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Vol. 16, No. 13

From the Beaches to the River District downtown Fort Myers

MARCH 31, 2017



Cypress Lake High School Center for the Arts students

photo provided

Art Students Recognized At Beach Gallery

Several Cypress Lake High School and Cypress Lake Middle School art students received recognition at the Fort Myers Beach Art Association (FMBAA) Student Scholarship Show on March 26. Sponsored by FMBAA, awards and scholarships were given to three high school seniors for the top

three art excellence awards. Thirteen merit awards were handed out as well.

Haley Keller seized the blue ribbon for her top-judged cumulative art display and was awarded a \$1,200 college art tuition scholarship plus \$175 cash. Katja Redes collected the second place ribbon and was awarded a \$1,000 college art tuition scholarship plus \$125 cash. Madison Brewer placed third and was awarded an \$800 college art tuition scholarship plus \$75 cash.

Merit awards went to Patricia

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Local Singer Impresses On TV Reality Show



Sheena Brook sings during the blind auditions on NBC's *The Voice*

photo provided

by Bob Petcher

Fort Myers Beach resident Sheena Brook never thought she could sing her way onto a television reality show. The 33-year-old just didn't believe she had enough talent – or guts – to compete against the best amateur singers in the country.

But, after being pressed by her wife, Summer, and driving up to Atlanta to wait in line with thousands of other regional singers for an open call session in hopes of gaining a spot on *The Voice*, the American reality television singing competition that is currently

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Marie Baptiste as Cassis, Jordan Wilson as Brandon and Michael J. Pineda as Timothy

photo courtesy Theatre Conspiracy

World Premiere At Theatre Conspiracy

by Di Saggau

The Cave, now playing at Theatre Conspiracy, is written by Jeff Lindsay, author of the *Dexter* novels on which the hit TV show *Dexter* is based. I had a chance to meet him on opening night and tell him how much I enjoyed both the play and his TV series.

The Cave is set during the Civil War in a huge hidden cavern with giant stalactites

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Artist Brings Symbolic Magic To April Art Walk

Artist and writer Kyra Belan, a resident of Cape Coral, will be showing her artwork at the Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center (SBDAC) in downtown Fort Myers during the month of April. There will be an opening reception during Art Walk on Friday, April 7 from 6 to 10 p.m.

All month long, see a series of works that include the American Beauty series paintings of hibiscus flowers, the From Kali series drawings of mixed animals/birds, paintings from the Amazing Ladies series (portraits of notable women) and paintings of mythological figures of divinities. In the first floor Grand Atrium and Conservatory galleries, Belan will show her installation of paintings, drawings and mixed media artworks.

During her career, Belan has been interested in the social issues art movement and in installation art. Belan will exhibit several series of her artworks created in a style that she describes as contemporary magical realism. The Symbolic Magic installation, designed for SBDAC, will also include her Lady



Kyra Belan

photo provided

Liberty Series and the Shamanic Vision Series. The show will hang from April 7 to 26.

The Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center is located at 2301 First Street in the historic downtown Fort Myers River District. For more information, visit www.sbdac.com or call 333-1933.✱

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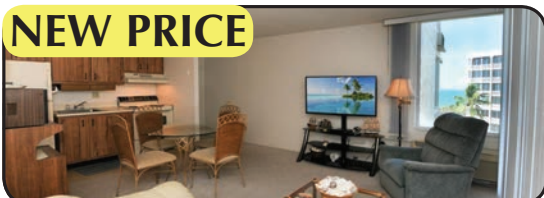
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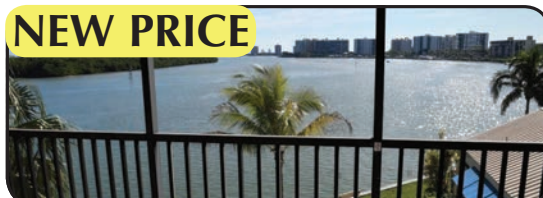
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Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

Still A Parking Lot, But What A Difference



by Gerri Reaves, PhD

Close your eyes, cast your memory back four or five years ago, and envision the large parcel on the northeast corner of Lee and Second streets.

Your memory of the spot is probably rather vague unless you regularly drove by or parked there – or walked by to enjoy the birds that gathered in the trees late in the day.

That land is an example of a rather un-picturesque parking lot being redeveloped as yet another a parking lot (oh, dear) – but this time, the result has undoubted merit.

Pictured here are two northeasterly views of the parcel that became the south side of the Fort Myers Regional Library campus – one in August 2012 and one in March 2017.

The earlier photo captures the chaos that descended behind the fences as machinery commenced churning up the ground.

What emerged, of course, is the now familiar sight of the library parking area and (left) the building used for meetings and other events.

The tangible history associated with that side of the block stretching down to Richmond Street is all but completely erased now, but only a few decades ago, there were still hints of the street's pioneer past.

In the late 19th century, a few private wood-frame homes dotted the neighborhood and it evolved into a thriving neighborhood. For decades in the early 20th century, the William R. Washburn home was located roughly mid-block.

By the 19-teens and 1920s, a housing shortage and boom-time growth would create a big demand for apartments.

Among the several on this street were Travis Apartments (on the west side near today's Richmond Street), later renamed Lee Street Apartments and then Heitman



In August 2012, preparations were under way for the library parking lot and meeting rooms. In the distance are, from left, the Ambassador Riverfront Hotel, the steeple of the First United Methodist Church (left of tree) and Calusa Harbour.

photos by Gerri Reaves



The Fort Myers Regional Library opened in 2013. The hotel, at left, is now Campo Felice.

Apartments.

On the corner at Second stood the Melbourne Apartments (later called Poinciana Apartments in the 1920s and 1930s). The Johnson Apartments were next door to the Melbourne.

By the late 1950s, however, most of the area pictured was used for parking, and the block's rich residential history was almost gone.

When construction began on the Fort Myers Regional Library, the construction area was expansive and the upheaval considerable, but who can now imagine downtown without that wonderful facility that opened in October 2013?

Although the foreground of the 2012 scene is now completely changed, structures in the distance remind us of downtown history and how quickly things take shape or disappear.

On the left towers the former Sheraton Harbor Place Hotel, subsequently named the Ramada Inn and Suites at Amtel Marina, and later the Ambassador Riverfront Hotel.

Today, that gleaming white renovated building is Campo Felice Retirement Living.

In the right background stands Calusa Harbour, a point of continuity in a quickly changing landscape.

At the center of the 2012 photo and just left of the tree, emerges the steeple of the recently closed First United Methodist Church at the corner of First and Royal Palm Avenue.

Even as this "now" photo was snapped, the demolition of that church – which had a 144-year history – was taking place.

Soon, for the first time in well over a century, no church steeple will be visible at First and Royal Palm.

Walk down to Lee and Second and ponder what it was like to call unpaved Lee Street home way back when.

Then, visit the following two research centers to learn more about the many homes and apartments that were once located on Lee Street.

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

Sources: Archives of the Southwest Florida Historical Society. ✱

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THE RIVER
WEEKLY NEWS
FROM THE BEACHES TO DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS

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Student artwork will be on display at the Alliance in April photo provided

Alliance Presents The Future Of Art

The Alliance for the Arts April exhibition The Future of Art will exhibit from Tuesday, April 4 to Saturday, April 29 at 10091 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. This is the 25th year the Alliance has partnered with Lee Arts Educators Association (LAEA) to display student work in a formal exhibit. The show features more

than 40 schools and hundreds of works in a variety of mediums.

The elementary and middle school students opening reception will be on April 4 from 5 to 7 p.m. and the show will remain on display until Friday, April 14. High school works will be exhibited with a second opening reception on Thursday, April 20 from 5 to 7 p.m. and will remain on display until April 29. Winners will be selected in several categories and Best in Show will be rewarded. Pizza for the high

school reception will be provided by Downtown House of Pizza in Fort Myers.

LAEA is a group of art teachers who recognize and promote students who show interest and aptitude in visual arts. This exhibit is sponsored by Pediatric Dentistry of Fort Myers.

Play Takes On Logic Of Denial

Faith versus reason. That is the subtext of *Affirmation*, a new play by Fay Ellen Graetz to be read on the Fould's Theatre stage for Theatre Conspiracy at the Alliance for the Arts on Saturday, April 15 at 3 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

Affirmation is a compact, two-act play that revolves around the aftermath of a church shooting where a televangelist bargained for his life by denying his faith in God. How does he live with himself after this? Will the congregation forgive him for denying his faith? His convictions are scrutinized from within and without. The media swarm. Do the facts line up? How will he defend his logic to the widowed husband of a church member, a professed atheist?

"I don't believe this particular twist on "faith versus reason" has been addressed in the local theatre," said Graetz. "It's sad and perplexing that the combination of violence and religion should occupy the headlines in today's enlightened world ... but alas there are too many examples. And not only today. Art museums present walls and walls of martyrs over the ages. I ask, what was life like for those who did not stick to their convictions, those who were not steadfast in their faith? How did they live with themselves?"

Graetz is a member of The Theatre Conspiracy Playwrights at the Alliance where *Affirmation* has been developed via "table readings" with actors and playwrights over the past year. "What began as a gritty monologue," said Graetz, "expanded into a two act play of philosophical complications that resonate with believers, agnostics and atheists alike."

Tera Nicole Miller will direct a

"This is an important opportunity for school age students," said exhibition coordinator Krista Johnson. "Showing student art can engage and energize families, schools and communities."

For more information, call 939-2787 or visit www.ArtInLee.org.

Final Tea Party Of The Season

The historic Burroughs Home & Gardens will host its final tea party of the season on Tuesday, April 11 at 1 p.m.

The Victorian Fairy Painting Tea is presented by local historical entertainer Laurie Nienhaus and will include a presentation of quality reprints of the great fairy paintings of the Victorian era. Guests will enjoy the scenery of the beautiful gardens from the dancing porch, while learning about the quirks associated with the unique genre of art. Light afternoon tea fare fit for a fairy will be served.

"Victorians loved their fairies," Nienhaus said. "These paintings had a deeper meaning for many, and the fairies in these works are not always as sweet—nor as innocent—as one might imagine. When examined more closely, guests may find surprising elements."

The Burroughs Home is located at 2505 First Street in downtown Fort Myers. Parking is free across the street behind the Langford-Kingston Home at 2500 First Street.

Admission for this interactive program is \$26. Seating is limited. Reservations are required and can be made by emailing Tera@BurroughsHome.com or by calling 337-9505.

For more information, visit www.uncommonfriends.org/.

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Quilt artwork entitled *Deport Yourself* by Barry Van Boekel.

photos provided

Artist Reception During ArtWalk

Arts for ACT Gallery, located at 2265 First Street in downtown Fort Myers, will hold an opening reception during ArtWalk on Friday, April 7 from 6 to 10 p.m. The gallery will also be open on Saturday, April 8 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. during the Saturday ArtWalk. The Art Quilters Unlimited (AQU) Group will be featured in the Main Gallery. The fiber artists have produced new works for the theme Greetings from SW Florida. The gallery will also feature ArtPoems 2017 in the White Gallery as well as new works from more than 20 co-op artists.

In early 2016 the AQU exhibition committee challenged members to create a fiber art piece based on the theme and each original one-of-a-kind work is mounted on a square format canvas stretcher, with sizes in inches varying from 12-by-12 to 36-by-36. The visually exciting submissions express a wide range of artistic styles, combinations of media and subject matter inspired by living and playing in southwest Florida. AQU met for the first time in March 2004 at the Arts for ACT Gallery in downtown Fort Myers. Carol Holsopple had moved to Cape Coral from the Denver area. When she learned that there was not an art quilt group in the area, she "contacted several of the local

traditional quilt guilds to see if any of their members might be interested in getting together on a regular basis to pursue the interest in fiber art exclusively." There were 19 quilters at that first meeting. "AQU is an active, exuberant group of eclectic fiber artists interested in "expanding our knowledge and pushing the boundaries of our creativity." The largest art quilt guild in SW Florida has grown to 85-plus members - mostly from Lee, Charlotte and Collier counties - who come together to experience a guest artist's presentation, swap tips on materials, equipment, creative methods and sources, and share the latest fiber creations. AQU meetings are held in Fort Myers on the second Saturday of the odd-numbered months, with additional meetings in February and April to accommodate the many snowbird members. Visitors interested in fiber art are welcome to join the group for a lively, fun gathering to see if they might be interested in becoming a member. For more information, visit www.artquiltersunlimited.com, and to see what our members have been doing, or visit Facebook page www.facebook.com/artquiltersunlimited.com.

For more information, contact Pam Richardson, AQU Exhibits Chair, pjrichfiberart@comcast.net

ArtPoems is a creative collaboration between artists and poets. As a platform for the creation of new art and poetry, it adds a unique vision and voice to the Southwest Florida cultural landscape each

year. Founded in 2007 by Lorraine Walker Williams and Joe Pacheco, ArtPoems will celebrate its 11th year in 2017. Each season ArtPoems artists and poets are paired and exchange art and poetry. They pair up by drawing names from a hat and exchange pieces. The artists create new artworks inspired by the poetry and the poets write new poems inspired by the artwork. New creations emerge from this shared inspiration and collaboration. The result is a unique interchange of inspiration through visuals and works. The poets and artists for ArtPoems 2017 are Terry Lynn Spry, Maria Bouloux, Linda Lally, Denis Church, Honey Costa, Eleanor Dominek, Berry Van Boekel, Beth Everhart, Scott Guelcher, Roy Rodriguez and Paul David Amamick.

This exhibit continues through Monday, May 1.✱



Barbara Gates-Mewhinney's *A Nod to Mina*

Hollywood Heist To Benefit LARC

Royal Shell Real Estate and Mark Loren Designs will present an evening of mystery and suspicion on Thursday, April 13 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. in hopes that someone will crack the case of the Hollywood Heist on Longwater Chase.

This exciting event will benefit LARC, Inc., a local nonprofit that has been serving intellectually and developmentally disabled individuals in Southwest Florida since 1954.

Guests will be transported from the Gulf Harbour Clubhouse to a 13,000-square-foot estate where they will enjoy an evening filled with delicious food, fine wines, fun and intrigue as they set out to collect clues, interact with the suspects and solve this "Who Dun It" mystery. Someone has stolen valuable jewels and Mark Loren Designs has offered a reward in hopes of finding out who. Who will solve the case and go home with the real jewels? You will have to participate to find out.

Tickets are \$150 per person and are available at www.larcleecounty.org. The event will take place in Gulf Harbour Yacht & Country Club located at 15000 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers.

Additional sponsors include Rolls Royce of Naples; Florida Community Bank; McMurray and Nette Team of Royal Shell Real Estate; Lykes Insurance; Baldwin Krysten Sherman Partners; Myers, Brettholtz & Company; Sunset Air; *Florida Weekly*; Marine Max; Norman Love Confections; FineMark Bank; Rosy Tomorrows Heritage Farm; Crave; Lobster Lady; Bonefish Grill

Fort Myers; Bubba's Roadhouse & Saloon; Spotlight Graphics; and TCMC Interactive.

"We are thrilled to be partnering with amazing local talent and sponsors to help make this fun 'Who Dun It' heist come to life" said Angela Katz, development director for LARC. "From the moment guests arrive, they will be met with mystery and motive. Best of all, it helps to raise the critical funds needed for the programs and services LARC provides."

For more information, contact Katz at 334-6285 ext. 229 or visit www.larcleecounty.org.✱

FSW To Hold Concert Series

Music lovers can enjoy a series of spring concerts performed by students in Florida SouthWestern State College's (FSW) music program on three Mondays in April. Concerts will be held in the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, 8099 College Parkway, in Fort Myers. Doors open at 7 p.m. The concerts are free and open to the public.

The concert schedule is as follows:

- Monday, April 3 at 7:30 p.m. – Concert Band, Trumpet Ensemble and Percussion Ensemble
- Monday, April 10 at 7:30 p.m. – Symphony Orchestra, FSW Choirs and Guitar Ensemble
- Monday, April 17, at 7:30 p.m. – Jazz Big Band, Jazz Combo and Jazz Vocalists

For more information, contact Kelly O'Neil, FSW music department, at 432-5203 or koneil1@fsw.edu.✱



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Lake Kennedy Senior Center

Botanical Gardens Tour

The Kennedy Kruisers are ready to commune with nature and smell the flowers at the Naples Botanical Garden on Thursday, April 20. Participants are asked to arrive at 8:30 a.m. for the 8:45 a.m. departure. Return time should be before 3:30 p.m.

Naples Botanical Garden is a 170-acre

world-class garden paradise that features the plants and cultures of the tropics and subtropics between the latitudes of 26 degrees North and South. The trip involves a 90-minute tour and lunch prepared by Lurcat Catering.

Cost is \$40 per member and \$45 per non-member. Pre-registration is required by April 13.

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



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Fort Myers Art:

Theater Director Inducted As WGCU Maker



by Tom Hall

Last week, WGCU inducted Annette Trossbach into an elite group of 50 Makers: Women Who Make Southwest Florida. The honor reflects more than the gargantuan role

she has played over the past nine years in establishing the Laboratory Theater of Florida as a bastion for innovative, groundbreaking theater productions. It recognizes the influence she has exercised in transforming local theater into a safe and acceptable environment in which artists and audiences can explore, discuss and expand personal horizons and raise their collective social consciousness.

Makers are authentic, passionate and inspirational women who are leaving an impact on the arts, business, education, the environment, health and wellness, politics and/or social justice in Southwest Florida. WGCU began recognizing Makers in 2011 and selected 45 women for this distinction over the program's first four years. The

2017 class of inductees will be the last.

