbyterian Church and friends, listened to soloists and heard a song called *Edison's Phonograph Polka* about Thomas Edison's famous invention. The song was played by Pianist Barbara Peterson and Organist Eddygrace Bernhard.



Minister of Music Roger Peterson of Cape Coral leads the audience in song

Mrs. Edison's Hymn Sing is the first of three annual concerts presented by First Presbyterian Church and sponsored by the Galloway Family of Dealerships to benefit The Soup Kitchen of Community Cooperative. The second event is First Celebrates Freedom on July 6 for residents who remain in Southwest Florida during the summer. The third very popular concert is the Christmas Carol Sing, scheduled for December 5 to celebrate the Christmas holidays.✧



Spiritual Voices serenaded the audience in the prelude



The Gulf Coast Harmonizers delighted the crowd with their romantic songs and religious selections



Galloway employees Tim Kemp and Jorge Torres collect a record amount of food for The Soup Kitchen of Community Cooperative



From left, Ushers Mickey Callahan, Ralph Leber, Phil Bennett and Harriet Hart

Director Appointed



Kevin Lewis photo courtesy LARC

The board of directors of Lee County Association for Remarkable Citizens, Inc. (LARC) has announced the appointment of Kevin B. Lewis as their new executive director effective February 1. Lewis succeeds Roger Bradley, who retired January 31 after a 31-year career with LARC.

Lewis has a successful history of non-profit leadership, having served as the chief executive officer of Southwest Florida Addiction Services (SWFAS) for 20 years and leading the effort to create SalusCare, Inc. by merging SWFAS and Lee Mental Health in 2013. He served as chief executive officer of SalusCare during its first two years.

"I am excited to have the opportunity to work with and lead the staff of LARC, an experienced and talented

group of professionals with a focus on client care that is unsurpassed," said Lewis. "It's a privilege to help individuals and families maximize their abilities to achieve the highest level of satisfaction with their lives and community involvement – not unlike most of us who seek similar goals."

Lewis' work has led to recognition including the 2007 Paulette Burton Lee County Citizen of the Year, the TrailBlazer of the Year from The News Press Media Group in 2013, a National Points of Light Award in 2014, the Liberty Bell Award from the Lee County Bar Society and the Distinguished Layperson Award from the Lee County Medical Society – both in 2015.

"The board is extremely pleased to have Kevin as executive director," said Pete D'Alessandro, LARC Board President. "We look forward to LARC's growth under Kevin's leadership as we continue to evolve and meet the changing needs of clients, families and the community in future years."

A graduate of the Florida State University School of Social Work, Lewis is a member and past president of the Rotary Club of Fort Myers. Lewis also serves on the board of directors for the United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee counties, Central Florida Behavioral Health Network and GoodWill Industries of Southwest Florida.

Lewis and his wife Renee live in San Carlos Park.

LARC has been providing a range of services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families since 1954 and receives support from Lee County and the United Way in addition to state and federal funding. The agency serves over 300 clients at two sites in Lee County, along with two residential homes and a variety of community-based services.*

From page 10

Along The River

Florida Native Butterfly Society is holding its annual **Butterfly and Blossom Festival** starting this Friday and Saturday nights, February 24 and 25 with a Twilight Conservatory Tour. The cost to attend is a tax deductible \$25 donation and includes a tour at 7, 8 or 9 p.m., champagne, hors d'oeuvres and a chance at raffle items. This is a great opportunity to see how butterflies roost at night.

On Saturday and Sunday, February 25 and 26 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., admission into the Conservatory is \$4 per person. There will be vendors, local authors, games and family fun for all.

The festival is a fundraiser for the Florida Native Butterfly Society, a 501(c)3 educational facility breeding and raising native butterflies, located at 1815 Fowler Street in Fort Myers. For tickets, call 690-2359.

Award-winning poet **Dan Albergotti** will hold a book signing and poetry reading at the **Florida**

SouthWestern State College (FSW)

Thomas Edison Campus in Fort Myers this Monday, February 27. The event, which begins at 4:30 p.m., takes place in the Rush Auditorium, Building J and is free and open to the public.

Albergotti is the author of *The Boatloads and Millennial Teeth* as well as a limited-edition chapbook, *The Use of the World*. His poems have appeared in *The Cincinnati Review*, *Five Points*, *The Southern Review*, *The Virginia Quarterly Review*, two editions of the *Pushcart Prize* as well as other journals and anthologies. A graduate of the MFA program at UNC Greensboro and former poetry editor of *The Greensboro Review*, Albergotti is a professor of English at Coastal Carolina University in Conway, South Carolina.

Copies of the book are currently available for purchase at the FSW Thomas Edison Campus bookstore, and they will also be available for purchase during the event.

For more information, contact Dr. Scott Ortolano at 489-9472 or sortolano@fsw.edu.*



Thy Word by Shirley Litman

photos courtesy Alliance for the Arts

From page 1

Artists Collaborate

presents the *Book of Psalms* as a source of inspiration and empowerment unbounded by limitations of location or language. The show's original opening was in Israel and is currently traveling through the southeast United States.



In your light we see light by Janice Heligman

During this exhibit, works by Toni Ferrell Sutton will be on display in the Theatre Gallery. The Fort Myers Eight exhibit will be shown in the Member Gallery. The group includes local artists Carolyn Gora, Gale Shambloft, Celeste Borah, Juli Bobman, Shirley Litman, Elsie Gold Sewell, Herbert H. Sklar and Janice Heligman.

This exhibit is sponsored by The Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte counties.

Alliance for the Arts is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard. For more information, call 939-2787 or visit www.ArtnLee.org. *

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Join The Million Mile Movement

Since Healthy Lee issued the official Million Mile Movement challenge to the community on January 9, Lee County has figuratively walked to the moon by logging more than 256,000 miles in the first 30 days. More than 2,700 individuals have joined the challenge so far, and members of businesses, civic groups, faith groups and individuals are tracking the number of miles they move until March 31, in an effort to meet Healthy Lee's challenge.

The challenge is open to all Lee County residents and businesses to encourage the community to get active, thereby supporting Healthy Lee's mission to empower and inspire healthy lifestyle choices through education and action. Whether you walk, run, bike, swim or participate in other aerobic activities that energize your body and mind, every step counts—for yourself and our community.

"We are excited to see the enthusiasm of the community to get moving to better health," said Christin Collins, co-chair of the Million Mile Movement and health and wellness business partner for Lee Health. "Most people don't move enough unless they purposely resolve to do so; the Million Mile Movement is a challenge to do just that."

With less than two months remaining in the challenge, some teams have already surpassed their original goal set during the kickoff in January. Physicians Primary Care set out to log 11,000 miles, but the team has already well surpassed that goal, logging more than 17,000 miles. Edison National Bank has surpassed its goal of 5,000 miles, and they are still going strong. At the 30-day mark, Lee County Schools showed 23,928 miles on the Million Mile Movement leaderboard – just 1,072 miles shy of their goal.

Your help is needed; we still need another 750,000 miles. Join in the challenge at www.HealthyLee.com. Get your family and friends to join, too, and create or join an existing team. Set a goal, then get moving and track your miles on the website. If you already have a regular activity routine, join the challenge and log your miles. If walking is not your thing – the website has an activity conversion chart to help you convert your favorite activity into miles.

If you don't exercise regularly, use the Million Mile Movement as a jumpstart to a new routine. Find something you like to do, and commit to finding the time to take care of yourself. Although this challenge is to move 1 million miles, the ultimate goal is a healthier community.