Selected from more than 50 nominees, the other four 2017 Makers are Cape Coral resident Heather Mazurkiewicz, founder and president of The Florida Cancer Presumption Coalition; Fort Myers resident Kathryn Kelly, founder and CEO of The Heights Foundation; Sharon Miller, founder of Trailways Camp; and Sharon Murphy, founder and CEO of The McGregor Clinic.

According to Makers Selection Committee member and WGCU Executive Producer and Public Media Representative Barbara Linstrom, Trossbach exemplifies each of the criteria WGCU looks for in a Maker – leaving a legacy, building community, defying social norms and serving as a first in her field. “She takes chances with the subject matter and fills a vital role in helping the arts reflect the social issues we face,” noted Linstrom.

Born in Germany and educated in Great Britain (she has degrees in both acting and directing from the University of Essex in England, whose campuses are located in and outside of London), Trossbach strives to make people think deeper and feel more through theater.

“She feels that theater should educate as well as enlighten and entertain,” remarked Anne Dodd, who had the pleasure of directing Annette in The Lab's recent production of Lanford Wilson's *Burn This*. “She is tenacious and strong and believes in the power of theater.”

That belief is multi-tiered. At the forefront is Trossbach's conviction

that one need not travel to 47th Street in Manhattan or London's West End to find great theater.

“Outstanding productions are created in regional and community theater and even in high schools,” Trossbach proclaimed. “We have amazing talent right here in Southwest Florida.”

To ensure that local theater buffs have an opportunity to experience the finest that theater has to offer, she essays each season to strike just the right balance between classic plays (think Arthur Miller's *Death of a Salesman*, David Mamet's *Glengarry Glen Ross*, Bernard Slade's *Same Time Next Year* or this season's opener, Gore Vidal's *The Best Man*), brand new productions (many of which have recently just closed on and off Broadway) and cutting-edge offerings that carry actors and audiences far beyond the realm of escapism and pure entertainment.

It is within the latter rubric that Trossbach is making the biggest splash.

“Annette is changing the perception of what a unique resource theater can be to the community beyond mere entertainment,” cited Louise Wigglesworth, an actor, director, playwright and educator who shares the benefit and perspective or more than 40 years in theater. “Annette Trossbach's mindset as [Lab Theater] team leader is that our theater take a road not travelled in this locale, producing plays that bravely open conversations on important social issues.”

This season alone, The Lab has produced plays involving ethics in politics (*The Best Man*), a mother coming to terms with her son's sexual orientation, gay marriage and gay adoption (*Mothers and Sons*), how we relate to people with life-threatening or terminal illness (*I and You*), and the interplay between creativity and loss (*Burn This*). But last season was truly a watershed in terms of tackling subjects rarely brought into the light of day by theater anywhere, much less in Southwest Florida.

That started with 2015's summer stock blockbuster *Standing on Ceremony: The Gay Marriage Plays* and culminated in the 2016 finale of *The Rauchenberg Project Plays*. The former production dealt with the social, moral and religious impediments to extending the right to marry to members of the LGBTQ community just weeks after the Supreme Court ruled in *Obergefell v. Hodges* that the Constitution guarantees a right to same sex-marriage. And through the *The Rauchenberg Project Plays*, local 12- to 24-year olds worked with Lab Theater professionals to craft plays which elucidated what it's like to be young and gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender in Southwest Florida.



Annette Trossbach

photo courtesy www.artswfl

“Theater was never meant to be just for entertainment,” said Trossbach. “It's always been about morality and ethics and social mores. It's about telling an oral history of the culture in which we live with an eye to the future. It should reveal truths and morality while keeping an eye on the powers that be, as it has for hundreds of years.”

The trick, of course, is to produce pieces that raise social consciousness without alienating, isolating or excluding whole segments of the audience and community at large.

Trossbach and The Lab are also breaking new ground by staging productions that are both experiential and immersive. The Lab went even farther to drive home its point. It coupled the immersive experience of the play with an audience talk-back and panel discussion featuring experts that ranged from health care professionals (Dr. Joe Ryan and RN Tammy Booth from Lee Health) to stroke veterans, caregivers and affected family members in an effort to induce the community to share information and discuss their own experiences with strokes, dementia and Alzheimer's disease.

“Early on, Annette was told no one would attend panel discussions or speakers' series or come to plays about gay people, racial conflict and the Holocaust,” observed Wigglesworth, who nominated Trossbach for this year's class of Makers. “Her legacy is inclusivity, where every group and their stories can be represented on stage, where artists and technicians of every color, nationality and gender are welcome to study and work, and where audiences have a safe place to be entertained, to discuss, to challenge, and to grow.”

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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The north arch

photos provided

Iconic Sculpture Gets Restoration

After 91 years overlooking the entrance to the Edison Park neighborhood, “Rachel” was due for a facelift. In late March, restoration work began on the neighborhood’s iconic entrance and the sculpture known as *The Spirit of Fort Myers*, often called Rachel at the Well. The monumental entrance is located at the intersection of McGregor Boulevard and Llewellyn Drive in Fort Myers.

The restoration project is thought to be the most significant in the history of the monument.

Work began on March 27 with the addition of footers under the Edison Park’s four entrance columns. Once the columns are fortified and footers are installed, officials from the City of Fort Myers will begin cosmetic improvements and minor structural work on the columns and entrance arches. City officials will follow by refurbishing the monument’s lighting before moving on to *The Spirit of Fort Myers* sculpture itself.

Rosa Lowinger & Associates, a national leader in art conservation, will manage the restoration of the sculpture. Refurbishment will include cleaning, restoration and repainting.

The Spirit of Fort Myers and the Edison Park entrance was commissioned by developer James D. Newton and sculpted by German-American artist Helmut von Zengen. The sculpture was dedicated in a widely publicized ceremony in 1926. *The Spirit of Fort Myers* has long been a favorite of local pranksters who would fill her urn with bubbles, and of Fort Myers High School students who annually painted the sculpture in alternating coats of green and white for half a century. More recently, local artist D.J. Wilkins restored the sculpture and repaired its fountain in 1983.

The upcoming restoration project is expected to take approximately two months, and will likely require the temporary closure of sidewalks near the



The Spirit of Fort Myers sculpture

Edison Park neighborhood entrance. City engineers do not anticipate significant traffic delays, as there are two separate lanes entering and exiting

the neighborhood on Llewellyn Drive. The City plans to close one lane at a time during the restoration project to minimize transportation issues.*

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July 17 - 21
When You Wish Upon a Star

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Say Yes to the Mess!

Learn more and register at www.BIGARTS.org or call Camp Director at 239.395.0900

Along The River

The **Gravel Kings** will be performing at **Point Ybel Brewing Company** this Friday, March 31 from 8 to 11 p.m.

The four member, folk-rock band out of Fort Pierce, Florida is "built on the foundations of colorful harmonies, meticulous storytelling and a fundamental understanding of the oldest and earliest roots of music," according to the group's biography at www.gravelkings.com.

Point Ybel Brewing Company is located at 16120 San Carlos Boulevard unit #4 in Fort Myers. Call 603-6535 or visit www.pointybelbrew.com for more information.

Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida is hosting a **grand opening** this Saturday, April 1 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sponsored by Suncoast Credit Union, the grand opening will showcase the new, child-friendly facility located next to HealthPark Medical Center on Bass Road in Fort Myers. Festivities include a ribbon cutting, tours, children's activities and entertainment by local schools.

Children, and the young-at-heart, will be captivated by the many interactive design features and color-coded theming on the seven-floor facility. The building encompasses nearly 300,000 square feet and consolidates into one location the medical and ancillary specialty services required to treat critically ill or injured children in a five-county region. A total of 128



Gravel Kings

patient beds will be available at the new hospital, with future expansion capabilities up to 160 beds.

A dedicated pediatric emergency department with its own ambulance entrance will be staffed by pediatric emergency physicians 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Other new features include a classroom where children can continue their studies in an educational environment while in the hospital; a family room; an outdoor garden with colorful statues and areas for meditation and respite for families; a family resource center; a family laundry facility; a 64-room Neonatal Intensive

photo courtesy www.gravelkings.com

Care Unit (NICU); a milk lab; a chapel; two new MRI units; and an acute care pediatric rehab area.

The community is invited to attend the grand opening. To accommodate hospital visitors, guests are asked to park in designated areas on the north side of HealthPark Medical Center. Trolley service will be provided.

The **Lee County Community Band** will conclude its 2016-17 season with 'Til We Meet Again at **Cape Coral High School** this Sunday, April 2 at 3 p.m. The concert will transport the audience back to the age of speakeasies and the arrival of cars on city streets with *New York: 1927*; and *Twentiana*, a montage of songs from the 1920s.

The program features flute soloist Kelly Koontz in *Rhapsody for Flute* and concludes with the moving *American Civil War Fantasy*.

Director Richard Bradstreet has rounded out the program with a selection of best-loved Sousa marches; the popular *España Rhapsody* and *Ramona*, performed by vocalist and emcee Norman Jones; and a sing-a-long of old favorites.

Cape Coral High School is located at 2300 Santa Barbara Boulevard, one block north of Veterans Parkway. The concert is free and open to the public. Donations will be accepted.

The 60-member band is comprised of musicians from all walks of life who reside in Lee, Collier and Charlotte counties.

For more information, visit www.leecountyband.org or call Norman Jones at 995-2097.

Florida SouthWestern State College's (FSW) Respiratory Care and Cardiovascular Technology programs will hold a series of **joint informational sessions** beginning this Monday, April 3. Sessions will be held from noon to 2 p.m., in Building A, Room 214 at the FSW Thomas Edison Campus, 8099 College Parkway in Fort Myers.

The remaining information sessions, all on Monday, will be held April 17, May 10 and May 24.

FSW's Respiratory Care program is designed to offer students the opportunity to obtain an associate in

science degree in respiratory care. Upon completion of the program, students will be registry-eligible respiratory therapists and will take the National Board for Respiratory Care examinations

Respiratory care program applications can be found at www.fsw.edu/academics/programs/asrespiratorycare and are due by May 31.

Cardiovascular technology program applications can be found at www.fsw.edu/academics/programs/ascardiotech and are also due by May 31.

Additionally, applications for FSW's Radiologic Technology program are due by April 30 and can be found at www.fsw.edu/academics/programs/asradiologictechnology

Holocaust survivor **Steen Metz** will share his incredible story of when his family was arrested and sent to a Czech concentration camp in 1945 this Monday, April 3 at the **Fort Myers Regional Library**.

The free program, which begins at 6:30 p.m., will be held in the library meeting rooms at 1651 Lee Street, next to the library's parking lot. It is sponsored by Friends of the Fort Myers Library.

For more information and to register, visit www.bit.ly/FML403.

A series of **spring concerts** will be performed by students in **Florida SouthWestern State College's** (FSW) music program beginning this Monday, April 3 with a concert band, trumpet ensemble and percussion ensemble. Doors open at 7 p.m. and the concert begins at 7:30 p.m.

Concerts will be held in the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, 8099 College Parkway, in Fort Myers.

The concerts, all held on Mondays at 7:30 p.m., are free and open to the public. The remaining concert schedule includes a symphony orchestra, FSW choirs and guitar ensemble on April 10 and a jazz big band, jazz combo and jazz vocalists on April 17.

For more information, contact Kelly O'Neil at 432-5203 or koneil1@fsw.edu

National Walking Day will be held this Wednesday, April 5. Join the American Heart Association/ American Stroke Association in taking the first steps towards becoming healthy.

Individuals, businesses and communities can register for a free toolkit at www.bit.ly/SWFLNationalWalkingDay and get started with the simple tips offered to help move more every day.

Walking is recommended as it has the lowest dropout rate of any physical activity, is simple, affordable and provides significant health benefits. Benefits include reduces risk of heart disease and stroke; lowers cholesterol and blood pressure; helps control weight and reduces body fat; enhances mental wellbeing, mental acuity and memory; increases bone density; reduces diabetes risk; improves sleep; increases life expectancy and muscle strength; and relieves anxiety, tension and depression.

For more information, call 495-4900.*



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Holocaust Survivor To Speak At Library

Denmark native Steen Metz was eight in 1945 when his family was arrested and sent to a Czech concentration camp. On Monday, April 3, Metz shares his incredible story at the Fort Myers Regional Library. The program, sponsored by Friends of the Fort Myers Library, starts at 6:30 p.m. and is free.

The presentation is in the library meeting rooms at 1651 Lee Street, next to the library's parking lot.

For more information and to register, visit www.bit.ly/FML403.✱



Steen Metz

photo provided

Gala To Benefit Trafficking Awareness

The second annual Taste of Freedom will be held on Saturday, April 8 from 6 to 9:30 p.m. at Scanlon Lexus of Fort Myers, 4200 S. Tamiami Trail in Fort Myers. The Southwest Florida Regional Human Trafficking Coalition hosts this food-forward masquerade affair that also presents the opportunity to win a two-year lease on a 2017 Lexus.

Unmask and Empower is the theme as the community comes together to support the lifesaving mission of the coalition and its community partners to raise awareness of human trafficking and celebrate the empowerment of its survivors.

Fifteen restaurants have signed up for the fun, foodie-themed masquerade gala featuring cocktails, chef stations, wine, live musical entertainment by local favorite Electric Lipstick, DJ Darius Joseph in chefs' area and attractive adventure auction prizes.

Event tickets are \$100 and can be purchased at www.SWFL-humantrafficking.org/events. Tables are available for purchase as well. All proceeds raised through the Taste of Freedom event will benefit the Southwest Florida Regional Human Trafficking Coalition.

One lucky raffle winner will win a 2017 Lexus – a choice of either the NX200T or IS350 – from Title Sponsor Scanlon Lexus of Fort Myers. For increased chances, raffle tickets are available in advance of the event for \$50 each or three for \$100 at swfl-humantrafficking.org/events.

Restaurants confirmed to date include Bahama Breeze, Bonefish Grill, Cantina Laredo, Crave Culinaire, Cru, DaRuMa, Ellie Bee's Bakery, Fresh Fit Foods of Naples, Indian Palace, LeeRoy Selmon's, Tarpon Bay – Hyatt Coconut Point, Noele Chocolate & Confections, Perfectly Scrumptious, Sweet Melody and Trattoria Mia.

Auction items include an airplane ride and lunch with Mayor Randy Henderson, a year-long fitness membership, restaurant-and-hotel packages, an exclusive experience with the Cape Coral Police Department, a beach house weekend with a picnic-equipped Regions Bank green bike, golf packages and much more.

Taste of Freedom is a celebration of awareness, which is key to achieving a slave-free Southwest Florida. Florida is third in the country as a destination for human trafficking, while Southwest Florida claims the dubious distinction of being first in the state.

With its service partners, the Southwest Florida Regional Trafficking Coalition raises awareness through educational seminars to first responders, law enforcement, medical ER staff, corporate training, advocacy and more. Due to increased awareness, notifications to the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888 have increased 50 percent in the last year alone. The coalition has made many measurable gains since forming in 2005, making Southwest Florida the epicenter of the state's fight against this devastating crime. The inaugural Taste of Freedom featured more than \$25,000 of live auction items and raised more than \$34,000 in funds for the organization.

Support for Taste of Freedom allows Southwest Florida Regional Human Trafficking Coalition and its service partners to assist victims of human trafficking locally, nationally and globally. Along with title sponsor Scanlon Lexus of Fort Myers, sponsors include Dunkin's Diamonds, Platinum PEO Resources, Inc., CONRIC PR & Marketing, Card Systems, Walmart, ARC of Life, Christine Massey, Florida Academy Immokalee Casino, Cape Coral Police Department, Paul Mitchell the School – Fort Myers, WINK-TV, Zonta-Naples, among many more.

For information about sponsorships or chef station opportunities for restaurants, contact coalition President Lynn Brewer at 691-1128 or lynn@swfl-humantrafficking.org.✱

Neil Diamond Tribute Entertainer To Perform At Estates On April 15

Neil Zirconia, a Neil Diamond tribute entertainer, will perform at the next Edison & Ford Winter Estates' Rhythm on the River celebration on April 15 at 5:30 p.m.

Zirconia, dubbed the ultimate "Faux Diamond," will perform Neil Diamond hits in the newly completed river pavilion along the Caloosahatchee.

The pavilion offers space for guests to show off their dance skills, take in a beautiful river view and a chance to see a spectacular sunset.

Event tickets are \$10 for members and \$15 for nonmembers and may be purchased at the Edison Ford ticket counter, The Marina at Edison Ford or online at EdisonFordWinterEstates.org. A cash bar will be available.

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



Neil Zirconia

photo courtesy Edison Ford Estates

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Churches/Temples

ALL FAITHS UNITARIAN CONGREGATION (UUA)

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

ALL SAINTS BYZANTINE RITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

8210 Cypress Lake Drive, Fort Myers. Reverend Father Dean Nastos, Orthos Service Sunday 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy Sunday 10 a.m., Fellowship Programs, Sunday School, Bible Study. annunciation.fl.goarch.org, 481-2099

BETH SHILOH

MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE

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

BREAD OF LIFE MINISTRIES CHURCH OF GOD

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

CHABAD LUBAVITCH

OF SW FLORIDA ORTHODOX

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

CHAPEL OF CYPRESS COVE

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

CHURCH OF THE CROSS

13500 Freshman Lane; 768-2188. Pastor Bud Stephens; A nondenominational 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.lambofgodchurch.net. Reverend Dr. James

Reho. Sunday 7:45 and 10 a.m. Sunday's Cool for Children 10 a.m.