For more information about the Million Mile Movement and Healthy Lee, visit www.HealthyLee.com.

College To Host Alzheimer's Symposium

Florida Gulf Coast University College of Health Professions and Social Work and the Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer's Resource Center will host the 5th annual Symposium on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias on Wednesday, March 8 from 8 a.m. to noon. The symposium will be held at the Cohen Center on FGCU's campus, located at 10501 FGCU Boulevard South in Fort Myers.

Featured speakers include:
• Kevin M. Guskievicz, PhD, ATC Dean, College of Arts & Sciences Kenan Distinguished Professor Research director, Center for the Study of Retired Athletes

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Presentation: The State of Sport Concussion: Legitimate Concern vs. Paranoia?

• Daniel I. Kaufer, MD Associate professor, neurology Division chief, cognitive neurology and memory disorders Director, UNC Memory Disorders Clinic

Co-director, Carolina Alzheimer's

Network

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Presentation: Chronic Sequelae of Traumatic Brain Injury: A New Twist on Neurodegenerative Disorders

• Ronald L. Hayes, PhD Co-founder and president of Banyan Biomarkers, Inc.

Director of Banyan's Clinical Programs and Banyan Laboratories Past-president of the National Neurotrauma Society

Scientific advisory member: International Brain Injury Association and International Neurotrauma Society

Presentation: Blood-based Biomarkers of Traumatic Brain Injury and Related Dementias

The symposium is designed for family caregivers, health care professionals and others interested in the care of memory-impaired persons. There is no charge to attend.

Three continuing education units are available for nurses, nursing home administrators, guardians, social workers, occupational therapists and physical therapists.

Register by Friday, February 24 by calling 437-3007.

The Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer's Resource Center, a United Way agency, provides information, education and support to individuals with memory impairment and their family caregivers.

From page 1

ACT Gallery

world, from Tel Aviv to Stockholm, including a commission for the Saudi royal family's summer palace. He has had more than three dozen one-man exhibitions of his work, including four in Paris. He was the subject of a feature story on WUSF radio in 1996, and was selected as an artist in residence for an arts magnet school in Greenville, South Carolina in 1997. Stilton has a master's degree in art history from UCLA and a master's degree from the University of Southern California in cinema.

He has had more than 40 solo

exhibitions in California, Connecticut, Georgia, Florida, New York. North Carolina, South Carolina and Paris.

Stilton gained the 2016 Individual Artist Grant from the Arts Council in Hillsborough County, Florida and the Fulbright Study Grant in Egypt (faculty).

He currently specializes in seascapes in lyrical, impressionistic and abstract interpretations on canvas, wood and paper and often utilizes combined media.

ACT Gallery is also featuring new works by over 25 co-op artists and will be having the annual art sale of works that have been abandoned. Offers will be considered.

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

From page 1

Broadway Palm

escapism with almost all of the action taking place on the deck of a cruise ship heading to England. But with Porter's songs, it's all about the melodies which sparkle throughout. Billy (Conor Robert Fallon) and Hope (Allison Fund) give the show its most romantic moment with a lush rendition of *It's De-Lovely*, including some ballroom dancing that brings back the moves of Fred Astaire. Moonface Martin (Victor Legarreta), as a gangster traveling in disguise, has a blast teaming with Tompkins for *Friendship*. Legarreta, with his comedic skills and one-liners, helps keep the audience rolling on a sea of laughter. He's disappointed to be only public enemy Number 13.

Others who give strong performances are Paul Crane as Elisha Whitney, Craig Smith as Lord Evelyn Oakleigh, Desiree

Dillon as Mrs. Harcourt, and Theresa Walker as Erma. Standout numbers are *Anything Goes* and *Blow Gabriel Blow* with Tompkins and company. Building to an exuberant full-cast singing and dancing in both numbers, they are impressive and meet high artistic and technical standards. Choreography is by Samantha Hewes Cramer and the show is directed by Paul Bernier.

Throughout the show, the cast is strong and appears to be delighted to be singing and dancing together. A wonderful positive feeling is thrown out from the stage to the audience. It's hard to imagine a more exciting rendition of this Cole Porter classic. If you are game for an evening of outstanding song and dance, I suggest you make reservations soon. *Anything Goes* plays through April 1 at Broadway Palm, located at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers. For tickets go to www.BroadwayPalm.com or call the box office at 278-4422.

Available at
www.AMAZON.COM
WWW.EDITORIALRXPRESS.COM

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

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

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



Two young students with e-learning tablets

Children's Center Introduces New E-Learning Device

The officers of Lee County Port Authority won the hearts of children, parents and staff when they delivered 30 donated state-of-the-art e-learning tablets to the Joseph H.

Messina Children's Center. Once received, teachers at this Child Care of Southwest Florida early learning facility were eager to put the tablets to work in the classroom to enhance students' readiness of technology-based academics.

The Lee County Port Authority officers have become trusted neighbors and friends of the Messina Center, located at 4650 Fowler Street in Fort Myers. Officers frequently stop by the learning center to visit students and staff during routine safety

photo provided

Education Blog To Aid Coalition

Amanda Sterk, master of education doctoral candidate, is partnering with the FutureMakers Coalition to dedicate her weekly blog, *Unmaze Me*, to the coalition partners and their networks in hopes of reaching the Southwest Floridians who need it most. The blog aims to bridge the gap between kindergarten to grade 12 and post-secondary education, and to provide a resource for both parents and practitioners to promote access to post-secondary education.

Sterk is the counselor for the collegiate high school at Florida Southwestern State College. After working 15 years in education as a teacher, administrator and counselor in all levels elementary through college, she brings her passion for helping families to *Unmaze Me* through content creation, presentation and collaborator relations.

Unmaze Me began as a part of her doctoral work. While working as a full-time high school counselor, she looked for ways which she could point parents who had questions about things like college preparedness, the application process and all the other things that can challenge high school students.

"I couldn't find one," she said. "So I decided to create *Unmaze Me* to be a comprehensive, comprehensible destination for anyone looking for guidance through high school and beyond."

Unmaze Me partners with both professionals and participants in the fields of education, bringing a wealth of expertise and a freshness of experience

to its community pages so that many voices and perspectives can provide a richer understanding of the challenges facing high school students, parents and professionals today.

Some of the blog topics Sterk plans to focus on for FutureMakers are funding for college, high school and college programs, high school and career/college pathways, career exposure and exposure to available resources. There will be one new post a week.

"This is a great example of a FutureMakers partner lending their expertise to reach the shared goal of transforming the workforce," said Tessa LeSage, who as director of social innovation and sustainability for the Southwest Florida Community Foundation oversees the FutureMakers Coalition.

The goal of the FutureMakers Coalition is to transform the workforce by increasing the number of Southwest Florida residents with degrees, certificates and other high-quality credentials by the year 2025.

In 2016, Southwest Florida was one of 75 metropolitan areas selected as part of Lumina Foundation's Community Partnership for Attainment to increase post-secondary attainment nationwide by increasing the number of working age adults with degrees and certifications.

The Southwest Florida Community Foundation serves as the backbone organization for the coalition. The FutureMakers Coalition encourages residents to join and support this community-changing initiative.

For more information, visit www.futuremakerscoalition.com, call 274-5900 or email Tessa LeSage at TLeSage@floridacommunity.com.✱

checks. Students have learned to trust law enforcement officers and respect the work they do for our community.

For the last several years, the law enforcement agency has donated food for families and toys for students around the holidays. This year, they went above and beyond to donate the tablets.

"When the Port Authority asked us how they could help this year, the tablets were top of mind," said Messina Center Director Tamara Aronson. "This generous gift has already had a demonstrable effect on teachers' ability to observe, measure and promote student achievement."

After the officers delivered the tablets, teacher Kimberly Molloy got to work

setting parental permission controls on the tablets and installing apps, games and content that support classroom lesson plans and allow safe self-directed exploration by the students for a limited amount of time each day.

"When the younger students bridge over to elementary school, they will be expected to be familiar with computers for research, projects and testing," Molloy said. "Confidence about typing and the other tasks they will be asked to perform on an electronic device gives the students a distinct advantage from day one."

The Messina Center noted that the electronic tablets will be a valuable classroom tool for years to come.✱

Local Students Make All-Florida Academic Team

Four Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) students were named to the 2017 All-Florida Academic Team.

Lindsay Brubaker and Claudie Heriveaux from the Collier Campus in Naples and Maria Aguilera and Cierra Homic from the Thomas Edison Campus in Fort Myers were each recognized by the Florida College System and the Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) International Honor Society for their academic achievement, leadership skills and service to the community.

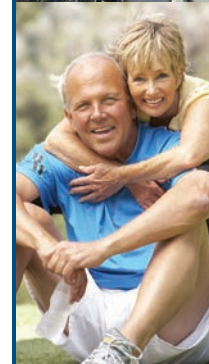
Out of approximately 800,000 students enrolled in the Florida College System, FSW students were four of 127 named to

the team.

"Being named to the All-Florida Academic Team is an impressive achievement for our students," said Dr. Christine Davis, vice president of student affairs and enrollment management. "They are nominated by faculty here at FSW because they exemplify the sort of excellence we work to cultivate at the college. We are so proud of them."

The Florida College System and PTK Florida Region will host the 2017 All-Florida Academic Team Award Ceremony on April 7 in Tallahassee, where each student will be honored and presented with a medallion. Those on the state team are also eligible for the All-USA Academic Team competition, sponsored by USA Today and PTK, which provides \$5,000 individual scholarships to attend four-year institutions.

For more information visit www.FloridaCollegeSystem.com.✱



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January 9 - March 31, 2017

The journey of a million miles begins with a single step...

Take a step toward healthier living by joining Healthy Lee's Million Mile Movement! We're challenging Lee County to get more active by moving 1,000,000 miles in 90 days.

Whether you're walking, running, biking or swimming, register for this community-wide challenge for **FREE** at www.HealthyLee.com and begin logging your "movement" today.

Be part of the Million Mile Movement!

WHO? Lee County residents of all ages and fitness levels can participate as an individual or as a group

WHAT? Any form of movement qualifies, walking, running, biking, swimming and even weight training

HOW? Register at www.HealthyLee.com and on Jan. 9, start logging your miles on the Challenge Portal, powered by Fit Nation

The Million Mile Movement is part of Healthy Lee's mission to empower and inspire the people of Lee County to make healthy lifestyle choices through education and action.

For more information, visit www.HealthyLee.com

Wanderlust Committee

Wanderlust 2017, a culinary and travel auction extravaganza, has announced Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) School of Resort & Hospitality Management students Hannah Garnes, Laura Merritt and Leigh Pudwill as the student committee members leading this year's event.

The event will take place Saturday, April 1 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Six Bends Harley-Davidson in Fort Myers, followed by an after party at HeadPinz in Fort Myers from 9:15 to 11:15 p.m. Event proceeds will benefit students within the School of Resort & Hospitality Management program through scholarships, conferences and training opportunities for students.

The student-led Wanderlust provides students with the unique, hands-on experience of planning and producing a large-scale fundraising event. Garnes, Merritt and Pudwill are responsible for overseeing the complete production of Wanderlust 2017, including planning, coordination and execution of the event.

Garnes is currently a junior in the FGCU program with a concentration in event management and a minor in entrepreneurship. She will be graduating from FGCU in May 2018, and hopes to pursue a career in the field of event planning with a focus on corporate events and fundraisers similar to Wanderlust. Garnes has always had a passion for event planning, and she fell in love with conventions, meetings and conferences after completing event concentration coursework at FGCU. For the Wanderlust 2017 event, Garnes is responsible for creating donation packages, monitoring Anki Overdrive and maintaining Wanderlust's social and digital media.

Merritt is currently a senior in the FGCU program and will graduate in May 2017 with plans to move to Savannah, Georgia to pursue her career in event planning, focusing on the wedding industry. The Florida native has been planning a variety of functions since she was age 17, beginning with her high school junior prom. With her passion for events, Merritt has



Wanderlust 2017 student committee
photo courtesy FGCU

been given the role of managing the production of Wanderlust 2017. She is responsible for vendor communication, organization of the live and silent auctions, and execution of the event from start to finish.

Pudwill is currently a senior studying in the program and will be graduating in May 2017. Before FGCU, Pudwill attended the University of Northern Iowa, where she spent her first three years studying leisure youth and human services with an emphasis in tourism and a minor in business. Upon graduation, Pudwill will begin her job search in Southwest Florida, where she plans to reside. Pudwill's main responsibilities for Wanderlust 2017 include running the BidPal auction software, combining donation items to create packages for the live and silent auctions, assisting with public relations and social media, and interviewing and assigning volunteers to specific positions to ensure the event runs smoothly.

Tickets to Wanderlust 2017 are \$200 or \$250 for both the event and after party. Cost is \$150 for both event and after party for program alumni.

For more information, visit www.FGCUWanderlust.org or email wanderlust@fgcu.edu.✧

Family Math Night

Learn how fun math can be at Family Math Night on Monday, March 13 from 5:45 to 7:30 p.m., in Building U, Room 102, at the Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) Thomas Edison Campus, 8099 College Parkway, in Fort Myers.

This free, family-oriented event for students in kindergarten to grade 8 features fun math games created by teacher candidates in FSW's School of Education, demonstrating how mathematics doesn't only need to be something you use at school.

"Learning mathematics successfully

requires a joint effort between home and school," said Dr. Mary Robertson, professor of mathematics education at FSW. "We are happy to help build a bridge connecting the two as well as showing young students and their families that math can be fun."

Dr. Robertson has been a mathematics teacher for the past 32 years, having taught at the middle school, high school and college level.

While Family Math Night is open to anyone interested in exploring mathematics, students are encouraged to register by sending an e-mail to familymathnight@fsw.edu. For questions about the event, contact Dr. Robertson at mary.robertson@fsw.edu.✧

Local Sailor Serves In Healthcare

submitted by Lt. Cmdr Katy Gray, Navy Office of Community Outreach

A 2005 Mariner High School graduate and Fort Myers native is serving in the U.S. Navy at Naval Medical Center San Diego.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Derek Bolton serves as a hospital corpsman at the San Diego-based hospital. According to Navy officials, the hospital's priority is to provide the safest, highest quality patient-centered medical care for veterans, service members and their families.

"I am the assistant leading petty officer for the dental clinic, and I love being involved with patient care and leading junior enlisted sailors," said Bolton.

The sailors who are part of Navy medicine are the most highly trained, educated and specialized force in history, said Navy officials. The role of Navy medicine in preserving the healthy and fighting readiness of that force has never been greater or more critical.

"Serving our nation's warriors and their families is an honor, and our staff is dedicated to providing the existing best care possible," said Capt. Joel Roos, Naval Medical Center San Diego commanding officer. "Our continuous training coupled with unparalleled innovation allow us to deliver exceptional care."