NEW BEGINNINGS CENTER

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

NEW COVENANT EYES CHURCH

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

NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH OF FORT MYERS

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

NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

PEACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

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

PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

RIVER OF LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

SAMUDRABADRA BUDDHIST CENTER

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

SAINT COLUMBKILLE

CATHOLIC CHURCH

12171 Iona Road, Fort Myers, off McGregor and north of Gladiolus. 489-3973. Father Lorenzo Gonzalez. Monday through Saturday 8 a.m. Saturday 3 and 5 p.m. Sunday 7, 9, 11 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 NICHOLAS MONASTERY

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

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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

SOUTHWEST BAPTIST CHURCH

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



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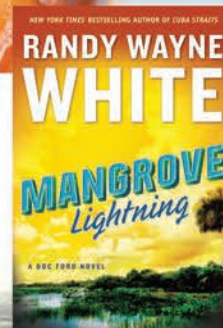


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OBITUARY



MERI S. RHODES

Meri S. Rhodes was born on June 8, 1949 in Ottawa, Illinois to her parents Wesley and Betty Tendall. She passed away on March 27, 2017 in Fort Myers at the age of 67 following a long battle with cancer.

Meri is survived by her loving husband of 45 years, Raymond E. Rhodes; children, Andrea (Matt) Lynn Miller and Raymond (April) Michael Rhodes; grandchildren, Kaia and Matthew Miller, Raymond Jon, Kinsley, and Grayson Rhodes; sisters, Lynn

Noon and Gail Schmitz; brother, Bruce Tendall; and her mother, Betty. Meri is preceded in death by her father and her granddaughters, Kendall and Tristyn.

Meri grew up in Seneca, Illinois and attended Seneca High School. She graduated with an associate of arts degree at Illinois Valley Community College and obtained a bachelor of arts in Early Childhood Education from Illinois State University in Normal, Illinois. Meri's passion in life was working with and teaching children. She taught for more than 15 years at the Sanibel Elementary School and finished her career at Mechanicsburg, (Pennsylvania) Area Senior High School as the executive assistant to the principal where she could continue mentoring students. Meri enjoyed gardening, growing orchids, cooking and hosting family meals, but most of all, spending time with her family. She is well known for her contagious laughter and smile. She brought joy to everyone who had the blessing to cross her path.

Cremation has been entrusted to Harvey-Engelhardt Funeral Home. A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, April 9 at 2 p.m. at the Zion Lutheran Church, 7401 Winkler Road in Fort Myers. In lieu of flowers, you may make a donation to Hope Hospice, 9470 HealthPark Circle, Fort Myers, FL 33908 or to Susan G. Komen Foundation in memory of Meri. Visit www.harvey-engelhardt.com to leave a condolence to her family.✽

From page 1

Local Singer

being broadcast on NBC, Brook found out that dreams do come true. She not only made it on the show, she made it through the blind auditions round by impressing "Coach" Adam Levine and securing a spot on his team during her performance of *Baby Girl* by Sugarland. In all, she went from being one of some 70,000 auditioning performers nationwide at the first level of tryouts down to within an impressive group of 48 singers to obtain a slot on the four teams.

"What a confidence-builder," said Brook. "Summer encouraged me to try out. I didn't have the confidence, but she told me it's not about winning, it's about your confidence and furthering your career. She pushed me."

Brook, a country singer/songwriter that performs pop music as well, admitted she has always been a big fan of Levine, the frontman of Grammy Award-winner Maroon 5. But to be selected by him a mere 13 seconds into her performance while being one of the final singers to perform on the audition list was extra sweet.

"I geeked out over that," she said of Levine selecting her. "What an honor. Everyone on the show is so positive and loving. They really do want you to succeed."

Brook, who performs at venues in Southwest Florida and also is known to open for headline acts, has really enjoyed

her experience on *The Voice*, calling the competition a "unique process." On Monday, she competed against 15-year-old Hanna Eyre during the "Battle Rounds," but Levine chose Eyre to advance to the "Knockout Rounds" to eliminate Brook from the show. If Brook won and survived the Battle Rounds, she would have advanced to the "Live Rounds" for public voting. During that final process, someone is eventually declared the winner.

Unfortunately, the Fort Myers native cannot disclose how far she advanced on the pre-recorded show, but she said the experience and perseverance of just being on the show is well worth the effort.

"As an artist, it is a huge platform," Brook said. "I'm proud of what I do; I get to play music. Whatever comes from this, I want to let the world know that I tried my hardest. Anyone can be happy and pursue a career if they try hard."

Brook noted that her biggest surprise has come from the support she receives at home on the Beach, where she calls herself a regular girl who likes to run and bike on the beachfront.

"I am so proud to represent Fort Myers Beach. I love my town," she added. "It means so much to me to have someone come up to me and recognize me. I shouldn't be special to them, but I guess I am. Any person that has the guts to wait in line to do what you love should be proud."

Visit www.sheenabrook.com to learn more about the artist and where she is playing in the near future.✽



Mariner High School's JROTC Leadership Team

photo provided

Local Students To Attend JROTC Championship

After advancing through two phases of online competition, the Mariner High School's JROTC Leadership Team will compete in person at the 2017 U.S. Army JROTC Leadership Bowl Championship on the campus of The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC from June 23 to 27. The event is sponsored by the U.S. Army Cadet Command, JROTC Headquarters and is conducted by College Options Foundation. The team is coached by Sergeant Major Kim Williams.

Mariner High School JROTC team members Hailey Dennard, Mason Dennard, Rhys Bastien and Jonathan

Torres earned top scores out of the 1,378 U.S. Army JROTC teams that competed from around the world. The team is one of only 40 Army JROTC Leadership Bowl teams in the nation to advance to the National Leadership Bowl competition, which includes an all-expense paid trip to the Championship event in DC. During the two fast-paced preliminary rounds, cadets were tested on their knowledge of current events, leadership values and leadership skills.

The JROTC Leadership & Academic Bowl (JLAB) is a nationally recognized competition created exclusively for JROTC students. By participating, cadets learn the values of citizenship, academic competition and college opportunity. The competition creates tremendous opportunities for JROTC cadets by allowing them to demonstrate leadership and academic abilities.✽

Registration Opens For Survivor Camp

Could you survive a day in Southwest Florida – before cars, air conditioning and supermarkets? Survivor – Calusa Style is the theme of IMAG History & Science Center's spring break camp, running from Monday, April 10 through Friday, April 14. This exciting, immersive experience will challenge campers from grades 1 to 7 to think like a Calusa while learning all about our area's first culture, from its arts and crafts to how its people fished and what they ate.

The camp runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, with the session divided into two classes based on camper age. All camp sessions include fun and educational hands-on activities, games, crafts, special guests and exhibit exploration. An innovative curriculum integrating science, the arts and humanities inspires the imagination and encourages an overall love of learning. Pre- and post-camp

is available from 8 to 9 a.m. and 4 to 5:30 p.m.

Campers will be the first to experience IMAG's new Natives of Southwest Florida exhibit and learn about Calusa archaeology. Guest speaker Rachel Kangas of the Florida Public Archaeology Network will discuss pyrotechnology and present an intriguing hands-on experiment. Campers will be assigned to a Calusa village as his or her team for working on survival challenges over the course of the week. Naturally, no study of the Calusa would be complete without a visit to the Randell Research Center on Pine Island for shell mound exploration and a view of Southwest Florida from the site of one of the most powerful Calusa villages.

Other activities include discovery in IMAG's exhibit halls; science, humanities and arts activities; outdoor and free time; Animal Encounter live animal experience; outdoor exhibit tours and feeding the fish at Fish-Eye Lagoon; and a 3-D film viewing.

Registration is now open for Survivor – Calusa Style at www.i-sci.org. Cost is \$175 per week for members and \$215 for non-members.✽

FORT MYERS FARE

DOC FORD'S RUM BAR & GRILLE

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

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

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

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.



Dine at LaMotta's Italian Restaurant for real Italian food and wine

photo courtesy LaMotta's

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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friendly patio. Choose from frosty drinks, signature sandwiches and classic favorites. Visit sundialresort.com/eat for menus, hours and reservations.

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 Grandepioggia and Maitre d' Reginald Beach. The establishment seats 156 people, including outdoor dining.

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

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

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

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Assorted Cheese
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Assorted Verines

Additional Breakfast Buffet Items - 10am-1 PM

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A Week Of Struggles



by Capt. Matt Mitchell

This week provided some of the tougher fishing days I have experienced in quite some time. This was due not only to one of the worst tide patterns I have seen for months,

but also periods of crazy strong winds. Although we did manage to catch fish every trip out, nothing came easily and once we did locate and catch a few fish, it just quickly came to an end. If variety was what you were after, it wasn't all bad as black drum, flounder, bluefish and even a few pompano were all part of a very unpredictable and strange mix bag of the week.

Bringing live shrimp was the game-saving play on quite a few trips this week. This is after we worked really hard and caught only a few snook here and there on live shiner. We just had to switch it up. Fishing shrimp under a popping cork

for trout, free-lining them for mangrove snapper or even bouncing them on a jig across the bottom is what it took to get on any kind of real action. When things get tough like it did for several days, it was hard to beat a shrimp for bait. Luckily, we don't have to deal with such bad tide conditions very often for more than just a few hours. One day, midweek, we had a 16-hour incoming tide. That's as bad as it ever gets.

Hiding from the wind back in sheltered mangrove creeks and bays was where I spent most of my week. I really slowed down my fishing style and worked every little bit of mangrove shoreline. This seemed to be what it took to make a difference and catch a few fish. Usually I bounce from spot to spot at a pretty fast pace looking for a wide-open bite while chumming and casting live shiners to feeding fish. This week, this just did not work for me. It was more a matter of taking my time and grinding it out using a variety of baits and techniques to catch a few fish here and there. Once we did get a bite, I'd stay put and get as much out of it as possible as any kind of bite was just hard to find.

As a tougher than usual week came to an end, not only did our tides get a whole lot better, we experienced a major warm up with a much more settled weather



Chris Krimendahl from Holland, Michigan with a snook that was just under slot size caught and released this week

pattern. Consistent weather conditions allowed fishing to get in a whole lot more consistent pattern too. If our weather continues to cooperate, gamefish will be making that move from the winter hangouts towards the passes. Look for the best action to be anywhere from the deeper creek mouths to the mangrove islands and oyster bars in the middle sound as they move into open water areas to feed. As conditions continue to

warm, it's just about time to start targeting our local passes again for a wide variety of species including snook, trout and redfish.

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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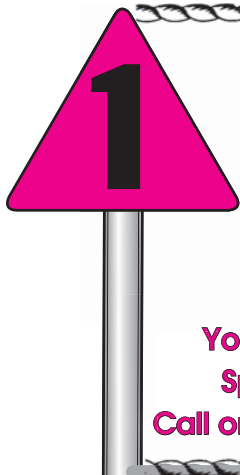


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Dave Doane

CROW Case Of The Week:

Virginia Opossum

by Bob Petcher



The Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) is a dinosaur among mammals. It has been around longer than 70 million years and is regarded as one of the planet's oldest

surviving vertebrate animals.

This particular opossum is actually North America's only marsupial, an animal with a pouch.

Known as the North American opossum, the Virginia opossum is about the size of a domestic cat, solitary in nature and mostly a nocturnal animal with tracks that generally show five finger-like toes in both the fore and hind prints, although it has claws on all its fingers except on the two thumbs.

Like a monkey, the opossum uses its tail to hang from tree branches. These "prehensile" tails are specially adapted for grasping, wrapping and hanging.

Another special trait of the Virginia opossum is its ability to react to threats by pretending to be dead. Known as "playing possum," it enters a near coma state after flopping to its side with mouth and eyes open, tongue hanging out and discharging a green fluid that accompanies a putrid odor from its anus

to repel predators. Within this state, its heart rate also drops considerably, and its rate of breathing slows by a good 30 percent. However, its brain activity is unaltered, and it remains fully conscious. When it doesn't play possum, it can still react ferociously by hissing, screeching and showing its teeth in an intimidating manner.

Interestingly, the Virginia opossum has been found to be very resistant to snake venom. Its keen sense of smell is effective in locating food.

The omnivorous mammal eats just about anything, including lots of different plants and animals. On occasion, it will eat garbage and dead animals. Because so much of the so-called carrion is road kill, opossums are often struck and killed by cars while looking for food on roadways.

A male adult Virginia opossum that arrived at the CROW clinic on March 3 from Fort Myers most likely was injured by a vehicle. CROW officials reported it was bleeding and had multiple injuries including a fractured tail, puncture wounds on its back and a fractured jaw.

After an initial exam, the patient was fitted with a feeding tube. Surgery on the jaw was performed later that week. A wire was used to help heal the fracture. The following week, the opossum began eating a liquid diet on its own and the feeding tube was removed.

"The surgery went well and was relatively simple. We passed a wire through the lower mandible (jaw) and anchored it around the lower canine (tooth) to stabilize the fracture site," said



Patient #17-476 had his jaw wired after surgery. The x-ray shows the work done.

photos by Brian Bohlman

CROW intern Dr. Spencer Kehoe.

CROW medical staff explained the next steps in the long recovery of the patient are to remove the wires once the jaw has stabilized and teach it how to eat solid food again. It may take between one to two months before the opossum can be evaluated for release, although the patient has done well through the healing process to this point.

"It may take six to eight weeks after placing the wire for the fracture site to stabilize enough to remove it if there are no further complications," said Dr.

Kehoe. "He will have to adjust to eating hard foods again since his jaw will not be 100 percent, but the act of eating itself he will remember."

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

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Plant Smart

Rougeplant



Native rougeplant flowers and fruits simultaneously. Many birds love the brilliant red berries. photos by Gerri Reaves

by Gerri Reaves

If you like plants that attract birds, require virtually no maintenance and readily reseed, check out rougeplant (*Rivina humilis*).

Named for its bright red fruit, this native member of the pokeweed family couldn't be prettier or easier to get along with.

In the wild, rougeplant grows in woods, hammocks, disturbed areas and along roadsides.

This perennial evergreen shrub usually grows one to five feet, but can grow to six feet or higher. Adaptable to a sunny or shady spot, it remains attractive all year because the ornamental fruit and flowers are usually present on the plant



Although usually a shrub, rougeplant might grow to small-tree stature

simultaneously.

The wavy ovate or lanceolate leaves are alternate with long-tapered points.

The three- to six-inch upright spikes of showy flowers are pink or pinkish white. They appear at the branch ends and bloom throughout the year.

Individual flowers measure only about one-eighth of an inch across. What appear to be four petals are actually sepals, petal-like structures.

Green berries ripen to a shiny brilliant red, are nearly translucent and are only a little bigger than the flowers.

The red fruit juice has been used as dye and inspires another common name, bloodberry.

This plant does best in a natural landscape where it isn't subjected to repeated pruning or shaping. It will grow in nutrient-poor soil but needs some organic content to thrive.

Once established, it is moderately

drought-tolerant. It is also somewhat salt-tolerant, so it can be used in coastal landscapes if it's protected from flooding, spray, and wind.

Medicinal uses include a tea that is made from the leaves and used to treat diarrhea.

Propagate with the seedlings and with cuttings.

Sources: *Everglades Wildflowers* by Roger L. Hammer, *Native Florida Plants* by Robert G. Haehle and Joan Brookwell, *The Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida* by Gil Nelson, *Wildflowers of Florida* by Jaret C. Daniels and Stan Tekiela, fnps.org and regionalconservation.org.

Plant Smart explores the diverse flora of South Florida.✱

Group To Gain Environmental Funding Award

Lee County Electric Cooperative (LCEC) recently announced that it will provide Friends of Fakahatchee with a \$2,500 environmental funding award to help with the non-profit organization's mission to preserve the unique ecology and cultural heritage of Fakahatchee Strand Preserve State Park and educate the public to its importance. Specifically, this funding award will aid in the transformation of the visitors center into an environment

that will create an interactive learning experience inspiring curiosity while instilling a sense of responsibility to preserve the unique and fragile habitat of the largest State Park in Florida.

To apply for this award, organizations can email pr@lcec.net to receive an application. The next application deadline for a 2017 award is September 1. Interested organizations must meet certain criteria to be considered for the award including being located within LCEC service territory, funding utilized for projects/programs related to the environment and the utility industry, and having a demonstrated need for funds. This funding award is just one of the many ways that LCEC positively impacts and supports wildlife and the environment.✱

Yacht Club Recaps Activities

The Fort Myers Beach Yacht Club, founded in 1953 and currently comprised of 90 members, was very active in March.

On Thursday March 16, more than 30 members and guests of the Fort Myers Beach Yacht Club gathered on Sanibel Causeway Island B for a cookout and fellowship. While the gathering was intended as a rendezvous for both boaters and those who preferred to come by car, the wind and choppy seas kept the number of boaters to a minimum but didn't prevent a good turnout. A bright sun, good food provided by the members combined with lots of socializing and refreshments made for a beautiful day.

Previously this month, the club has enjoyed meeting for lunch at Bahama Breeze in Fort Myers and the Lighthouse Waterfront Restaurant on Summerlin Road.

The club also participated in the annual Lions Club Shrimp Festival Parade with Commodore Rosemary Davison leading the club officers and members down Estero Boulevard in land yachts. After the parade, many of the club members gathered at Nervous Nellie's on Fort Myers Beach for lunch.

On March 22, the club's monthly meeting was held at the American Legion on San Carlos Island and more than 60 members and guests enjoyed dinner and a 50s/60s themed party with live music by CJ and Friends for dancing.

As the weather continues to improve into spring, the club will be involved in more intensive boating activities. The club will hold a dinner meeting on the fourth Wednesday of most months at the American Legion Post 274 on San Carlos Island. Anyone interested in boating is welcome and encouraged to attend.

For more information, call Membership Chairperson Pete Oiderma at 463-6240 or visit www.FMBYachtClub.org.✱

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National Art Competition Seeks Entrants

Each spring, a nation-wide high school arts competition is sponsored by the members of the U.S. House of Representatives. Known as The Artistic Discovery Contest, the competition affords ninth through twelfth graders the opportunity to share their artistic talent and vision with both their local communities and the nation at large.

Newly-elected Congressman Francis J. Rooney is mindful of the role played by our schools, the Lee County Alliance for the Arts, the Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs, the Naples Art Association and even outdoor art fairs and festivals such as the Estero Fine Art Show in developing young artists through the classes, workshops and art shows they conduct and sponsor. The Congressman encourages high school students living in Florida's 19th Congressional District to enter the contest. It's as easy as delivering a framed piece of their art to Rooney's office in either Cape Coral or Naples by 5 p.m. on Monday, April 10.

There is no fee to enter the contest. Artwork entered in the contest may be up to 26" x 26" x 4" as measured from the outside of the frame. Artwork will be accepted in the following categories:

- Paintings - including oil, acrylics and watercolor
- Drawings - including pastels, colored pencil, pencil, charcoal, ink and markers
- Collage
- Prints - including lithographs, silkscreen and block prints
- Mixed Media
- Computer Generated Art
- Photography

All entries must be original in concept, design and execution. Entries must also be accompanied by two copies of a form that entrants can obtain at www.francisrooney.house.gov/constituent-services/arts-competition.htm.

Each student's work will be hung for display and judged in Room J-117/118 in the Rush Library on the Lee campus of Florida SouthWestern State College, 8099 College Parkway, in Fort Myers. All entrants will receive a certificate of achievement. The second and third place artwork will be displayed in Congressman Rooney's district offices. The winning artwork will be displayed for one year at the U.S. Capitol along with award-winning artwork from across the nation. Southwest Airlines will present the first-place winner and one family member with roundtrip airline tickets to Washington, D.C. so that they can attend the national exhibit and reception.

Leoma Lovegrove, Christie Marcoplos and Mercedes Price will

judge the competition and the results will be announced during a 2 p.m. reception in the Rush Library at FSW on Wednesday, April 12.

The Congressional Art Competition began in 1982 to provide an opportunity for members of Congress to encourage and recognize the artistic talents of their young constituents. Since then, over 650,000 high school students have been involved with the nationwide competition.

Congressman Rooney's Cape Coral office is located in Suite 308, 1039 S.E. 9th Avenue, in Cape Coral. His Naples office is in Suite 105, 3299 Tamiami Trail East, in Naples. Call 599-6033 for more information.*

Register For Endurance Stairclimb Event

Registration is underway for the American Lung Association's Annual Fight for Air Climb scheduled for Saturday, April 29 at 9 a.m. at The Oasis Tower One, 3000 Oasis Grand Blvd. 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.

Registered climbers who are registered for the event may participate in weekly training sessions that began March 4 and continues each Saturday from 9 to 10 a.m. until April 22.*

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Linda Knowlton and Board Chair Bryan Blackwell photos provided

Big Brothers Big Sisters Signature Event

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast hosted a VIP Pre-Party on March 23 in preparation for its signature event, Chefs Cooking for Kids, on Thursday, April 6 at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center.

About 70 sponsors, board members and other VIPs attended the cocktail party at the home of Marc and Lori Collins in Fort Myers.

Chefs Cooking for Kids is the largest fundraiser of the year for the non-profit organization, which provides one-on-one mentors for children facing adversity.

Leading local chefs and restaurants provide delicious culinary samplings of food at the event that also includes music and an auction. FOX-4 anchor Amy Wegmann will serve as emcee. There also will be a chance drawing valued at more than \$8,000.

Participating restaurants include Norman Love Confections, Crave Culinaire, G3 Catering, Black Salt, Rumrunners, Cru, 3 Pepper Burrito Company, Bubba's Roadhouse & Saloon



From left, Ryan Love, Mary Love and Tom Fewster, Jr.



Tyler Kitson and Nicole Germain



From left, Marc Collins, Vicki Pitbladdo and Norman Love and Fat Katz Sports Bistro.

Gold Sponsors for the event are Norman Love Confections and Gulf Coast Coin & Jewelry. Additional sponsors include: Coastal Wine & Spirits of Florida, Comcast, Enterprise Holdings, FineMark National Bank & Trust, Don Smith, Ensate, Florida Blue, Publix

Supermarket Charities, Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, Gulfshore Life, Sam Galloway Ford, Ameriprise Financial, Rapid Print, Planned Perfection, Babcock Ranch Foundation, BB&T, Ben Simmons, Black Salt, Florida Academy, Fred & Elaine Hawkins, Good Deals Appliances, LaRue Pest Management,



Guitarist Justin Crimmins

Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A., Marc & Lori Collins, Mark Loren Designs and SVN Management.

For further information on the event, contact Aimee McLaughlin, development director for Lee County, at 288-4224 or amclaughlin@bbbssun.org or visit www.bbbssun.org/events ☆



Mary Devlin and Lori Collins



Rachel and Cole Peacock



Justin O'Brien and Bryan Myers



Aimee McLaughlin and Susan Battaglia



Sanibel Captiva Community Bank was the beverage sponsor of the golf event previously photos provided

Rotary ProAm Classic Seeks Sponsors

The Rotary Club of Fort Myers - Sunrise has announced a call for sponsors for its third annual Gravity Benefits Sunrise Rotary ProAm Classic on May 19 at the Forest Country Club in Fort Myers.

In partnership with The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, the Rotary Club of Fort Myers - Sunrise is raising funds that will support the "Take Stock in Children" program, supporting post-secondary education for low-income and at-risk students. Each year, Take Stock in Children provides 30-40 scholarships.

"Nelson Mandela said, 'Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.' At Gravity, we are honored to be supporting the 'Take Stock in Children' program as the title sponsor for the Sunrise Rotary ProAm Classic and believe that by raising the tide of education, we all benefit," said Matt Moraski, president and CEO of Gravity Benefits.

Sponsorship opportunities are available for both individuals and organizations. Levels range from donations valued at \$50 to \$5,000, and many have a direct impact on supported students. Key sponsorships available include: Practice Facility Sponsor (\$5,000), Eagle Sponsor (\$2,500), Birdie Sponsor (\$1,500), and "Pave the Way" Sponsor (\$1,000). Unlimited sponsorship opportunities include the Scholarship Sponsor (\$500) and the Friend of Rotary (\$100). Depending on the level, event sponsors will receive promotional opportunities at and/or leading up to the event.



Marshall T. Bower, president and CEO of The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, Inc.

For a full list of available sponsorship opportunities, visit FMSunriseRotary.com/shop or contact Mark Pollock at 939-2886.

Tournament golfers will play in teams of four with one professional teeing off. Entry fee is \$600 per team, which includes beverages, hors d'oeuvres and a boxed lunch. If you would like to golf and help provide college scholarships for Lee County students, register by visiting www.FMSunriseRotary.com/registration.

Raffle tickets are also being sold online in packs of five for \$25. For amateurs, mulligans are available should players wish to take another shot. Mulligans are \$10 each with a limit of four per player.

For more information, visit www.FMSunriseRotary.com/pro-am-golf-classic or contact Norman Lutz at 208-8091.✱

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Baseball Season Starts This Weekend Along With Basketball’s Final Four



by Ed Frank

It’s a crescendo of sports this weekend as the 2017 Major League baseball season opens along with the college basketball premier event – the Final Four.

After more than 900 spring training games played by the 30 Major League teams, the trucks full of gear and equipment are packed for return to home stadiums.

The warm, balmy weather of the Cactus League in Arizona and the Grapefruit League here in Florida gives way to the 162-game grind of the American and National Leagues where teams are certain to encounter the chill and often bitter winds of spring in the North.

The opening day slate this Sunday features three divisional matchups – the New York Yankees visit the Tampa Bay Rays, the San Francisco Giants at the Arizona Diamondbacks and the World Champion Chicago Cubs take on their arch-rival St. Louis Cardinals Sunday night in St. Louis.

We will get back to some final preseason words on our local Spring Training teams, the Boston Red Sox and the Minnesota Twins, later in this column, but first some thoughts on this weekend’s Final Four.

I’m certain your brackets were busted long before Gonzaga, South Carolina, North Carolina and Oregon emerged as the Final Four. Yes, Gonzaga and North Carolina are No. 1 seeds, and Oregon is a three. But who would have ever picked South Carolina, a No 7 seed, to make it to Glendale, Arizona, for the NCAA Finals unless you are a South Carolina alum?

There is much drama connected to these four teams. Both South Carolina and Gonzaga, who face off in the first game Saturday, have never made it to the Final Four before. And Oregon and North Carolina in the second game features the 20th Final Four appearance by the Tar Heels, and the first Final Four for the Ducks since way back in 1939 when they won the very first NCAA championship, then just an eight-team tournament.

North Carolina’s last Final Four was as recent as last year when they lost in the championship game to Villanova on a buzzer-beating three-pointer by Kris Jenkins.

Early Las Vegas odds listed Gonzaga a slight favorite to win the championship.

This up-start South Carolina team ended the dreams of the Florida Gators faithful with a 77-70 victory in the Elite Eight Game. But congratulations to Gators coach Mike White who took his team that far in only his second year at Gainesville.

As for the Twins and Red Sox, both teams launch the new season at home Monday, the Red Sox hosting Pittsburgh in an interleague game, and the Twins hosting division rival Kansas City.

There are numerous pre-season predictions for all 30 clubs, but the majority predicts a second consecutive American League Eastern Division title for the talent-loaded Red Sox.

It’s a far-different story for the Twins. Most predict an improvement in 2017 over the 2016 team that compiled the worst record in the Majors along with a last-place finish in the A.L. Central. Improved pitching and the emergence of several promising prospects are keys to improvement in 2017. Last year, the Twins started the season 0-9 and never recovered.

Miracle Open Season Next Thursday

The Fort Myers Miracle Class A baseball team opens the new season next Thursday on the road at Jupiter. The home opener at Century Link Sports Complex is the following Saturday against the same Jupiter team followed by a fireworks show.

We will review the new roster for the Miracle in next week’s column.

Playoff-Bound Everblades Home This Weekend

The Florida Everblades hockey team started the week with a commanding 12-point first-place lead in the ECHL South Division. Nearing the end of the 2016-17 regular season, the Everblades had a 42-19-2-3 record.

The Everblades are home this weekend at Germain Arena facing Orlando Friday and Saturday nights.

Following this weekend’s home stand, the Everblades have only three games remaining before the Kelly Cup playoffs begin. The Everblades travel to Orlando next Wednesday and Friday and conclude the regular season at home next Saturday against Orlando.*

Junior Golf Clinics

The City of Fort Myers is offering a pair of five-day junior golf clinics this summer at the Fort Myers Country Club. The classes will teach juniors (ages 6 to 13) fundamentals of golf, including rules, etiquette, chipping, putting and the full swing. City of Fort Myers Golf Professionals Rich Lamb, Todd Brown and Kari Phenix will teach the five-day clinics, which are limited to 40 juniors each.

Session dates are June 5 to 9 and July 31 to August 4. The 75-minute clinics will start at 9:15 a.m. daily.

Registration for a five-day session costs \$60 and includes refreshments and range balls. Junior golfers are

welcome to bring their own equipment, but beginners are welcome to borrow clubs at no cost if needed.

To register for a summer junior golf clinic, download the registration form at www.cityftmyers.com/878/Junior-Golf-Clinic.

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 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.

For more information about the Fort Myers Country Club or the summer junior golf clinic, contact Lamb at 321-7488.*

SPORTS QUIZ

1. In 2015, four players were voted into the Baseball Hall of Fame by the Baseball Writers’ Association of America. When was the last time before 2015 that a quartet was voted in?
2. Shoeless Joe Jackson holds the career batting average mark for two major-league teams. Name them.
3. In 2015, Tyrod Taylor set a Buffalo Bills record for most consecutive passes without an interception (222). Who had held the team mark?
4. Entering 2017, three teams in men’s college basketball had come back from a 14-point or more deficit to win a Final Four game. Name two of them.
5. In 2016, Evgeni Malkin became the second-leading scorer of power-play goals (111) in Pittsburgh Penguins history. Who was No. 2 at the time, and who is No. 1?
6. Chase Elliott, in 2017, became the fifth driver in NASCAR Cup series history to win consecutive Daytona 500 poles. Name two of the other four.
7. In 2016, Karolina Pliskova became the fourth female tennis player to beat both Williams sisters in the same Grand Slam event. Who else did it before her?

ANSWERS

1. It was 1955 (Joe DiMaggio, Ted Lyons, Dizzy Vance and Gabby Hartnett). 2. The Chicago White Sox (.340 in five-plus seasons). 3. Drew Bledsoe had 175 consecutive passes without an interception for Buffalo in 2002. 4. Loyola University Chicago (1963). Seton Hall (1989) and Duke (2001). 5. Jaronm Jager and Kevin Stevens had 110 each. Mario Lemieux leads with 236. 6. Fireball Roberts (1961-63), Buddy Baker (1979-80), Bill Elliott (1985-87) and Ken Schrader (1988-90). 7. Martina Hingis (2001), Justine Henin (2007) and Kim Clijsters (2009).

Scholarships Awarded By Red Sox Foundation

For the second consecutive year, the Boston Red Sox honored 13 local high school seniors, presenting them each a \$5,000 college scholarship by the Red Sox Foundation in a pre-game ceremony prior to the 1:05 p.m. game versus the Minnesota Twins on Sunday, March 19.

Scholarship funds were raised from proceeds of the 2016 Swings For The Sox golf tournament to benefit the Red Sox Scholarship created last year in partnership with The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, Inc. Annually, the Red Sox Foundation plans to award a \$5,000 scholarship for



Red Sox Foundation scholarship recipients of 2017

photo provided

college to one deserving student from each of the 13 public high schools in Lee County.

“Education remains an area of focus for our foundation, and we are so excited to see the funds from our annual golf tournament awarded locally to our promising students who will be this community’s future leaders,” said

Katie Haas, vice president of Florida business operations for the Boston Red Sox. Winners are chosen based on academics, community service and overall need. All the students from last year’s inaugural class went on to attend four-year colleges upon graduation.

The Red Sox Foundation’s fifth annual Swings For The Sox golf

tournament, held in October, raised more than \$80,000. The first five years of the local tournament has raised \$260,000 for local nonprofits.

The 2017 Scholarship Recipients are as follows: Charissa Cenac of Estero High School; Aaliyah Richlen of Lehigh High School; Alex Scigliano of South Fort Myers High School; Anna Dostie of Cape Coral High School; Gina DeSanctis of Fort Myers High School; Jamie Lee of Ida Baker High School; Mackenzie Hare of Island Coast High School; Jaritza Crespo of East Lee High School; Willie Hall of Cypress Lake High School; Rosedarine Berglette of Dunbar High School; Paige Renyard of North Fort Myers High School; Jade Abrams of Riverdale High School; and Kayla McNeely of Mariner High School.*

Distinction Award Finalists Announced

After more than 50 local women were recently nominated for the inaugural Woman of Distinction Awards, the finalist list is down to 18 candidates. Six of these women will be named the first Women of Distinction in Lee County at an awards ceremony at the Lake Kennedy Community Center, 400 Santa Barbara Boulevard, in Cape Coral on Friday, April 7 at 6 p.m. From that group of extraordinary women, the very first Woman of the Year will be revealed.

"These women inspire and uplift us. It's time to recognize them," said Pati Smith, chairman of the Women of Distinction committee. "While there are a number of recognition events in Lee County, this is the only one which honors that quiet volunteer, neighbor, businesswoman, health care provider, government service worker or educator who purposely strives to do the right thing for her family and community every single day."

The 18 finalists are Lisa Barnes, Dina Comer, Joyce Easton, Rana Erbrick, Elizabeth Feliciano, Mary Hess, Sally A. Jackson, Rosalie (Roz) Lesser, Melissa Meehan, Xiomara Mora, Dr. Carol Nabatoff, Hathor (Tori) Renza, Robin Dawn Ryan, Marjean Sage, Gloria Raso-Tate, Shannon Treece, Connie Ramos Williams and Dr. Krista Zivkovic.

Tickets for general admission are available for \$50. To purchase tickets for this inaugural event, contact Missi Lastra at 786-339-5790 or missimc@me.com) or Pati Smith at 307-870-7250 or patismith2325@gmail.com.

Habitat Marks 7th Anniversary Of Women Build

For the seventh year, Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties (Habitat) is hosting Women Build. Hundreds of women in Lee County will trade their stilettos for steel-toed shoes to help rehab three homes, for three families, in two weeks. This year will mark 15 families who have been given a hand up through the Habitat Women Build program. Women Build is an initiative to engage women in the effort to provide safe and decent homes for families in need of affordable housing. By recruiting, educating and inspiring women to build, they can transform lives in their communities.

Local women are needed to raise \$150,000 and provide women-power for the construction of the three rehab projects. No construction experience is necessary! For more information on donating or participating, call 652-1673 or visit www.habitat4humanity.org and click on the Get Involved tab.

Over the last six years, 1,991 Women Build donors raised \$667,604

for Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties, and 1,417 volunteers contributed 5,642 hours to rehab 12 homes for families in need of affordable housing.

"I realized how important affordable housing was when I began to see the rental rates for a single family home increase to an average of \$1,000 a month. The rental rates have continued to rise, and put homeownership out of reach for families, especially single mothers. I knew I had to do something to make a difference, and Women Build has given me that platform," said Jeannie Steidel, Women Build volunteer, and a realtor with ReMax Realty Group. "I continue to volunteer for Women Build every year to give back to hard-working moms in our community. The impact it has on the children is worth it alone, we are creating a place where they can feel safe and call home."