Bolton said he feels honored to be able to serve at a hospital that is



Bolton Derek photo courtesy U.S. Navy at Naval Medical Center San Diego

continually raising the bar in health care.

"I love the location, and the leadership is excellent at this command," said Bolton. "I am able to give back to all of our veterans and service members."

Those who serve in Navy medicine understand that they play a key role in meeting the missions of the armed forces, according to Navy officials.

"Serving in the Navy is an honor and privilege to be following in my parents' footsteps," added Bolton.✧

Laboring In The Fields Of The Lord

The Lee Trust for Historic Preservation and Friends of Mound Key announced a free public event focused on the Spanish Mission period in Florida history. The program, entitled Laboring in the Fields of the Lord: Southeastern Indians and Spanish Missions, will be held on Saturday, February 25 at Florida SouthWestern State College, Auditorium U-102, located at 8099 College Parkway in Fort Myers from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the Florida Humanities Council.

From the 1560s on, Jesuit and then Franciscan friars established over 150 missions across La Florida – from the southern reaches of the Florida peninsula to the Chesapeake Bay. San Francisco, San Antonio, Santa Fe – names we associate today with Texas and the southwest – were first missions among southeastern Indian groups. Yet by 1763, when Great Britain took over Florida from Spain, only two missions and less than one hundred mission Indians remained.

The Laboring in the Fields of the

Lord program brings together five preeminent scholars in American Indian languages and mission period history and archaeology. The presenters will address the rise and fall of the Spanish missions including language barriers and contrasting world views, the impact on indigenous peoples and cultures, and how these histories are interpreted and presented to the public at heritage sites.

Interested parties are encouraged to register in advance at www.heritage-matters.org/mound-key-events. Attendees may attend one presentation or all presentations. Box lunches are available for advance purchase should you wish to remain on-site to interact with the speakers at lunch.

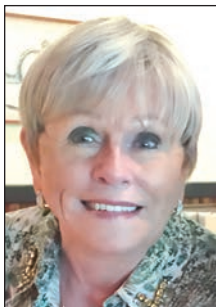
Event speakers include Jerald T. Milanich, John E. Worth, J. Michael Francis, Rochelle Marrinan and George Aaron Broadwell.

Event sponsors/partners include Florida Humanities Council, Lee Trust for Historic Preservation, Friends of Mound Key, Florida SouthWestern State College School of Arts, Humanities, & Social Sciences, and the Southwest Florida Archaeological Society.

A full schedule of presentations is available online at www.heritage-matters.org/mound-key-events.✧

Book Review

The Zookeeper's Wife



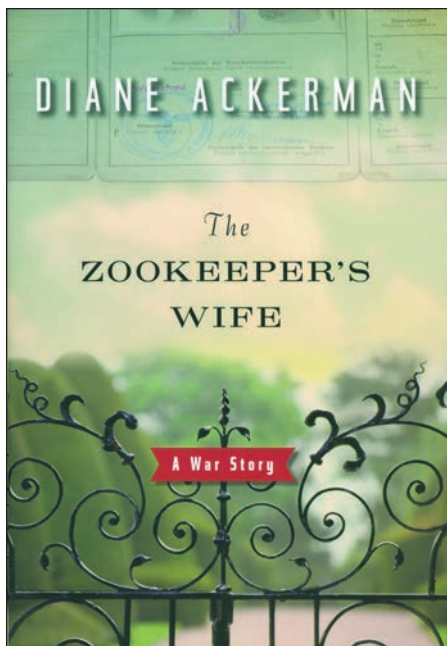
by Di Saggau

The Zookeeper's Wife by Diane Ackerman, has been around for many years, but I thought I'd review it for those of you who have not yet read it because it has been made into a major motion

picture that will be out soon. It's a true story of World War II.

In pre-war Warsaw, Antonina Zabinski and her husband Jan ran a zoo housing rare animals. Antonina, who had a rare gift for connecting with the creatures in her care, raised many of them by her hand. The animals roamed freely on the zoo grounds or through the villa she and Jan shared.

When war broke out, the valuable animals were seized by a German zookeeper for breeding animal purity. Many zoos saw their animals shipped off



for display and breeding experiments. By leaving the Zabinskis zoo empty, a sanctuary was created in the center of the city for "guests" placed by the Underground. Some stayed in the zoo's villa and some in the emptied cages. The Zabinskis invented a stream of legal visitors, uncles, aunts, cousins and friends

to stay for various lengths of time.

Giving refuge to a Jew during this time was punishable by death, and yet with the threat of discovery, the Zabinskis provided an atmosphere that was quite pleasant. In her diaries, she talks about the emotional needs of her guests and said sometimes they were almost happy. The Zabinskis saved the lives of approximately 300 Polish Jews. Antonina asked herself, "Why is it that animals can sometimes subdue their predatory ways in only a few months, while humans, despite centuries of refinement, can quickly grow more savage than any beast?"

Ackerman includes lots of information and facts that add to the enjoyment of the book. When talking about food that would give wintering animals plenty of vitamins, she tells us that word was coined in 1912 by Polish biochemist Casimir Funk. She also includes the

history of some of the rare animals. The Nazis treated animals better than humans, especially Slavs, Gypsies, Catholics or Jews. While Mengele's subjects could be operated on without any painkillers at all, a remarkable example of Nazi zoophilia is that a leading biologist was once punished for not giving worms enough anesthesia during an experiment.

It wasn't just the Zabinskis who helped save Jews. Between 70,000 and 90,000 people in Warsaw and the suburbs – or about one-twelfth of the population – risked their lives to help neighbors escape. Ackerman, with her profound understanding of nature, tells Antonina's story in a way that makes it clear about the connection between her role as the zookeeper's wife and heroine of the Resistance. The *New York Times* called it "A poignant and absorbing book."*

Dynamics Workshops

The Office of Continuing Education & Off-Campus Programs at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) will host a professional development series entitled Communications Dynamics for Professionals at FGCU Atrium Executive Center, 8695 College Parkway, in Fort Myers.

The program is comprised of three workshops which can be taken individually for \$69 each or can all be taken as a series certificate program at \$175, a 15 percent discount.

The workshops, all from 5:45 to 8:45 p.m., include Writing for Impact on Tuesday, March 14; Communicating with Confidence on Tuesday, March 21; and How to Make a Winning Presentation on Tuesday, March 28.

The program's instructor is Harriet Franklin, founder and principal of Franklin Communications. For over 25 years, Franklin has conducted communications skills-based training programs nationally and internationally and has taught writing/communications for several schools, principally at the University of Pittsburgh.

For registration information, call 425-3270, email continuing@fgcu.edu, or visit www.fgcu.edu/CEd/professional_development_programs.html.*

School Smart



by Shelley M. Gregg, NCSPE

Dear Shelley, My daughter has asthma, and her school continually sends her home. Now they have reported her truant. Where do I look for help on this matter?

Francine W., Port Charlotte

Francine,

If the school has sent your child home because they think she is ill, how can they say she left school on her own and is truant? One situation rules out the other. You need to take steps to document that your child's absences were due to illness. You also need to prevent this from happening again by developing a plan.

One way to address this issue is to use the school's records to straighten things out. Many people in the school keep records on children. School nurses keep health records on students. They also record visits to the nurse's office by students. Ask the nurse for a copy of the notes or forms she filled out about your child's visits to her office. If the nurse does not want to give these copies to you, ask your child's pediatrician to write a letter to the nurse requesting that she send the information to him/her. Then, get the records from the doctor. Depending on how the school keeps track of these visits, these notes should show that your child was sent home because he was too ill to attend school.