The local initiative coincides with Mother's Day for its significance; as families with children make up a staggering number of those in need of affordable housing. Work on the homes is scheduled to begin April 29 and continue through May 12, pending the fundraising goal of \$150,000 is achieved. Rehab work will be completed in time for a dedication of the homes on Saturday, May 13, when keys to the homes are handed over to the new homeowners. During Women Build 2017, homes will be rehabbed in Cape Coral, Fort Myers and Harlem Heights.

Bank Hires Service Rep



Jaci Fitch

photo provided

Jaci Fitch has joined Sanibel Captiva Community Bank as a customer service representative at its Downtown Fort Myers branch. She is responsible for assisting with customer inquiries, providing information about the bank's products and services and managing database information.

Fitch has more than five years of experience in the banking industry. She holds an associate's degree from Purdue University.

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Financial Focus

Teach Your Children Well... About Finances And Investing



by Jennifer Basey

High debt levels ... lack of savings ... the inability to budget – these problems all have several causes, but one of them is almost certainly financial illiteracy. Too many

of us just never developed the money management skills necessary to cope with our complicated – and expensive – world. But if you have young children, you can teach them some money-smart lessons – and who knows? You could use the opportunity to give yourself a few valuable reminders, too.

Here are some suggestions for a financial “curriculum”:

- Save for a goal. In our highly commercialized culture, it’s almost inevitable that your children will eventually become somewhat acquisitive. Obviously, it’s important to teach them that they can’t have everything – and they certainly can’t have everything right now. So, once they are old enough to receive an allowance or to earn money in some fashion, encourage them to set a goal for something they want, such as a toy or video game, and to put money aside every week for that goal. It’s also an excellent idea to model this behavior yourself. So if you are considering making a major purchase in the not-too-distant future, such as a car, show your children how you are setting aside money regularly for this purpose, rather than borrowing as much as you can or putting the entire purchase on a credit card.

- Establish a budget. It can be challenging to create a household budget and just as difficult to stick to it – but for most people, it’s worth the effort. You’ll be doing your children a favor by showing them how you have a certain amount of income and where it goes – mortgage, utilities, groceries, retirement accounts, etc. – each month. Explain to your kids that by staying within your budget, you can help avoid problems such as debt and extra fees tacked onto bills for late payments. You might also want to point out that as your income rises, you can gain greater flexibility in budgeting. Here’s the key point: Living within your means pays off in the long run.

- Have fun with investing. It might surprise you, but even young children enjoy learning about the investment process, especially if you explain to them that they can be an owner of a company that makes a product or service they like. You might want to pick such a company and, along with your child, chart its course over time. You could give your child a pretend \$100 bill to “invest” in this company and then see how its value changes, explaining along the way that various factors – such as the popularity of the company’s products, the skill of its managers, and so on – will affect the stock’s price. At some point, you may even wish to purchase real stocks for your child and place them within a custodial account. And you might also want to show your child how your own stocks and other investments are performing. The investment world can be fascinating, and by sharing your enthusiasm for it with your children, you can encourage them to invest throughout their lives.

Knowledge is power. And the more knowledge about finances and investing that you can impart to your children now, the more empowered they will be to make smart financial moves in the future.

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.✽

Attorney Joins Youth Center Building Panel

The law firm of Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A. recently announced that Attorney Amanda Barritt has joined the Gladiolus Learning & Development Center’s Building Committee. The building committee will interview builders, architects and designers to make recommendations to the board to replace and construct a new facility. The center provides educational and developmental child care for children of low-income working families.

Barritt represents residential and commercial condominium, homeowners’ and property owners’ associations, non-profit social and recreational clubs, developers, builders and individuals in all aspects of real estate development, and condominium and property association law. She also handles general real estate legal matters, including drafting contracts and managing title issues in all types of real estate transactions. Barritt frequently writes on these topics on Henderson Franklin’s blog, *The Legal Scoop on Southwest Florida Real Estate*. She is AV rated by Martindale Hubbell.

Barritt is a member of the Real Estate Investment Society, Real Property Probate & Trust Section and Condominium and Planned



Amanda Barritt

photo provided

Development Committee of The Florida Bar, Lee County Bar Association and Lee County Association of Women Lawyers. She is also the leader of her daughters’ Girl Scout troop, and a member of an allocations team for the United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee Counties.

Barritt received her undergraduate degree from Auburn University (B.I.D., cum laude, 1999) and her law degree from Florida State University (J.D., cum laude, 2003). She can be reached at 344-1108 or via email at amanda.barritt@henlaw.com.✽

Fair Housing Summit In April

The Housing Authority of the City of Fort Myers, along with the Lee County Department of Human Services, the City of Fort Myers and the City of Cape Coral, will host the Southwest Florida Annual Fair Housing Summit on Wednesday, April 12. The event will be held from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Dr. Carrie Robinson Community Center, located at 2990 Edison Avenue in Fort Myers.

Guest speakers will include Michael Maurer, deputy chief of the Housing and Civil Enforcement Section of the Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice; Yohance Pettis, assistant U.S. attorney; and Aaron Levine and Henry Whitehead with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity.

The day will feature information on the Fair Housing Act, Equal Credit Opportunities Act, Religious land use, reasonable accommodations and modifications, animals, special parking requests, civil rights and recourses, a discussion of the differences between HUD and the Department of Justice, recent Department of Justice enforcement activities and more.

April is Fair Housing month marking the anniversary of the passing of the Fair Housing Act in 1968. Fair Housing is intended to create equal housing opportunities for people living in the U.S. by administering laws that prohibit discrimination in housing on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability and familial status.

The event is free and open to the public. To reserve a seat, contact Sherri Campanale, director of housing operations, at sherri@hacfm.org or 344-3247.

For more information, visit www.hacfm.org or call 344-3220.✽



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From left, Ian and Nancy Nelson, Lindsey Lenhart and Jacqueline Lageson have become members of The Fort Myers Metro-McGregor Kiwanis Club. Not pictured: Barbara Burke and Karen Hurst. photo provided

Metro-McGregor Kiwanis Adds Six New Members

The Fort Myers Metro-McGregor Kiwanis has added six new members to the club roster – Barbara Burke, Karen Hurst, Lindsey Lenhart, Jacqueline Lageson, and Ian and Nancy Nelson.

Burke, a Fort Myers Beach resident, is a spouse of a retired military officer. Hurst, a Lehigh resident, is a retired educator with the Lee County School District. Lenhart, a Fort Myers resident, was involved with Kiwanis at the collegiate level as club president of Circle K International at Mercyhurst University. Lenhart is now a forensic technologist with the Florida

Department of Law Enforcement. Lageson, a seasonal resident that splits time between Mankato, Minnesota and Fort Myers, is a retired educator. Ian and Nancy Nelson are Cape Coral residents who founded the non-profit Luvybear Quilts 4 Tots, Inc.

The Metro-McGregor Kiwanis Club is looking for more service-minded individuals and business professionals who would like to make a direct impact on the community through volunteering. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. in Fort Myers. For details on joining the Metro-McGregor Kiwanis Club, call membership chair Stewart Ross at (507) 304-1624 or club president Harris Segel at 939-4027. Interested individuals can also email stewart.ross@mnsu.edu or harris@pampered-pooch.com. Visit www.metro-mcgregor.com for more information.*

Project Lifesaver Shredding Event

Now's the time to clean out your file cabinet of all paper you don't need to keep! The Pilot Club of Fort Myers and the Lee County Sheriff's Office are cooperating in holding a shredding event on Saturday, April 15. The event will be held in the northwest corner parking lot of Miromar Outlets, across from the WINK Playground, between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Directional signs will lead you to the shredding area.

All proceeds of the event will be donated to the sheriff's Project Lifesaver program. Donations of \$5 per box to be shredded are suggested. There should be no binder clips or paper clips attached to paper being shredded. Commercial boxes will not be accepted. Individuals will be on hand to help drivers unload their boxes to be shredded; the boxes can be returned if desired.

The Project Lifesaver began as a partnership of the Lee County Sheriff's Office and the Pilot Club of Fort Myers in 2006. The club continues to be the main source of income to support the

program.

Individuals with Alzheimer's disease and Autism disorder, as well as others with related brain dysfunction disorders who tend to wander, wear a personalized wristband that emits a tracking signal. When caregivers notify the Lee County Sheriff's Office that the person is missing, a search and rescue team responds to the wanderer's area and starts searching with a mobile locator tracking system. Search times have been reduced from hours and days to minutes. A representative of the sheriff's office maintains contact with the individuals and personally changes batteries in the bracelet as they are needed.

The focus of the Pilot Club of Fort Myers is helping organizations seeking to improve the quality of life for individuals with brain-related disorders through volunteer activities, education, and financial support. The club name came from a riverboat pilot who could steer safely through troubled waters. The club's motto is "do more, care more, and be more."

For information about the pilot club, contact president Joy Augustine at 691-0069 or personalpropertyappraiser@yahoo.com.*

Airport February Traffic Report

During February, 946,079 passengers traveled through Southwest Florida International Airport, a decrease of 4.4 percent compared to February 2016. Year-to-date, passenger traffic is down 3.7 percent from the same period last year.

The traffic leader in February was Southwest Airlines with 203,388 passengers traveling to and from Fort Myers. Rounding out the top five airlines were Delta Air Lines (171,295), American (122,654), Spirit (113,065) and JetBlue (108,637).

Southwest Florida International

Airport had 8,586 aircraft movements (takeoffs and landings), a decrease of 2.9 percent compared to February 2016. Page Field saw 10,143 movements, a 3.3 percent decrease from February 2016. In addition, more than 2.6 million pounds of air freight moved through Southwest Florida International Airport in February 2017, an increase of 2.7 percent compared to February 2016.

Southwest Florida International Airport served 8.6 million passengers in 2016 and is one of the top 50 U.S. airports for passenger traffic. No ad valorem (property) taxes are used for airport operation or construction.

For more information, visit www.flylcpa.com or Like Us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/flyRSW.*

From page 1

Art Students

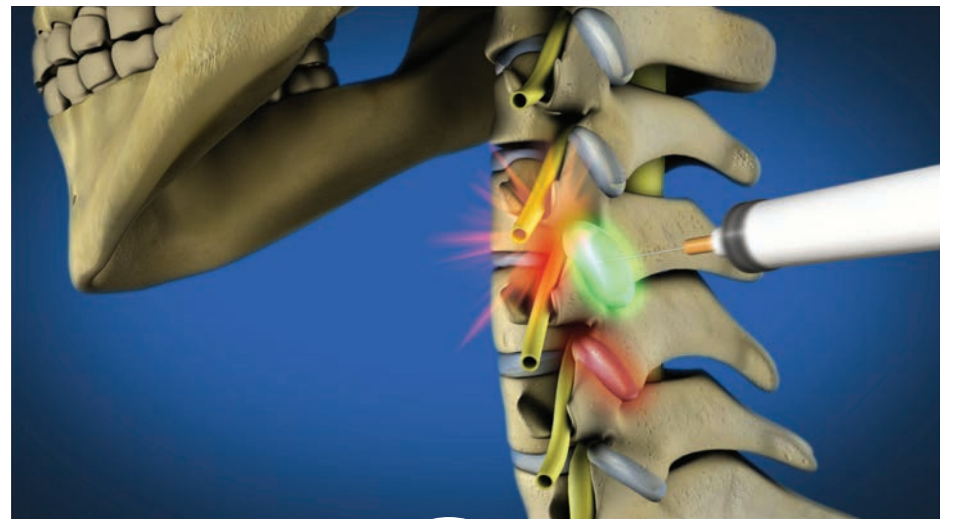
Shamburger, Skylan Abraham, Kelsey Santini, Rebecca Casimir, Camryn Marver, Crystal Estrada Perez, Aracelly Peralta, Chole Pallak, Maya Miller, Dylan Goldberg, Chelsey Rios, Juanita Nino and Maria Felix Gaspar. Each student won a \$50 cash prize.

Middle School merit awards were given to Bella Digiorgio, who captured first place; Olivia Bevilard, who placed second; and Jordyn Ward, who took third. Besides Digiorgio, middle school artists in attendance included Sarah Bejarano, Ellie Caravella, Katelyn Collier, Laura Enriquez, Julia Howard,

Ameilya Richardson, Paris Thompson, Alana Transou, Elesia Transou and Jenna Ward.

The 2017 FMBAA Scholarship Show judges were Renee Chastant and Marge Lee.

According to FMBAA, the annual Student Scholarship Show showcases the work of talented high school and middle school students at the Cypress Lake schools. The scholarships were awarded to seniors "going on to study art at the college or university level in an effort to encourage development of the arts in our community." The show and awards are supported financially by the yearlong fundraising activities of the members of the Fort Myers Beach Art Association.*



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Mary and Scott Fischer photos provided



Christie and Dan Lampe

Wine & Food Fest Uncorked Celebration Party Nets \$3.2 Million

SWFL Florida Children’s Charities, Inc. recently capped off a weekend of giving with the Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest’s Uncorked Celebration Party at Six Bends Harley-Davidson in Fort Myers. The celebration featured live music from The Loving Mary Band and Steeltown Religion, another Renee Morgan Live Presentation. In addition to the live performances, the event featured American Barrels Bourbon Whiskey, freshly rolled cigars and casual cuisine provided by a lineup of food trucks.

In addition to the Uncorked Celebration, the two-day 2017 Southwest Florida



From left, Dustin Valette, Joe Anderson, Mary Dewane, Bob Cooley, Scott and Mary Fischer, and Ron and Mindy Metzger



Jessica Chaney and Raimonda Childress



Angela and Todd Gates



Angela and Lenny Katz

Wine & Food Fest included Chef Vintner Dinners and The Grand Tasting & Live Auction at Miromar Lakes Beach & Golf Club, which raised \$3.2 million for pediatric health care, with 100 percent of the of ticket sales and live auction bids from the event benefiting Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida, Florida Gulf Coast University and Florida SouthWestern State College.*



From left, Tracy Hunt, Erin Kramer, Melissa Hunt and Bob Kramer



Katy Krumholz and Dante Mondavi



From left, Joe Catti, Jennifer Catti, Sara and Brian Krivisky, David and Cheri DePree Mary and Norman Love, Jo Ann Catti

Auction Items Revealed For Wanderlust 2017

The Wanderlust 2017 committee has revealed the culinary and travel experiences that will be up for bid during Florida Gulf Coast University's (FGCU) 28th annual Wanderlust 2017. The culinary and travel auction extravaganza will take place on Saturday, April 1 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Six Bends Harley-Davidson in Fort Myers. It will be followed by an After Party at HeadPinz in Fort Myers from 9:15 to 11:15 p.m. Bidders can raise their paddles during the fundraiser, which benefits students within FGCU's School of Resort & Hospitality Management program.

An array of unforgettable experiences will be awarded to the highest bidders during the live auction, offering a chance to go "California Coasting" during a three-night stay at the Hyatt Regency Mission Bay Spa & Marina in San Diego, California; go to "Vegas Baby" on a two-night stay for two people at the Four Seasons Las Vegas and a three-night stay at any Caesars Entertainment Las Vegas property; enjoy "The Scottsdale Royal Treatment" in Scottsdale, Arizona with a three-night stay at the Hyatt Regency Scottsdale Resort & Spa and a two-night stay at the Fairmont Scottsdale Princess, further enhanced with a trip to the spa and foursome on the TPC Scottsdale Champions Course; "Dine on Don (Schula)" during a Cakebread Cellars Wine Dinner,



Wanderlust bidder during a past auction

photo provided

featuring a welcome wine reception and four-course wine dinner for 10 people at Shula's American Steak House, along with a Garo Yepremian and Don Shula-signed copy of *Tales from the Miami Dolphins* and a two-night stay at the Hilton Naples; or go "Surf's Up" in California with two nights at the Ritz-Carlton, Los Angeles, two nights at Ritz-Carlton, Marina Del Rey, and three nights at Hyatt Regency, Huntington

Beach.

The highest bidders of the silent auction packages will have a chance to enjoy a "Four for Fore" golfer's dream, offering a round of golf for up to four people at four different golf clubs throughout Naples, including Wyndemere Country Club, Windstar Club, Heritage Bay Golf and Country Club and The TwinEagles Club; hit the slopes in Gatlinburg, Tennessee with a

three-night stay for up to eight people in a spacious condo overlooking the ski slopes of the Ober Gatlinburg; discover your inner cowboy as you "Lose Yourself in Lost Pines Texas" during a two-night stay at Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort and Spa in Lost Pines, Texas; say "Guten Tag Vienna and Wolfsburg" during a two-night stay for two people at the Ritz-Carlton Wolfsburg, Germany, followed by two nights at the Ritz-Carlton Vienna, Austria; or spend a "Weekend in Beantown" with a two weekend-night stay at the Ritz-Carlton Boston.

The evening will also include a Fund-A-Cause, allowing auction-goers a chance to give freely in support of the students within FGCU's School of Resort & Hospitality Management program. The funds raised through the generosity of the attendees will be dedicated to uplifting students through scholarships, conferences and training opportunities for students.

Tickets to the Wanderlust 2017 event are \$200 – \$250 for both the Wanderlust event and After Party– and \$150 for School of Resort & Hospitality Management alumni for the Wanderlust event and After Party. Those unable to attend the event in person can join virtually for a chance to stake their claim on the many auction items up for bid. Virtual tickets are available for \$200, and \$150 for School of Resort & Hospitality Management alumni.

To learn more about the Wanderlust 2017 event, or for more information on sponsorships, ticket purchase and auction donations, visit www.FGCUWanderlust.org or email wanderlust@fgcu.edu.✱

Breaking Par Gala & Golf Tournament

Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida will host the fifth annual Breaking Par Gala & Golf Tournament on Saturday, April 22 through Sunday, April 23 at The Club at Grandeza, located at 11481 Grande Oak Boulevard in Estero. The two-day event includes a gala dinner at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, featuring live and silent auctions, followed Sunday morning with a Shotgun Scramble Golf Tournament at 8:30 a.m., and concludes with a luncheon and awards ceremony. Tickets for the Saturday gala dinner and auctions and the Sunday golf tournament and awards luncheon are \$175. Tickets for the Saturday gala dinner only are \$65. Learn more at www.JASWFL.org/Grandeza-Golf-Tournament/

Like many area communities, Grandeza is home to numerous residents who have been ardent supporters giving their time and resources for the good of Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida. Breaking Par serves as the primary funding source for Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida's flagship program, CEO Academy – a "model" week-long

business school summer camp held for rising high school juniors and seniors in partnership with Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). Proceeds from previous Breaking Par events have provided funding totaling more than \$200,000 in support of the Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida CEO Academy and additional programming. The CEO Academy offers intense interaction with local leaders, high-energy team-building activities and teaching the value of free enterprise, business and economics in order to prepare students for success in the global economy.

Sponsorship opportunities are currently available at all levels, with opportunities ranging from Hole Sponsorship at \$300 to the Title Sponsorship at \$15,000. Event sponsors include BMO Harris Bank as the Tournament Luncheon & Awards Ceremony sponsor, IBERIABANK as the CEO Academy Program sponsor, Jaguar Fort Myers as the Gala Vehicle sponsor, Juniper Landscaping is the FGCU Professional Golf Management Cart & Awards Ceremony sponsor, and Tijuana Flats Burrito Company, Tide Dry Cleaners and First Florida Integrity Bank as the CEO Academy Benefactor sponsors. Clay Miller of NBC2 will serve as the master of ceremonies for the gala on Saturday evening, and the many items up for bid during the live auction will be presented by auctioneer Scott Robertson.✱

College To Hold Information Sessions

Florida SouthWestern State College's (FSW) Respiratory Care and Cardiovascular Technology programs will hold a series of joint informational sessions this spring. Sessions will be held from noon to 2 p.m., in Building A, Room 214, at the FSW Thomas Edison Campus, 8099 College Parkway, in Fort Myers.

The public is welcomed to attend any of the information sessions below:

- Monday, April 3
- Monday, April 17
- Wednesday, May 10
- Wednesday, May 24

FSW's Respiratory Care program is accredited by The Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC). The program is designed to offer students the opportunity to obtain an associate in science degree in respiratory care. Upon completion of the program, students will be registry-eligible respiratory therapists and will take the National Board for Respiratory Care examinations. Respiratory therapists are employed in acute care

hospital settings, skilled nursing centers, rehabilitation, neo-natal intensive care and home care environments.

Respiratory care program applications can be found at www.fsw.edu/academics/programs/asrespiratorycare and are due May 31.

FSW's Cardiovascular Technology program is accredited in invasive cardiology by The Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP) based on the recommendation of the Joint Review Committee on Education in Cardiovascular Technology. The invasive cardiovascular technologist is employed in cardiovascular catheterization laboratories. Working with a cardiologist, cardiovascular technologists perform sophisticated tests in order to diagnose and quantify cardiac disorders including coronary artery disease, cardiac valve disease, or disorders of the heart's electrical conduction system.

Cardiovascular technology program applications can be found at www.fsw.edu/academics/programs/ascardiotech and are also due May 31.

Additionally, applications for FSW's Radiologic Technology program are due April 30 and can be found at www.fsw.edu/academics/programs/asradiologictechnology.✱



Master Teacher Recognition awardees

photo provided

Master Teacher Recognition Awards

Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) recently named the first recipients of the 2017 Master Teacher Recognition award.

Recipients are FSW English Professor Marty Ambrose, FSW Mathematics Professor Dr. Rebecca Gubitti, FSW First Year Experience Professor Dr. Mary Myers and FSW Speech and Foreign Language Professor Dr. Katie Paschall.

"With the support of FSW Provost, Dr. Jeff Stewart, we were able to create the Master Teachers Recognition

award to promote faculty involvement as facilitators and presenters in the FSW's Teaching and Learning Center (TLC)," said Myra Walters, coordinator, professional development and faculty engagement. "These four recipients have a track record of teaching excellence in the classroom and supporting the professional development of their colleagues through TLC activities as participants or presenters."

Faculty members who are selected for the award are recognized by the FSW Provost during a special awards ceremony. They also work alongside with the coordinator of professional development and faculty engagement to design and present professional development workshops for FSW faculty.✽

New Resident Physicians Train At Lee Health

Lee Health recently introduced eight new first-year family medicine residents to The Florida State University College of Medicine Family Medicine Residency Program at Lee Health in Fort Myers at the annual Match Day celebration on Friday, March 17. The graduating medical students will complete their training at Lee Health. The residents include Jennifer Carrión from Kissimmee, Florida; Ariel Felix from Nashville, Tennessee; Shayna Klein from Westland, Michigan; Murilo Lima from Coconut Creek, Florida; Christine Norton from Lake Orion, Michigan; Kristen Noud from Deerfield Beach, Florida; Jaime Realsen from Franktown, Colorado; Hannah Schrubbe from Fairhope, Alabama.

This is the first class of eight residents to join the program, as it was recently approved for expansion and received continued Accreditation with Commendation from the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME).

"We are extremely blessed to have matched with eight outstanding candidates this year," says Gary Goforth, M.D., founding program director of the Family Medicine Residency Program at Lee Health. "Our new residents are academically strong—scoring in the top 20 percent in the nation on the United States Medical Licensing Examination. Each of our residents is passionate about training in our program and caring for the underserved, and the majority of the residents are also interested in global medicine."

The local program is based at Lee Memorial Hospital with The Florida State University College of Medicine as its institutional sponsor. This residency program was developed to abate the shortage of primary care physicians anticipated nationally, an issue that is compounded locally by a rapid population growth in Southwest Florida. Medical school graduates are required to complete residency training in their chosen specialty in order to become independently practicing physicians.

With 520 family medicine residency programs currently in the U.S., competition is tough for physicians applying. "This year, we received more than 1,700 applications from U.S. medical students and physicians from all over the world," said Dr. Goforth. With about two-thirds of Florida's medical graduates going out-of-state for their residencies, the hope is that more resident graduates will remain in the area to practice medicine. Statistically, about 60 percent of residents will practice medicine in the same area in which they are trained.✽

Democratic Club

On Saturday, April 8 at 10:30 a.m., the Democratic Women's Club (DWC) of Lee County will hold its monthly membership meeting at the Quality Life Center of Fort Myers, 3210 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr Boulevard (main entrance and parking located on Cuba Street), in Fort Myers.

The April meeting will feature a presentation on human trafficking, by Nola Theiss, the executive director and founder of Human Trafficking Awareness Partnerships, Inc., and Karen Curtiss, operations coordinator.✽

Wounded Vet Nominated For Warrior Program

Lee County Electric Cooperative (LCEC) recently announced the nomination of Josh Turner of Cape Coral for the No Barriers Program for veterans with disabilities. Through a partnership with CoBank and the No Barriers Program, LCEC did a call for nominations for wounded vets living within its service territory.

"After careful deliberation, Josh was selected to be LCEC's nominee for this program. Although our nomination does not guarantee that Josh will be selected for the No Barrier Program, we are proud to be able to nominate such a worthy individual," LCEC Public Relations Manager Karen Ryan said.

Turner sustained injuries during a tour of duty. Since that time, he has braved through 14 major surgeries allowing him to walk again. Rather than letting the pain of his injuries hold him back during his long recovery, Turner obtained his master's degree in computer forensics from the University of South Florida and is currently

working for the federal government combating child pornography and human trafficking.

"I have been through a lot and it would have been easy for me to give up, but that's not who I am. A positive attitude and determination have helped me to push through the challenges and pain and work toward my new mission in life. Making sure the children in our community are safe," he said.

No Barriers was co-founded by Erik Weißenmayer, an internationally renowned mountain climber and the only blind person in history to reach the summit of Mt. Everest. "Through the Warriors program, No Barriers has been working with veterans with disabilities for years," said Weißenmayer. "We've seen the transformation that takes place when veterans are able to overcome the mental and physical challenges involved in one of our expeditions, and then apply the skills they've learned to the challenges faced in their day-to-day lives."

If Turner is selected, he will participate in one of a series of No Barriers Warriors expeditions. To find out more about the No Barriers program, visit www.nobarriersusa.org/warriors/.✽

Center Reopens Kidney Transplant Program

Effective March 20, the Lee Health kidney transplant program reopened as the Lee Health Transplant Institute at Gulf Coast Medical Center. The United Network for Organ Sharing (UNOS) approved Lee Health's reactivation of its kidney transplant program on March 1. The transplant team will perform kidney transplants from deceased donors at this time, and Lee Health is committed to reopening the living donor program at a later date.

The transplant program has been comprehensively restructured from community-based to health system-based to provide the highest level of quality care and safety to patients. The new structure meets national transplant standards, and Lee Health has established new guidelines for evaluation and selection criteria of candidates.

Lynsey Biondi, MD, program director and fellowship trained kidney transplant surgeon, leads the transplant institute. Dr. Biondi is joined by fellowship

trained kidney transplant surgeon Jacfranz Guiteau, MD, and fellowship trained transplant nephrologists Gautham Mogilishetty, MD., and Shalini Saith, MD. An administrative team, anesthesiologists, intensive care units, surgical progressive care units and other departments support the newly designed kidney transplant program.

"For Southwest Florida residents living with end-stage renal disease, kidney transplantation may be their only hope for a better, healthier life," said Jim Nathan, president of Lee Health. "The Lee Health Transplant Institute offers a vital service with a skilled and professional team providing leading-edge care that will help our neighbors, family members and friends live lives that are as healthy and active as possible."

Lee Health's Transplant Institute currently has 160 patients in evaluation for a transplant. On March 20, Lee Health transmitted 21 patient names to UNOS for transplant when a matching organ becomes available.

The transplant institute is significant for our community to keep patients close to home. There are only nine kidney transplant programs active in Florida.✽

Book Review

The Chemist



by Di Saggau

Stephanie Meyer's new book, *The Chemist*, is quite a departure from her successful *Twilight* series. It's on the best-seller list and there's good reason for that. *The Chemist* deals

with a protagonist who goes by the name of Alex, at least most of the time. She lives under various pseudonyms. Alex is a brilliant, paranoid chemist who is trained to torture terrorism suspects with her multiple chemical cocktails. Every time she comes

back to her apartment, she has to undo special booby-traps that she has set up. Her jewelry is also lethal, including three rings that hold various substances and earrings that contain a gas that knocks a person out.

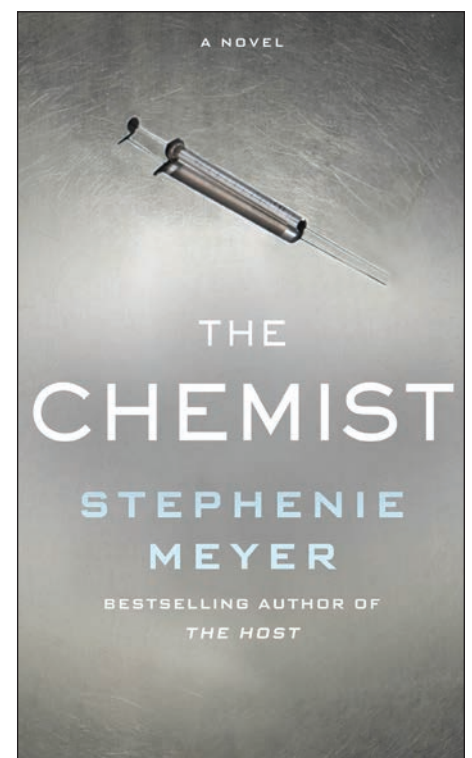
She originally worked for a shadowy branch of the U.S. government before her bosses considered her a liability and turned against her. Now she is a fugitive. When her former handler offers her a way out, she realizes it's her only chance to erase the giant target on her back. However, this means taking one last job for her ex-employers and, to her horror, her situation becomes even more dangerous. She doesn't know why they want her dead and she's getting tired of running.

When her old boss calls her in for one last mission, she's not sure she isn't being double-crossed, but she proceeds with the kidnapping of a Washington, DC

schoolteacher Daniel Beach, who is said to be part of a vile plot to release a virus that will wreak global doom. This couldn't be further from the truth.

Alex resolves to meet the threat head-on and teams up with Kevin, a former C.I.A. operative who's also on the run from his bosses. It's a love-hate relationship. They begin to see through the layers of cross and double cross, and the two agents join forces and go into hiding together. Their bold escape plan becomes more complicated when Alex falls in love with Daniel, who happens to be Kevin's identical twin.

As she sees her choices being rapidly whittled down, Alex must apply her unique talents in ways she never dreamed of. This is a fast-paced thriller with a tough, mysterious heroine who has a penchant for decking herself out in dangerous jewelry, concealing syringes of poison in her belt and switchblades in her shoes. I was amused by Alex's special skills and her paranoia. Imagine sleeping every night with a gas mask over your face. In this tautly plotted novel, Meyer has created a fierce and fascinating new heroine with a very specialized skill set.✱



School Smart



by Shelley M. Greggs, NCSP

Dear Shelley, My fourth and fifth grade children have many writing assignments that require revising and editing. They want me to help them, but working on their

writing with them is difficult because they think I am being too nitpicking. How can I give them feedback without seeming overly judgmental?

Jolene P., Fort Myers

Jolene,

Writing is such a deeply personal and reflective experience. Even for the best writers, it is not an easy process and providing feedback on your children's writing assignments may often feel like walking on eggshells. If you're too critical, your children might not want to share their writing assignments with you again. On the other hand, if you give too much praise, you may not be helping them improve, and your children may question the sincerity of your feedback. It's difficult to make constructive comments to your children so that they accept your advice instead of feeling as if you are criticizing them, but here are a few ideas that may make this easier for you.

Highlight both the positive and negative aspects of the writing without judgment – without using the words “good” and “bad.” Make sure that your children understand the functions of revising, editing and rewriting and explain that revising writing isn't a matter of having done something wrong: It's a chance to make something that's already very good even better. Revising involves making changes like adding or deleting words, reorganizing sentences, or ideas, while editing involves reviewing spelling, punctuation, capitalization, sentence structure, grammar and correcting any mistakes.

When something doesn't work, you might ask, “Why did you choose to say it this way?” or “Did you mean to say this?” Making it a conversation, rather than criticism, can help engage your children in

the process, and teach her that editing and revising are a natural part of growing as a writer, regardless of age or skill level.

With beginning writers, the revising and editing process will be simpler. Start by reading your child's piece aloud exactly as it is written, having your child listen for the following things: Are any words missing? Are any important facts or events missing? Is there a beginning, middle and end to your work? Read the piece aloud again, and if any of these things are missing, have your child revise accordingly.

With a child who has more writing experience you might also ask him or her to think about the following revising questions: Do I describe what my characters look and feel like? Do I use the right action words with my nouns? Ask your child to fill in any details s/he may have left out.

Then, have your child reread the piece and think about the order of sentences and paragraphs. You might ask whether reordering one or two sentences helps communicate an idea more logically. Ask if words or ideas are repeated in the same paragraph. Use a thesaurus to improve vocabulary and suggest expanding an idea instead of repeating it. Finally, make sure that your child can identify the main idea in each paragraph.

Now it's time to edit the piece for spelling and grammar. Any word processing program will have a spelling/grammar checker that will do this quite easily but you may want your child to learn how to edit independently. Use a grammar checklist to help your child learn how to edit for grammatical errors. Once they understand how to edit for spelling and grammar, using technology to do this makes sense.

As your children move into middle and high school, they should be writing on the computer and using all the supports that technology provides to support the writing process.

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

Local Schools Gain Awards

Edison Park Creative and Expressive Arts School and North Fort Myers Academy for the Arts are the only two school in the state to receive the Comprehensive Designation Award from the Florida Department of Education (FDOE), in partnership with the Florida

Alliance for Arts Education (FAAE).

The FDOE supports a complete and comprehensive education that includes dance, music, theatre and visual arts for all Florida students. To help achieve this goal, the FDOE partnered with the FAAE to identify model arts education programs in schools throughout Florida. The FAMS program recognizes schools that offer exemplary programs in any of the four arts disciplines.✱

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

“Packed with facts and employing an engaging storytelling style, [Female Pioneers of Fort Myers] both teaches and entertains. Local history buffs and newcomers to history will value Tuthill and Hall's research and appreciate the accessible format, too.”
Gerri Reaves, PhD, author of *Legendary Locals of Fort Myers* and *Fort Myers, Then & Now*

Second Chance Pals Program Proving To Be A Huge Success



Joseph Henson works with Andy during the Second Chance Pals Program Graduation at GCHS photos provided



Lady looks up with a smile to her trainer Jerrod Williams during the graduation ceremony March 2



Zachary DeBuono proudly holds Sanibel's diploma after graduating March 2

much progress throughout the entire process."

For the 16th graduation class, Lady, Duke, Rocky, Chance, Andy and Sanibel amazed the GCHS staff after showing how far they have come.

Of the six, only Lady has not been adopted. She came into GCHS as a very high-energy and rambunctious dog. She was hard to walk on a leash and had severe ADHD. She was paired up with Williams, who – after meeting Lady for the first time – knew he had his hands full.

"She was a problem dog," Williams said. "She pulled on her harness a lot and she had a very short attention span. Her play drive was super high."