A more efficient and effective long-term solution is to develop a health plan for your child. Public schools are required by law to accommodate the health needs

of students. The plan to accommodate health needs may be called a health plan or a 504 plan. If there is already plan for your child, it does not seem to be working, or it is not being followed and should be revisited immediately.

If you do not have a plan, I recommend visiting the American Diabetes Association website at www.diabetes.org. They have prepared excellent model 504 plans and health plans that you can use. Their format can be modified to cover other medical issues that arise at school. You will find a sample 504 plan and a Medical Management Plan for your use.

Download the example plan and revise it so it applies for your child's needs related to her asthma. You may want to discuss this plan with your child's pediatrician to make sure the plan is complete and covers all your child's health needs.

Keep one copy for your records and give one to her pediatrician. Ask for a meeting with the principal and school nurse and give them copies of the plan and an opportunity to answer any questions they may have. Depending on the complexity of the plan, they may be able to implement immediately or the principal may then refer you to the school's Section 504 coordinator to set a meeting to develop a more formal plan.

When you have taken these steps, you will have the proper documentation that your child's past absences were not due to truancy and a plan in place to reduce future problems.

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 KALEIDOSCOPE PROJECT PRESENTS:

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Crowne Plaza Hotel Fort Myers

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One of HealthPark's surgical operation rooms

photos courtesyLMHS

New Robotic System Added At HealthPark

Surgeons at HealthPark Medical Center are now using a 3D high-definition vision system to get a better view of surgical sites. Lee Health's HealthPark Medical Center recently acquired the da Vinci Xi robotic surgical system – the most advanced platform – to be used for a variety of minimally

invasive procedures, including cardiac, gynecological, thoracic, general and urologic surgery.

Compared to the previous da Vinci Si model, this next generation da Vinci robotic surgical system provides an enhanced, sharp, clear view of the surgical site. The instruments have mechanical wrists that bend and rotate to mimic the movement of the surgeon's wrist, which provides enhanced dexterity and control. This platform features a new overhead instrument arm architecture, which allows anatomical access from

virtually any position. Additionally, the table (where the patient lies) is integrated using Bluetooth technology so the table and the robot move in synchrony without having to reposition the patient.

For most patients, the benefits of robotic surgery include:

- Shorter hospital stays
- Faster recovery
- Smaller incisions and less scarring

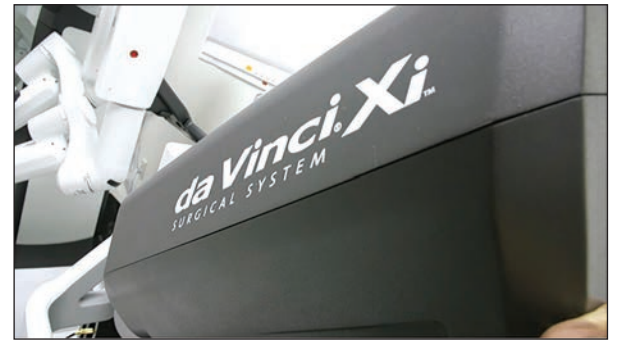
- Reduced blood loss
- Reduced complications
- Less pain medication

Paul DiGiorgi, MD, cardiothoracic surgeon, performed the first cardiac procedure at HealthPark Medical Center and in Florida using the da Vinci Xi. That procedure was the only da Vinci Xi cardiac case performed in Florida in 2016.

In 2017, HealthPark Medical Center is set to be the first hospital in Florida to perform a lobectomy (lung surgery) using the da Vinci Xi.

"The new da Vinci platform allows us to safely perform surgeries that previously were not possible," Dr. DiGiorgi said. "It is the biggest improvement in our robotic program since its inception. The staff is extremely positive about its acquisition."

Kevin Fleishman, MD, obstetrician/gynecologist, who serves as HealthPark Medical Center's Obstetrics and Gynecology section chief, said the technology provides advantages to the



The da Vinci Xi robotic surgical system

surgeons and the patients.

"We are able to tailor surgery to patients who otherwise would have needed an open procedure," he explained. "For many of our patients, this means less than 24 hours in the hospital and a return to work in about one week."

In addition to the da Vinci Xi platform, Lee Health also invested in the da Vinci Xi Skills Simulator. This training technology offers exercises; 3D videos recorded from clinical cases in urology, gynecology and colorectal surgeries; and the latest graphics and simulation technology.

"The skill simulator gives surgeons the sensation of a real operation," added Kandy DeWitt, RN, BSN, associate director of nursing services, HealthPark Medical Center. "Because of the simulator's ability to deliver such a realistic experience, log hours and provide feedback, we hope to use it to provide regional educational opportunities through Shipley Cardiothoracic Center."✱

dearPharmacist

Supplements That Make You Look Younger

by Suzy Cohen, RPh



Dear Readers: I can spot a smoker or a sunbather really fast because they look older than they should from the free radical damage. Maybe you thought beauty is only skin deep, but it's not. A radiant youthful-looking face is actually

an inside job. It helps to drink fresh water, exercise regularly and eat healthy foods to get the nutrients which provide the building blocks of healthy skin. Your gut and liver enzymes (glutathione and catalase) must remove toxins and free radicals every second of the day, otherwise the junk inside your cell damages your skin.

I've tried various supplements over the years (on and off) to keep my skin looking as good as it can. At 52, some level of aging is inevitable but it's amazing what your face can look like if you neutralize free radicals before they age you and use high-quality skin care products. Here are some of my favorite skin-loving herbs and nutrients:

Milk Thistle – It's a food, but also a supplement. Your liver processes everything that goes in your mouth, including alcohol, prescription medications, pesticides, preservatives, additives and artificial colors. Your liver detoxifies everything your body doesn't need. This reminds me of that episode on *I Love Lucy* where she's struggling to keep up with the conveyor belt of chocolates coming down the line. When your liver

falls behind on its job, poisons come out through your skin, causing rashes and itchiness. You'll age faster. Avoid milk thistle if you're allergic to ragweed, chrysanthemums, marigolds or daisies.

Collagen – Collagen is a natural component of skin that declines as you age, resulting in thinner, less elastic, more saggy skin. Two 2014 studies found that oral supplementation with this may improve skin elasticity and diminish wrinkles.

Silica – This makes hot springs pretty and blue in color. Silica is a trace mineral that helps soothe psoriasis, eczema and rashes when applied topically. Taken internally, silica helps you make collagen naturally, strengthening your nails.

Vitamin E – You may think of rubbing vitamin E oil directly on your skin to prevent scars, but taken orally, vitamin E is a powerful cellular antioxidant, which means it gobbles up free radicals that could otherwise potentially damage your skin cells and lead to premature aging.

Zinc – It's not just for your prostate, or for colds. This mineral reduces skin inflammation and irritation, whether that's associated with acne, pimples or rashes. It also plays a role in managing the production and turnover of skin cells. When I worked in nursing homes with residents who had painful diabetes-related wounds, or decubitus ulcers, we always put them on zinc and vitamin C. Be careful with zinc, don't take too much. In fact, avoid it if you take ginkgo biloba, ibuprofen or warfarin because it slightly increases risk of bleeding. If you'd like to read the longer version of this article, it's available at my website, suzycohen.com. Please make sure to ask your doctor if these supplements are right for you.