The dogs spent the entire time with the inmates, even at night in their quarters. The dogs received intensive obedience training, such as learning



The 16th Second Chance Pals Program graduating class held its ceremony on the Gulf Coast Humane Society campus, a first for the program. The class included, from left, Jerrod Williams and Lady; Shane Kinnen and Duke; and Joseph Henson and Andy. Back row, from left, are Trainer Joy Kolecki, Officer Tania Mercedes, Zachary DeBuono and Sanibel; Joshua Denny and Rocky; Robert Pacious and Chance; and Officer Adela Davis.

how to sit, shake, roll over and, most importantly, how to focus.

Williams and Lady were together for 14 weeks, which did wonders for the terrier mix dog.

"My first step with Lady was to learn how to focus on me," Williams said. "Once that happened, she stopped pulling on the harness and listened to commands. That took about a month."

Lady has come so far in her obedience training, Galloway is very surprised she is still available for adoption.

"When I saw her out there (for graduation), it was amazing to see how far she has come," Galloway said. "She will make for a great pet and will certainly bring happiness to whoever adopts her."

Williams agrees Lady will be a wonderful partner for any individual or family.

"I was trying to get my family to adopt her, because I just love her," Williams said. "She doesn't pull on her harness anymore, is friendly with people and other dogs and listens to commands."

Officer Tania Mercedes led her first Second Chance Pals Program, after taking over for Officer Adela Davis, who retired towards the end of 2016 and led the first 15 classes.

Mercedes also had to learn about the training program and also about GCHS in general. Mercedes leads a group of inmates twice a week to come and work at GCHS with maintenance and upkeep projects.

"I was totally brand new to this program, I didn't even own a dog," Mercedes said. "But I have great support from the (DOC) staff and the guys are teaching me, as well. The biggest thing I did learn was about the (GCHS) shelter and much actually goes on there."

In fact, Mercedes ended up adopting a puppy from GCHS not too long after she took on her new duties.

Thursday's graduation ceremony at GCHS featured the dogs and how much

they have learned through their 14 weeks of training.

Each dog displayed focus and obediently listened to commands. The training these six dogs received would cost a small fortune if they would have had it done privately and that alone makes them more appealing to adopt.

"We have almost a 100-percent success rate adopting our dogs out after they have been through the Second Chance Pals program," Galloway said. "It's amazing the turnaround in these dogs from when they enter the program, to when they graduate. They make a great pet for the people who have adopted them."

The dogs who were adopted, went directly home with their adopters after the graduation, making for lots of smiles and tears when the ceremony ended.

Although Lady is still waiting for her forever home, she has proven she has transformed into an obedient, happy dog, who still has high energy, but is much more focused.

"I fell in love with Lady and everyone who meets her loves her," Williams said of Lady. "I would love to adopt her myself, but I am still happy when she is going to be able to have a home."

There's much to love about the benefits of the Second Chance Pals Program, especially the end result of a once hard-to-adopt dog finding his forever home and the positive influence they have left behind on their new friends and trainers.

The 17th Second Chance Pals Program class has already been chosen and are underway with their training.

To learn more about the Second Chance Pals program, go to www.gulfcoasthumanesociety.org or call 332-0364.

To adopt Lady, go to the GCHS website and select the "adoption" button to fill out an application for her. To see Lady and the other dogs and cats that are up for adoption, visit the GCHS campus at 2010 Arcadia Street in Fort Myers.✱

Mom And Me



by Lizzie and Pryce

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

Dear Mom & Me,

My husband has been an active alcoholic for years. The children and I have suffered dreadfully through job losses, car accidents, loss of friends and a tension filled home. I attended therapy groups and so did the children. Finally, my husband could not deny his condition any longer; he went to detox and also went to a self-help therapy group.

He is now much better, but we are all worn out from all of his abuse and our deprivation. I have a stress-related illness and the children do not have the confidence and self esteem they should have because of his abuse.

Suddenly, now that he is so much better and on his way to recovery, he has told me he wants out of this dysfunctional family. He is filing for divorce and plans to marry a woman he has met at his therapy group, start a new life on the other side of the country, and for me not to count on getting any support for myself or the family.

After all the sacrifices we have made for him, it is very hard for us not to be very angry. What would you suggest we do?

Janet

Dear Janet,

I have several suggestions for you. Inquire around and go to the best attorney in your area who is familiar with the problems related to alcoholism.

Few marriages can survive the ravages of active alcoholism. Many people die from the effects of alcoholism and they have never had a single drink. Families can be destroyed and the emotional effects can go from generation to generation unless therapy is introduced to help relieve future problems.

Alcoholics seem to be a very self centered group and they only think of their own needs with no consideration for the needs of others (their wives, their husbands, their children, their friends and co-workers).

If you can get some private therapy it can be helpful, but continue to go to Alanon (a therapy group for those closely involved with alcoholics) and have your children to continue to go to Alateen, which is a special group for children of alcoholics. Good luck.

Lizzie

Dear Janet,

Get yourself the best attorney in town. It is just so much garbage that your soon-to-be former husband thinks he can skip town with another woman and live happily ever after without upholding his current responsibilities. To me, his boasting of... "not to count on getting any support..." are the words of a dry drunk. A dry drunk is similar to an active drunk. And drunks do not make for good family members.

Get a good attorney, develop a good support system and move on with your life. You never know what health and happiness is out there for you and your family.

Pryce

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

National Donate Life Month

April 1st marks federally sanctioned Donate Life Month. Throughout the month, LifeLink of Florida honors the spirit of those individuals who make transplants possible – organ, tissue and eye donors. The lives of recipients fortunate enough to have received their second chance at life thanks to the generosity of an organ donor will be celebrated. Remember the heroes of organ and tissue donation whose legacies live on in the lives of those they helped save - and call attention to the more than 118,000 men, women and children who still wait; more than 5,600 patients waiting in Florida alone. Today, everyone is encouraged to take action to save lives.

One organ donor can potentially save the lives of eight people, and improve the lives of 70 more through tissue donation. Donation, with the primary exception of living kidney donation, occurs after death and deciding to register as a donor does not impact your medical care should you become ill or injured in an accident.

People of all ages can choose to donate and help others in need, and donation is supported by all major religions as a personal choice and act of generosity. Donation places no financial burden on the donor's family.

Last year, more than 33,000 lives were saved throughout the country thanks to organ donation, more than ever before, and thousands more were improved through tissue transplantation. Sadly, 22 people die each day because of a lack of available organs for transplant. As tens of thousands of patients await throughout the United States for their chance to receive the Gift of Life through kidney, heart, lung, liver, pancreas and/or small intestine transplants, we each have the opportunity to help make a lifesaving difference for critically ill patients, simply by registering as organ and tissue donors online at www.DonateLifeFlorida.org or during a driver license transaction while at your local driver license office.

Contact LifeLink of Florida for more information on organ and tissue donation at 800-262-5775 or visit www.LifeLinkFoundation.org.✱

Doctor and Dietician

Ligament Injuries



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

When joints are injured, the tissue that is commonly damaged is what we call "white" tissue.

White tissue has a poor blood supply which compromises healing ability after injury. Structures made up of white tissue include cartilage, discs, labrum, ligaments, meniscus and tendons. Muscles, on the other hand, are red, and have a great blood supply and repair more easily. Many pain treatments focus on red tissue (muscles), such as physical therapy, and the white tissues are traditionally subjected to treatments that perpetuate the cycle of degeneration and lead to osteoarthritis, such as cortisone injections and arthroscopy.

Ligaments are an especially important white tissue component and key to

maintaining the health of the entire joint. They connect bone to bone and are full of free nerve endings. Ligament injuries are some of the most common causes of musculoskeletal pain, and predispose the joint to further injury because they change the whole dynamic of the joint. For example, a ligament injury to the knee may give rise to jumper's knee, meniscal tears, chondromalacia patella, bone spurs and osteoarthritis. Why would a ligament injury cause other problems in the joint? Ligament injury creates a disharmony between the soft tissue, muscles and bony structures which interferes with the stability of the joint, leading to destructive joint motion. If the ligaments are left untreated, the body will try to stabilize the joint through joint swelling or overuse of the muscles, causing spasms. Eventually, this leads to bone spur formation, degenerative arthritis and/or nerve compression.

The regenerative medicine approach focuses repair of the damaged ligaments as well as the resultant damage to cartilage or other tissue. This can involve prolotherapy (regenerative injection therapy) along with an exercise program to nourish the joint while the ligaments repair and effectively stopping the cycle of pain.

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

Take Steps On National Walking Day

Join the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association to "move more" on National Walking Day this Wednesday, April 5, and take the first steps towards becoming healthy.

Individuals, businesses and communities can register for a free toolkit at www.bit.ly/SWFLNationalWalkingDay and get started with the simple tips offered to help move more every day.

Locally, the following have planned activities:

- Arthrex: 2 p.m. – A company-wide walk around the Arthrex campus along with some heart-pumping activities such as hoola hooping.

- Blue Zones Project: 5:30 p.m. – community walk from Cambier Park to Garden of Hope and Courage (NCH Downtown Campus), Naples. Open to the public.

- Lee Health: staff are invited to wear sneakers and join in a 30-minute walk and healthy snacks at Lee Memorial Hospital at 2 p.m. at the employee side entrance; Cape Coral Hospital at noon at the main lobby front entrance; HealthPark Medical Center at noon at the 4th Floor Atrium; Gulf Coast Medical Center at either 8 a.m., 11:30 a.m., or 4:30 p.m. at the Atrium main entrance; and Healthy Life

Center at Coconut Point for a 8:30 a.m. walking tour of Coconut Point Mall.

Being inactive doubles the risk of heart disease and stroke, the number one and number five killers of men and women. Joining in National Walking Day activities is a simple step people can take towards creating healthier lives long-term.

The American Heart Association recommends 30 minutes of moderate aerobic activity five days a week, or 25 minutes of rigorous activity three days a week, combined with strength training twice a week. For children, the recommendation is 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity every day.

Walking is recommended as it has the lowest dropout rate of any physical activity, is simple, affordable and provides significant health benefits: Benefits include:

- Reduces risk of heart disease and stroke
- Lowers cholesterol and blood pressure
- Helps control weight and reduces body fat
- Enhances mental wellbeing, mental acuity and memory
- Increases bone density
- Reduces diabetes risk
- Improves sleep
- Increases life expectancy and muscle strength
- Relieves anxiety, tension and depression

For more information, call 495-4900.✱

Smoke Alarms To Be Installed

The Fort Myers Fire Department is coordinating with the local American Red Cross to educate residents and make the community safer from fire danger. Officials from the fire department, Red Cross as well as community volunteers will install free smoke alarms in homes that need them, and teach people about what they can do now to be prepared should a fire break out in their home.

The event begins on Wednesday, April 5, when Red Cross volunteers along with city staff are expected to canvass the Love Joy Park neighborhood in Fort Myers to identify homes that have non-working or non-existent smoke alarms. Residents will have the opportunity to sign up for the installation event to be held on Wednesday, April 19.

This year's target area is bordered by Edison Avenue and Canal Street on the north and south, and Royal Palm Avenue and Grand Avenue on the east and west. The neighborhood was selected because it has a dense population of single-family homes in the city.

"Programs like this give the fire department an opportunity to be out in the community, with the Red Cross, educating our residents on fire safety in the home and providing them with lifesaving smoke alarms," explained Fort Myers Fire Marshal Jennifer Campbell.

According to the Red Cross, home fires kill more Americans each year than every other natural disaster combined.

The Home Fire Campaign was



Firefighters install smoke alarms

photo provided

initiated by the American Red Cross in October of 2014. Over the past 27 months, the campaign has made 276,463 homes safer and has installed 656,333 smoke alarms across the nation. The Red Cross notes that, in that time, the program has saved 159 lives.

This will be the second time that the Home Fire Campaign has visited the City of Fort Myers. Last year's event was held in the Barden Subdivision neighborhood where more than 60 new smoke detectors were installed in homes throughout the community.

For more information, contact Campbell at 321-7350.*

dearRPharmacist

Best Strategies To Control Seasonal Allergies

by Suzy Cohen, RPH



Dear Readers:

I know so many of you suffer from seasonal allergies this time of year. In my teens and 20s, I was super allergic to cats, dust and pollen but by the time I hit 31, I was virtually perfect. Still,

even today at 52 years old, I can wipe down the car and porch furniture from pollen, and play with cats. Sam says I'm still virtually perfect, lol! Anyway, in my youth, my immune system was weak, I took all kinds of antihistamines to no avail, but I changed my life by giving my diet a complete makeover and changing the bed linens. I'll help you right now too.

Doctors often prescribe antihistamines to block your body's histamine reaction, which causes the breathing problems and runny nose. They also prescribe corticosteroids to reduce inflammation but unfortunately those further suppress immune function.

Some medications cause drowsiness and dry mouth while others cause ridiculous insomnia, stomach pain, aggression and psychosis. Children get attention deficit problems and nightmares. As much as I approve of quick-fix allergy pills for instant relief, they're not ideal to take for the rest of your life. Do you want to cover it up or fix it once and for all?

The best alternative to medication is to revamp the way you eat. You have major control of your immune system health and

the fury of its reactivity to antigens like pollen. Your immune cells reside in your gut and so you can control how touchy those cells are by feeding them better. When I say this out loud to people, I often hear "Ah whatever, I'll eat what I want to, and just take this pill, it's a lot easier." True, but over time, your immune function weakens, leaving you open to more and more allergies and major health problems.

If you truly want to get better, do what I did. Eat clean, organic fruits and veggies. Juice them, eat them and cook with them. They're high in fiber and keep your digestion moving. Pineapple is particularly good due to the high content of bromelain, a proteolytic enzyme. Sprinkle "warm" spices on your food like ginger, garlic, cayenne and cinnamon because these thin mucous. Local honey might be helpful to sensitize you to local pollens. Green superfood powder drink mixes are potent detoxifiers of the intestinal tract.

You'll have to cut out or dramatically reduce intake of dairy products, which have been tightly associated with allergies/asthma and consume less wheat and soy-based products. Those last two categories are heavily refined and may be genetically modified (GMO).

There is a longer version of this article at my website with more food tips, but right now I'll share lifestyle strategies that could easily change your life. Buy new pillows and blankets and switch to something hypoallergenic. For example, exchange down for organic cotton. Wrap the mattress with a bed-bug cover. Take a shower before bed and if that's not possible, at least run a wet brush through your hair (it gets the pollen out). And finally, when the season is upon you, keep your windows closed.

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

From page 1

Theatre Conspiracy

hanging overhead. As the play opens, Cassie (Marie Baptiste) is evaluating her life as a slave before she escaped and hid in the cave. Her desire is to go to Boston where she feels she can begin life as a free lady who will raise free children. She also realizes it probably will never happen.

Suddenly a blind, bedraggled Confederate soldier named Brandon (Jordan Wilson) enters the cave seeking freedom and survival from the war. He is dressed in the Confederate "butternut" uniform made of rough homespun cloth. Upon hearing Cassie's lovely voice, he is convinced that she is indeed a lady of social breeding. He knew Cassie's former master, but not in the abusive manner in which she knew him. Cassie hides her real identity from him. The naive Brandon isn't sure if slaves are human beings because they come from Africa. The play has themes of race, belief and mortality throughout.

Brandon has been through Hell for two years, and he talks about the horrors of war. His original reason for entering the cave was to fall into a bottomless pit because that would end his pain and anguish. Both talk about God, wondering if there really is one. Just as the first act ends, a Union deserter named Timothy (Michael J. Pineda) enters the cave and is surprised and shocked at what he sees. A woman slave and a blind Confederate soldier.

As the play continues, the three characters have numerous conversations and encounters. We learn more about each of them. Timothy feels God and His goodness are a fairy tale. The two soldiers see no need to fight the war while in the cave. They talk about the right to stay alive rather than fight. Timothy's actions toward Cassie bring on a dramatic ending that leaves you with questions. I love discussing such an ending with others. This is a powerful cast that embraces their unique characters. Cassie is fragile, yet full of determination to survive. Timothy is an inexperienced man who questions everything. Brandon, while blind, sees more than anyone.

The Cave offers the audience a unique dramatic experience. Directed by Artistic Director Bill Taylor, it plays through Saturday, April 8 at Theatre Conspiracy, located in the Alliance for the Arts, 10091 McGregor Boulevard, in Fort Myers.

For tickets, visit www.theatreconspiracy.org or call 936-3239.*

Eden Energy Medicine

EEM First Aid: Digestive Rumbles



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

Having received requests to provide tools for dealing with everyday ailments, this column will be the first of several to provide suggestions

based on Donna Eden's work. So you had a great dinner of fried shrimp, spicy salsa and key lime pie for dessert. Good for you for indulging your pleasure vices. But now the aftermath – Stomach Rumbles. Hold the fort – EEM to the rescue. Try one or more of the following until relief is achieved:

1. With your knuckles, use firm deep pressure and rub up and down on the inside of your thighs for 1 or 2 minutes (location of the small intestine

Neurolymphatic reflex points)

2. Place both hands in the middle of the chest at the base of the sternum and with firm pressure in your fingers, rub along the bottom edge of your front rib cage, continuing to rub this edge until you reach the waist (location of more small intestine Neurolymphatic reflex points). Repeat 2 or 3 times.

3. Place the middle finger of the left hand in your belly button and the thumb and middle finger of the other hand on the stomach points on your face. These points are located directly under the pupil of your eye, right at the bottom edge of your cheek bone. To aid in finding the location, place the top of your index finger at the middle of your eye, and then feel where your second knuckle touches the face. This is the approximate location. These points interface directly with the stomach meridian, which controls the energy for stomach.