This information is not intended to treat, cure or diagnose your condition. Suzy Cohen is the author of The 24-Hour Pharmacist and is a registered pharmacist. To contact her, visit www.SuzyCohen.com.✱

Eden Energy Medicine

Hand To Heart With Partner Creates Bonding



by Karen L. Semmelman, Certified EEM, JD, AAML (03-01)

No relationship is free of turmoil. After all, each of you has your own unique view of the world, knowing the best way to clean the counter, wash the

car, locate the car keys, where to put tools after using them, etc. Sound familiar? But sometimes, one gets tired of being "nice," may get frustrated and lash out... and off we go into a chain reaction of "you said" and "you did."

Today, learn a great technique to stop the cycle. Donna Eden and David Feinstein wrote a book titled *Energies of Love*, which summarizes many strategies to create a loving relationship and understand one's unique way of perceiving the world (each of us has a primary sensory type), of which I wrote several columns in the past. However, before this book, they both lectured extensively on creating a loving energetic connection when the relationship runs aground.

My husband and I have found one technique very effective and use it regularly. After the "you did" starts, we take a break, call time out and do the following:

1. Each partner turns away from the other and comes home to themselves. A good way to do this is to place both hands on your heart, close the eyes and find center inside. Hold this space for several breaths.

2. Check in with your partner and see if they are ready to connect.

3. When ready, face each other with hearts across from one another. Each places their left hand on their own heart and with the right hand reaches out to the other placing the right hand on the other's hand over his/her heart. You are now linked.

4. When ready, raise your eyes to meet your partner and hold the gaze until you each take a deep breath.

What did we learn last week that just happened? We just released the "love hormone" oxytocin, activated the solar plexus chakra (which stimulates the thymus gland and thus boosts the immune system, too) and helped balance the nervous system. Happy Loving Day! This works with anyone, including your kids, friends and family.

If you have a question, email Karen at Sम्मEnergyCenter@gmail.com or visit www.semmelmanenergy.com. EEM does not diagnose or cure illness, but working with subtle energies of the body has been shown to help many conditions.✱

PETS OF THE WEEK



Patches ID# 687173



Alfie ID# 687544

Lee County Domestic Animal Services

Patches And Alfie

Patches is a 1-year-old domestic shorthair female black cat that will match anything. She is very content being the only cat in the home; she does not like to share attention with anyone. She is very friendly and loves people. Adoption fee is \$50.

Alfie is a 6-year-old west highland terrier male pint-sized West Highland terrier with the cutest underbite. He is a bit nervous at first but will quickly climb into your lap. He does prefer women to men, so he is the perfect companion for all you single ladies. Adoption fee is \$25.

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.*

PAWS Of Sanibel

Miss Kitty

Hi there, my name is Miss Kitty. A very nice lady found me all alone, in the wild, and took me inside her home. She could tell I was a really sweet girl that just needed a chance. She took me to the vet hospital and had me combo tested and spayed. I'm approximately 6 to 7 months old and a beautiful (if I do say so myself) Calico kitty. My foster mom would love to keep me, but someone in the household doesn't do well with cat fur. She is going to keep me until she finds me the "purr-fect" home.

If there is someone out there that's looking for an extremely sweet, beautiful kitty, and knows they must keep me totally inside, call my foster mom, PAWS of Sanibel volunteer Jenny at 699-1149.*



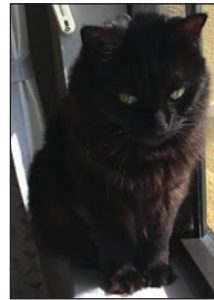
Miss Kitty

Haven on Earth Animal League

Smokey And Amber



Smokey

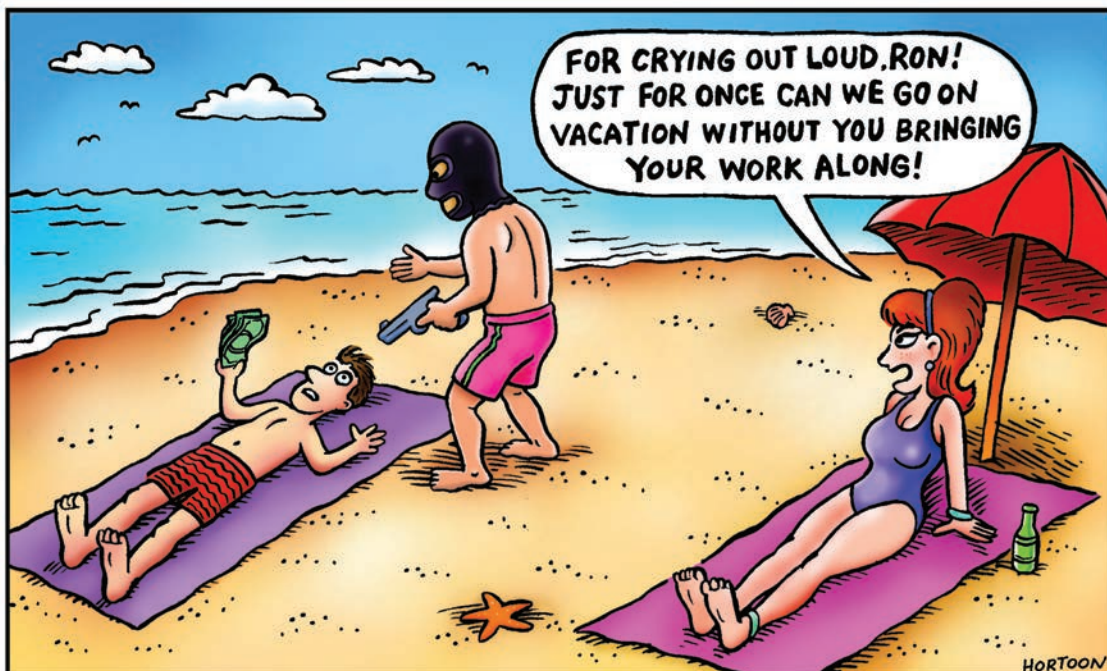


Amber

This brother and sister pair have never been apart, so they need to be adopted together. They are both five years old with a very sweet disposition, extremely lovable and front declawed. Amber is black, and Smokey is a grey and white long-haired kitty. They are both up to date on all shots, spayed and neutered. Adoption fee is \$150 for the pair. They are currently residing with a foster mom.

We are being cared for by Haven on Earth Animal League. For more information, contact haveneearthanimalleague@yahoo.com.*

HORTOONS



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 Chorale Barbershop Chorus.....	1-855-425-3631
Cape Coral Stamp Club.....	542-9153
duPont Company Retirees.....	454-1083
Edison Porcelain Artists.....	415-2484
Embroiderers Guild of America - Sea Grape Chapter.....	239-267-1990
FM UDC Chapter 2614 - United Daughters of the Confederacy.....	728-3743
Friendship Force Of SW FL.....	561-9164
Garden Club of Cape Coral.....	239-257-2654
Horticulture and Tea Society.....	472-8334
Horticultural Society.....	472-6940
Lee County Genealogical Society.....	549-9625
Lee Trust for Historic Preservation.....	939-7278
NARFE (National Active & Retired Federal Employees.....	482-6713
Navy Seabees Veterans of America.....	731-1901
Paradise Iowa Club of SWFL.....	667-1354
Sons of Confederate Veterans.....	332-2408
Southwest Florida Fencing Academy.....	939-1338
Southwest Florida Music Association.....	561-2118

Kiwanis Clubs:

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

Lions Clubs:

Fort Myers Beach.....	463-9738
Fort Myers High Noon.....	466-4228
Estero/South Fort Myers.....	898-1921
Notre Dame Club of Lee County.....	768-0417
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 Kingdon 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:
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PUZZLES

Answers on page 37

THE BROOKLYN SOUND
Super Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 "The Georgia Peach" of baseball

7 Black Sea seaport

13 Indy 500 tire changers

20 Neat and trim

21 Raleigh's neighbor city

22 Lift forcibly

23 Egyptian river's condition?

25 "Howards End" novelist

26 — la Douce (1963 title role)

27 How complex a story is?

29 Knighted Guinness

32 Prefix similar to equi-

34 Maya Angelou's "And Still —"

35 When designer Calvin was most popular?

41 Band worn by Miss USA

45 Chalet shape, often

46 Piece's pace

47 Robust

49 Cherry part

50 What a bowler analyzes for a second roll?

54 Medit. nation

55 Steed steerers

57 Safari noises

58 Hopper, e.g.

59 Some Greek letters

60 Decide on

63 Met queen

64 Bureau overseeing a boundary barrier?

70 Inferior — cava

71 Virgil hero

72 Apollo's gp.

73 "— changed man!"

74 Many a yogi

76 Abrupt

78 Cellphone game, often

81 What an angler may bring up for discussion?

86 Mac maker

88 Hollywood's Dahl

89 Precise

90 86-Across

91 Thing to sow

92 TV shopping channel that sells chairs?

96 Sluggish sort

98 Penpoint

99 Give cheek

100 Woe for someone who's been walking all day long?

108 Hardly hard

110 Sicilian port next to Mount Etna

111 Inscriptions on a penny?

116 Like deductive reasoning

117 Minute Maid Park's team

118 Knight who had Pips

119 Request a new supply of

120 Wind sound

121 Consumes completely

DOWN

1 Six-pt. plays

2 Sun — -sen

3 Tax pro

4 Eye care worker

5 Ballpark brew

6 Trite saying

7 Quirky

8 Face-off

9 Ocean eagle

10 Hood's knife

11 Store draw

12 2001 Audrey Tautou film

13 Black-and-white seabird

14 86-Across music players

15 Six halved

16 "— la vie!"

17 — -tat-tat

18 Risk-taking Knievel

19 Lived

24 Burkina —

28 "... — quit!"

29 Take — (turn down the offer)

30 One not right-handed

31 Misprint, e.g.

33 Habitually

36 Capo's code of silence

37 Amounts added to bank accts.

38 First-aid pro

39 Non-U.S. speed-limit abbr.

40 — Alamos

41 Drain away

42 Language of Yemen

43 Endeavor

44 Serengeti laughter

47 That lady

48 Curvy letter

50 Remote

51 Carl who composed "O Fortuna"

52 See 104-Down

53 Be too fearful to

56 Anvil's organ

59 Clean air gp.

60 Unified

61 Educ. group

62 How- (DIY books)

63 Genetic ID

64 Bashful

65 Activate

66 The Beatles' "Love —"

67 Ample, informally

68 Remote

69 Will topic

70 Entry permits

74 Cackler

75 H₂O at 31 degrees F

76 Santa's bag

77 Discover

78 Sleep clinic concern

79 Entreaties

80 Raid targets

82 TV's Pa

83 Dawn drops

84 Outer: Prefix

85 Gin joint

87 Tabby

90 Company pin-on

92 "Hey, that's cheating!"

93 LAX guess

94 Felons run afoul of it

95 Feudal domain

96 Assembly of ecclesiastics

97 Nantes' river

100 Dollar Rent —

101 Be wide open

102 Other, in Spanish

103 Hair removal brand

104 With 52-Down, flakes sprinkled into an aquarium

105 Opposite of 84-Down

106 Architect

107 General — chicken

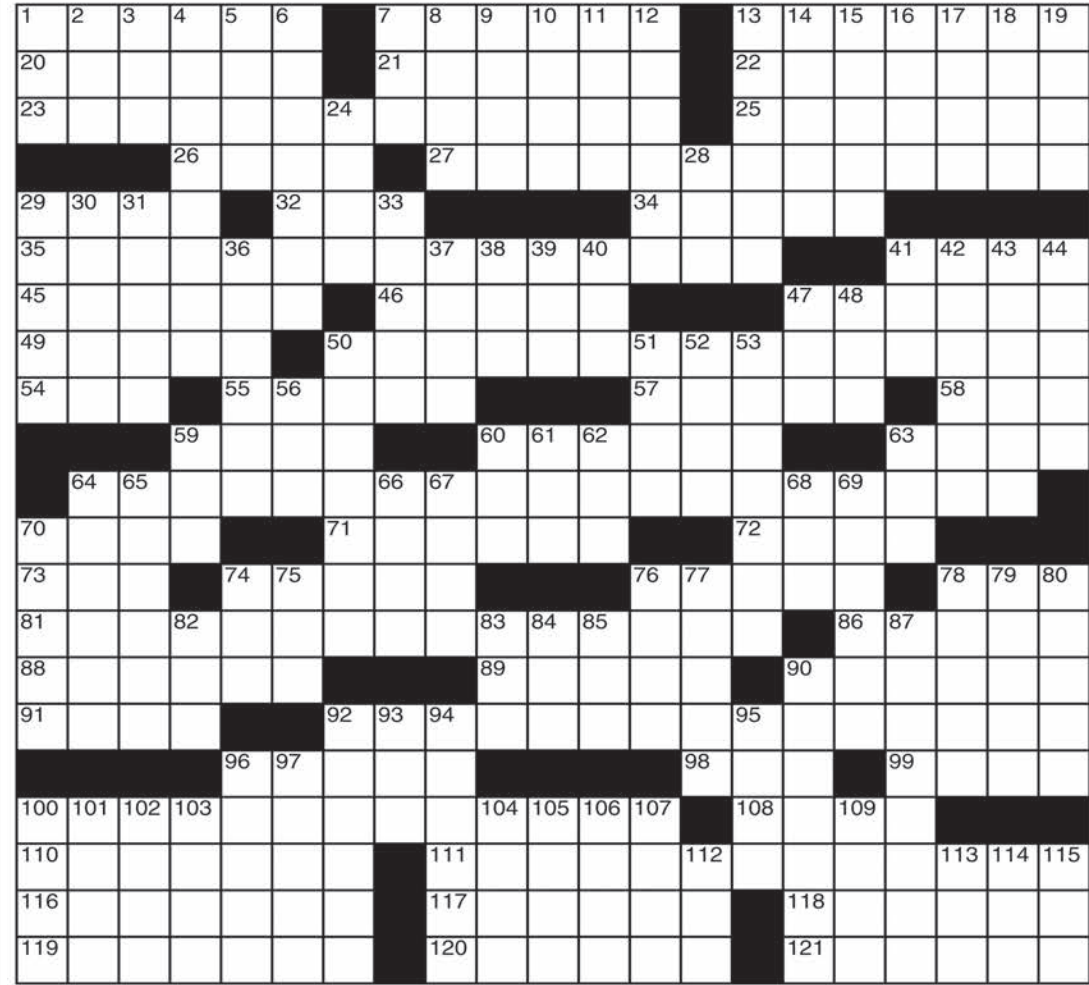
109 TV's Ward

112 —Kosh

113 Mag staff

114 Manhattan sch.

115 Cooking qty.



King Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 One of the kin

4 Genie's home

8 Green or Rogen

12 Noshed

13 Bloodhound's clue

14 Temptation

15 Cribbage scorer

16 Unescorted

17 Belligerent deity

18 Insignificant sum

21 Still

22 Last letter

23 Pollster's find

26 Moment

27 Moo goo gai pan pan

30 Deception

31 Solidify

32 Marathon fraction

33 Mel of Coop-erstown

34 "Family Guy" airer

35 Annie's dog

36 Botheration

37 Erstwhile acorn

38 Universe explanation

45 Vicinity

46 Greek vowel

47 Court

48 Inmates

49 Watchful one

50 Drag along

51 Dandling site

52 Whodunit writer

53 Vast expanse

10 Almond or pecan

11 Pianist Dame Myra

19 Bobcat kin

20 Early nuclear org.

23 However, in verse

24 Deterioration

25 Dine on

26 Driver's license datum

27 Triumph

28 Bygone

29 Crucial

31 Treasure seekers in a 1985 movie

32 Create

34 Rx watchdog grp.

35 About 30 percent of Africa

36 Lower in rank

37 Playful water critter

38 Endorse

39 Press

40 Heredity unit

41 "The Third of May 1808" painter

42 They give a hoot

43 Libertine

44 Relaxing practice

DOWN

1 Fools

2 Thing

3 Genesis maker

4 Hung lazily

5 Take as one's own

6 Stereo fore-runner

7 Tavern snack

8 Chalkboard

9 Continental

MAGIC MAZE ● PIANO —

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

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

- Accordion
- Action
- Bar
- Damper
- Forte
- Keyboard
- Keys
- Lesson
- Maker
- Man
- Player
- Sonata
- Teacher
- Tuner
- Wire



Grilled Swordfish with Mango Citrus Salsa

- 1 cup pink grapefruit sections
- 1 cup orange sections
- 1 cup papaya cubes
- 1 star fruit, diced
- 1 cup mango cubes
- 1 medium red onion, finely diced
- 1 tablespoon fresh cilantro, chopped
- 1 tablespoon mint, chopped
- 2 tablespoons orange liqueur (optional)
- 4 six-ounce swordfish steaks,
1½ inch thick, skin removed
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- sea salt
- black pepper
- mint sprigs for garnish

Make the Mango Citrus Salsa by combining all ingredients except swordfish, oil, salt and pepper in a medium bowl. Mix well and set aside to let flavors blend. Brush swordfish steaks with olive oil then season with salt and pepper to taste. Grill steaks over

Grilled Swordfish with Mango Citrus Salsa

medium-high heat for 4 minutes per side or until cooked through. To serve, spoon the Mango Citrus Salsa over the swordfish steaks and garnish with mint sprigs.

Yield four servings
Nutritional Value Per Serving
Calories 333, Calories From Fat 95,
Total Fat 11g, Saturated Fat 2g, Trans
Fatty Acid 0, Cholesterol 66mg, Total

photo courtesy Fresh From Florida

Carbohydrates 24g, Protein 35g, Omega
3 Fatty Acid 1.44g
Look for Fresh from Florida
ingredients at your grocery store.✱

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

EDEN ENERGY MEDICINE

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Karen L. Semmelman, *Eden Energy Medicine Advanced Practitioner*
Valerie Webb, *Certified Canine Rehab Specialist*



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Noon to 4:30 pm



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Film Society of Southwest Florida

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Meeting Location
Community Room - Robb & Stucky

4:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Second Monday of each month

President, Di Saggau
239-466-4707

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*NS 2/17 CC 2/24

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GARAGE FOR RENT

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Layla and Gema
photos courtesy GCHS



Willie Wonka



Gema

World Spay Day

It's time to "Pick Your Price" at the Gulf Coast Humane Society's Spay and Neuter in honor of World Spay Day on Tuesday, February 28. World Spay Day is the first and only international day of action to promote the spaying or neutering of cats and dogs. It was originally created as Spay Day USA by the Doris Day Animal League in 1995 and is now a program of The Humane Society of the United States, Humane Society International and Humane Society Veterinary Medical Association. Spay and neutering is an important initiative of GCHS' and its Spay and Neuter Clinic, which is located at 2010 Arcadia Street in Fort Myers. The Spay and Neuter Clinic will be participating in World Spay Day by bringing awareness to the importance of spaying and neutering to help curb animal population.

"Spay and neutering your pets is one of our most important messages to pet owners," said GCHS Executive Director Jennifer Galloway. "Having an international day to recognize how important spay and neutering is something we fully support." The "Pick Your Price" World Spay Day special gives great opportunities to pet owners who bring their pets into the GCHS Spay and Neuter Clinic to win some big savings by drawing your price. Not only will the pet owner have potential to earn big savings on February 28, but they will know they are supporting the initiative of controlling animal overpopulation. Overpopulation is a problem in the United States, with nearly three million cats and dogs being euthanized in shelters per year, according to the Humane Society of the United States. That equals to one homeless pet being euthanized every 12 seconds. Although it's impossible to determine how many

stray dogs and cats there are in the U.S., cats on average produce two litters each year, with four to six per litter. For dogs, a fertile female will have one litter per year with four to six per litter. Of the animals which are brought to shelters, only 10-percent have been spayed or neutered. "It's in our mission statement to educate about the importance of spaying and neutering," added Galloway. "Spaying and neutering your pet is the best way to control animal population, as well as giving them a healthier and happier life." The GCHS Spay and Neuter Clinic has performed 5,233 spay and neutering surgeries since it opened on August 25, 2015. That is literally tens of thousands of pets' lives saved, due to controlling the pet population. Several other top reasons to spay or neuter your pet include:

- Avoiding the "dreaded" heat: Female felines go into heat for up to four to five days every three weeks during breeding season. They will yowl and urinate more frequently, while female dogs will discharge blood. Spaying will end these symptoms.
- Better behavior: Many aggression problems by male cats and dogs can be lessened if they are neutered, as well as roaming problems can be cut down.
- Your pet will not gain weight after being spayed/neutered: The lack of exercise and over-feeding is the cause of overweight pets, not spaying or neutering.
- Fighting pet overpopulation: Millions of unwanted cats and dogs are euthanized annually, or suffer as strays. Gulf Coast Humane Society is dedicated to provide a non-lethal solution to the problem of shelter pet overpopulation.

For more information about the GCHS Spay and Neuter Clinic and to set an appointment for your pet, call 332-1573 or visit www.gulfcoasthumanesociety.org.

Top 10 Real Estate Sales

Subdivision	City	Year Built	Square Footage	Listing Price	Selling Price	Days On Market
Sorrento	Miromar Lakes	2016	5,403	\$3,999,900	\$3,700,000	336
Fa Lanes Bayview	Captiva	2011	4,200	\$2,695,000	\$2,250,000	173
Shell Harbor	Sanibel	1974	2,250	\$1,595,000	\$1,600,000	29
Oakbrook	Estero	2005	4,064	\$1,550,000	\$1,450,000	19
West Cape Estates	Cape Coral	2007	4,917	\$1,300,969	\$1,200,000	21
Sanibel Isles	Sanibel	1984	2,198	\$1,250,000	\$1,250,000	13
Catalpa Cove	Fort Myers	2000	3,396	\$869,900	\$765,000	612
Bonita Lakes	Bonita Springs	2013	3,122	\$775,000	\$750,000	48
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	2001	2,744	\$749,900	\$705,000	192
Briarcliff	Fort Myers	2005	3,256	\$695,000	\$665,000	152



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