*If you have a question, email Karen at SemmEnergyCenter@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.**



Mahi Mediterranean

photo courtesy Fresh From Florida

**Mahi Mediterranean**

1 tablespoon olive oil
4 six-ounce mahi fillets
1 onion, sliced
2 cloves garlic, minced
1/4 cup chopped walnuts
1/2 cup dry white wine
1/3 cup clam juice or chicken stock
2 tablespoons lemon juice
1 teaspoon thyme, chopped
1 teaspoon marjoram, chopped

Fresh ground black pepper
3 tablespoons cilantro, chopped

In a heavy nonstick sauté pan, heat oil over high heat. Sauté fillets 3 to 5 minutes until browned. Transfer fillets to a platter; set aside. Reduce heat to medium; sauté onion and garlic 4 to 5 minutes until onion is tender. Add nuts, wine, stock, lemon juice, thyme, marjoram and pepper to taste; bring to a simmer. Reduce heat to low and simmer 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Return fillets to skillet and simmer until heated through. Serve fillets topped with onion sauce and cilantro.

Yields four servings

Nutritional Value Per Serving

Calories 261, Calories From Fat 86, Total Fat 10g, Saturated Fat 1g, Trans Fatty Acid 0, Cholesterol 124mg, Total Carbohydrates 4g, Protein 33g, Omega 3 Fatty Acid 1g.*

HORTOONS



THE RIVER

WEEKLY NEWS
FROM THE BEACHES TO DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS

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
Esterio/South Fort Myers.....	898-1921
Notre Dame Club of Lee County.....	768-0417
Organ Transplant Recipients of SW Florida.....	247-3073
POLO Club of Lee County.....	477-4906
Rotary Club of Fort Myers.....	332-8158
Sanibel-Captiva Orchid Society.....	472-6940
United Way of Lee County.....	433-2000
United Way 211 Helpline (24 hour).....	211 or 433-3900

AREA ATTRACTIONS

Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum.....	395-2233
Burrough's Home.....	337-9505
Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium.....	275-3435
Edison & Ford Winter Estates.....	334-7419
Fort Myers Skate Park.....	321-7558
Imaginarium Hands-On Museum & Aquarium.....	321-7420
JN "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge.....	472-1100
Koreshan State Historic Site.....	239-992-0311
Langford Kingston Home.....	239-334-2550
Ostego Bay Foundation Marine Science Center.....	765-8101
Skatium.....	321-7510
Southwest Florida Historical Society.....	939-4044
Southwest Florida Museum of History.....	321-7430
True Tours.....	945-0405

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

PUZZLES

Answers on page 37

Super Crossword

IT TAKES TWO

- ACROSS
- 1 Sighing word

5 Humiliate

10 Sugar-name suffix

13 Stretch (out)

19 Billiards item

20 Drive rudely (out)

21 Flanders of "The Simpsons"

22 Mambo music's Tito

23 Bicycle add-ons for tykes

26 Make a new blueprint for

27 Cut and Paste setting

28 Give relief to

29 Protein formed during blood clotting

30 Sue

31 Sterile hand wear

35 Three, in 6-Down

38 PIN-taking dispenser

39 "Hands off!"

40 Microwaves, e.g.

41 Stalled-car clip-ons

45 Metalliferous rock

47 "The Neverending Story" author

48 Related to earthquakes

49 Hi- — monitor

50 A little wet

52 Edberg of tennis fame

54 Horse rider's attachments

59 Dot in the sea, to José

63 Part of Gr. Britain

64 Entertainer Lollobrigida

66 The older Obama girl

67 Theme of this puzzle

73 Asocial sort

74 She had a show with Sonny

75 "It's — -brainer"

76 Rogen of "Superbad"

77 They look like footless socks

81 Gymnast Olga

84 "Ghost" co-star Demi

85 Stylist's goo

86 Coastal

91 In a crowd of

95 Pal,

96 Rink rentals

98 Ignited again

100 Commercial charge

102 Cozy lodging

103 Tacit assents

104 Part of some made-up faces

107 Teeny bit

109 Little leaves on flowers

110 Old jazz singer Anita

111 Collective software clients

116 Bela of old horror films

117 They often surround titles

119 Wiped from the board

120 A/C abbr.

121 Broadway prizes

122 Luau favors

123 Blank out

124 Jet to JFK, once

125 Garments for Gaius

126 Ineffectual

DOWN

1 Funny

2 Hog fat

3 Antioxidant-rich berry

4 Many Aspen outings

5 Sky ram

6 Old German capital

7 City of golf's Masters

8 Albany-to-Baltimore dir.

9 Passé anesthetic

10 Toddlers' bodysuits

11 Opt for

12 Mag VIPs

13 Parsley part

14 Adobe dwelling

15 Scold gently

16 Pep up

17 Done

18 Lion's locale

24 Abbr. for people with only two names

25 Aerie nesters

29 Ornate

32 Dark area in an eclipse

33 Do — deed

34 Dir. 45 degrees from 8-Down

35 Dance club

36 Regret a lot

37 Big British record co.

38 Brogue

42 Middle of summer?

43 Solemn acts

44 Running times

46 Subj. for some immigrants

50 The "m" of "yes'm"

51 Office sub

53 E-I linkup

54 Skin diver's tube

55 Flock noises

56 "It's —!" ("Untrue!")

57 Surrounded

58 Military band

59 "— turn up"

60 Brogue, e.g.

61 "What a ding-a- —!"

62 Freshly

65 Hard water

68 Mass unit

69 Realty unit

70 Corn unit

71 Congenital

72 Verb counterparts

78 Plunder, e.g.

79 Eel types

80 Rub down

82 North fired by Reagan

83 "Bad!" cluck

85 Charges

87 Off-the-wall sport?

88 An Amerind

89 Color of chili

90 Suffix with govern

91 Whelp yelp

92 Put a ruler to

93 Outlawed

94 Get rid (of)

96 Digital display

97 Subsequent

99 China shop ensemble

101 Defies openly

105 Skip, as a syllable

106 Hotel chain

107 Nail-biting

108 Ulna locale

112 Tofu bean, to Brits

113 Environs

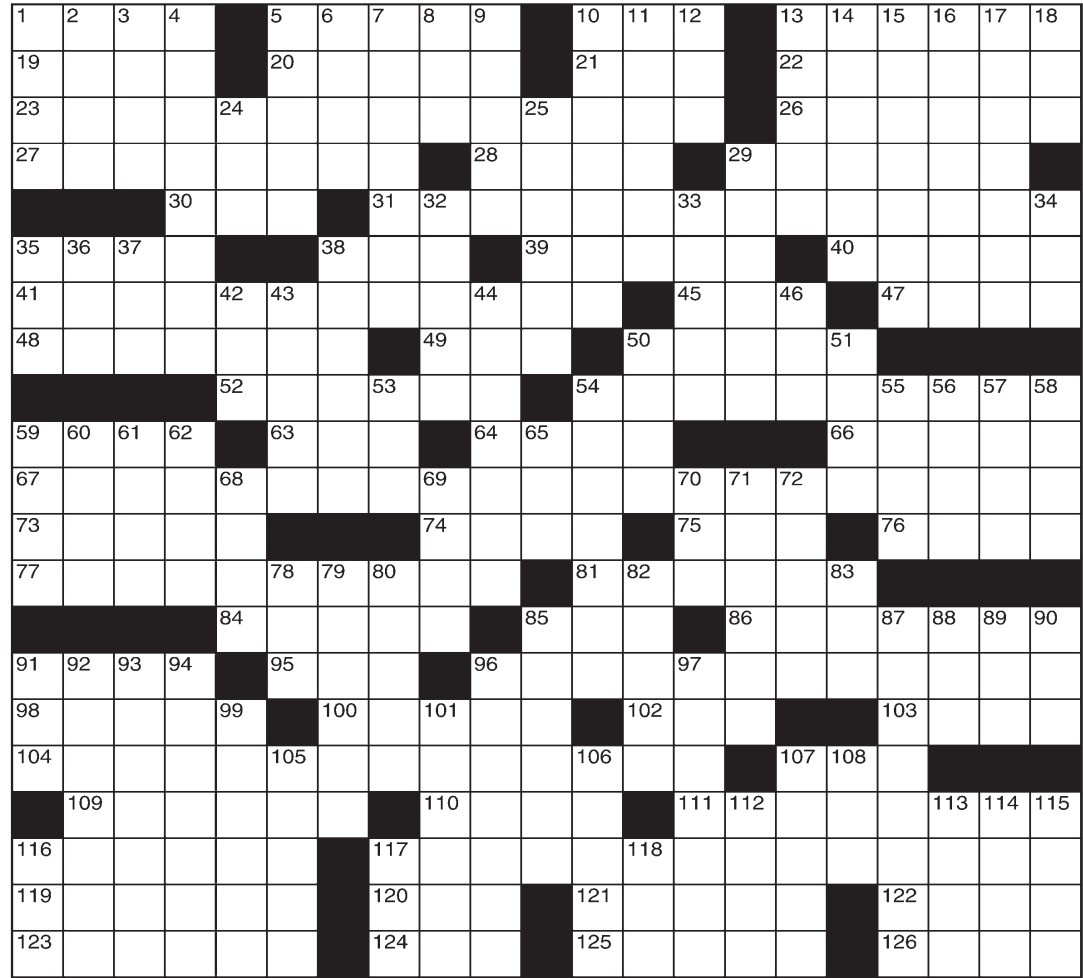
114 Kind of milk

115 "To be," in Latin

116 Fronted

117 NFL VIPs

118 Also



King Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Strait-laced

6 Makes dirty

11 Not wobbly

12 WWII fleet

14 Chinese dumpling

15 Chocolate treat

16 As well as

17 Flood pre-venter

19 UN workers' org.

20 Unembellished

22 Turf

23 Took off

24 Practical joke

26 Lacking a cover

28 Energy

30 "Piggy"

31 Mercurous chloride

35 Is capable, Biblically

39 Follow orders

40 Felon's flight

42 Big truck

43 Historical period

44 Cagney's TV partner

46 Very long time

47 Castle's inner tower

49 2012 Olympics site

51 Zen enlight-

8 Charged bit

9 Chemically unstable

10 Fur pieces

11 Morass

13 Hemingway's "The — of Kilimanjaro"

18 Abbr. on a book's spine

21 Representative

23 Dog bane?

25 A Kardashian

27 A Dwarf

29 Actress Griffith

31 Dorm deni-

32 Overseas

33 Shed

34 Varnish ingredient

36 Has no obligation to

37 Level

38 Lacking resonance

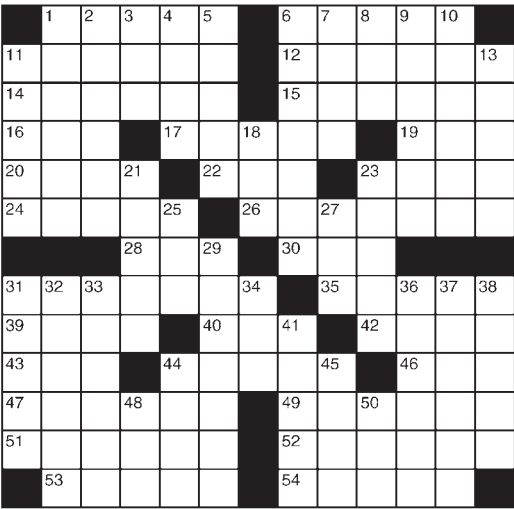
41 Dissolves

44 Actress Singer

45 Loud, long, mournful cry

48 Trot

50 Ultra-modernist



MAGIC MAZE ● WORDS THAT TAKE A HIT

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

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

- Architect
- Hitachi
- Hitter
- Whittaker
- Bronchitis
- Hitchhike
- Tahiti
- Whittier
- Chits
- Hitherto
- White
- Wichita
- Graphite
- Hitless
- Whitney



"I suppose you made your
_____ disappear
along with the rabbit!"
answer on page 37

SCRAMBLERS

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

Compassion
RATHE _____
Entice
KEBONC _____
Private
METEOR _____
Defeat
WRATTH _____

TODAY'S WORD

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

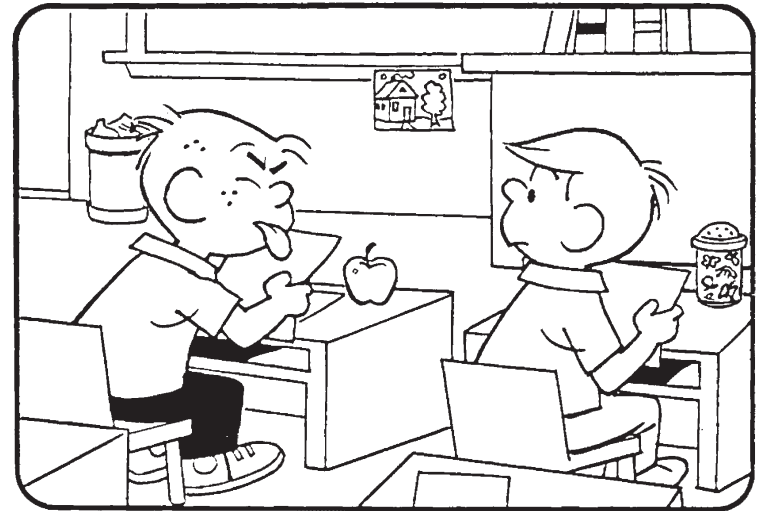
SUDOKU

To play Sudoku:
Complete the grid so that every row, column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (the same number cannot appear more than once in a row, column or 3x3 box.) There is no guessing and no math involved, just logic.

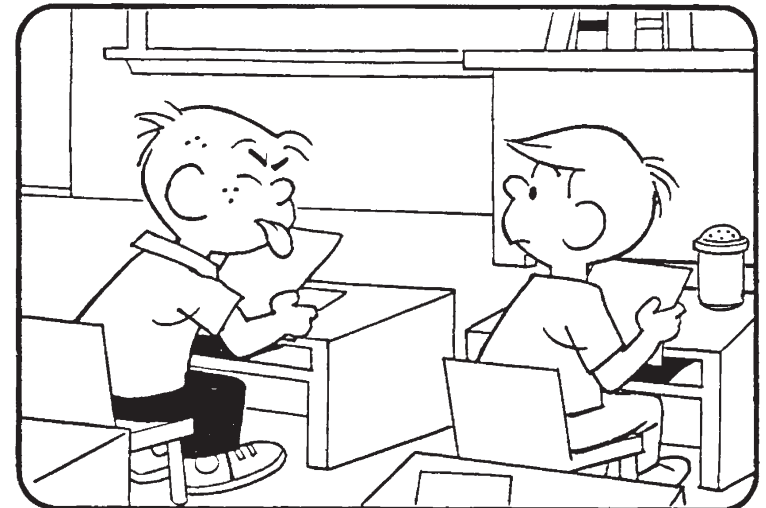
answer on page 37

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTIHOFF



FIND AT LEAST SIX DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS



Differences: 1. Wastebasket is missing. 2. Picture is missing. 3. Apple is missing. 4. Arm is moved. 5. Collar is missing. 6. Bug jar is empty.

PETS OF THE WEEK

Lee County Domestic Animal Services

Houston And Patches

Houston is a male 9-year-old bluetick hound who came to Lee County Domestic Animal Services extremely overweight. Our staff and volunteers immediately started him on a weight-management program including daily exercise. It only took a few pounds for him to start feeling young again. He is an absolute love bug that would be a great addition to your family. His adoption fee is \$50.

Patches is a female 1-year-old domestic shorthair who is currently our longest-term resident in our catteries. She is a young and beautiful black cat that needs to be an only child. We believe she has had difficulty finding her perfect home because does not get along with other cats. She does, however, love people and her cat tower that she hangs out in during the day.

Her 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



Houston ID# 689972



Patches ID# 687173

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.*

more pets page 36

Haven on Earth Animal League

Ted And Ned

Hello, we are brothers, Ted and Ned. Ted has medium-length hair and Ned has short hair. We are less than one year old, neutered and up-to-date on all vaccines. We are very loving, adaptable and confident kitties. Come see us at the PetSmart located at Six Mile Cypress and Colonial Boulevard. Our adoption fee is \$75 each. We are being cared for by Haven on Earth Animal League. To find out more about us, call Diane at



Ted



Ned

860-833-4472 or email Haven on Earth Animal League at havenonearthanimal-league@yahoo.com.

Haven on Earth Animal League, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit animal rescue organization in Fort Myers, Florida operated completely by volunteers. Our mission is to rescue, house, rehabilitate and re-home abused, unwanted, neglected and homeless animals into forever, loving homes.

We are being cared for by Haven on Earth Animal League. For more information, email havenonearthanimalleague@yahoo.com.* more pets page 39

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A	L	A	S	A	B	A	S	E	O	S	E	S	P	R	E	A	D
R	A	C	K	R	O	U	S	T	N	E	D	P	U	E	N	T	E
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KING CROSSWORD

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MAGIC MAZE

WORDS THAT TAKE A HIT

SUDOKU

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

My Stars★★★★

FOR WEEK OF APRIL 3, 2017

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Avoid having someone else take credit for the project you started by finishing it yourself. Then it will be you lovely Lambs who will be wearing those well-deserved laurels.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) The facts about a new opportunity are still emerging. Wait until they're all out in the open, and then use your keen business sense to help make the right decision.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might feel confused, even hurt by a friend who suddenly puts distance between you. If she or he won't discuss it, don't push it. An explanation should come in time.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your willingness to be part of the team opens doors that had been shut to you. Keep them open by keeping your promises even when your commitment seems to be wavering.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Congratulations. You're really getting things done to purr-fection. And don't forget to take a catnap now and again to keep those energy levels up and bristling for action.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your "plain-talking" honesty is admirable. But sometimes sharp words can leave painful scars. Be careful that what you say doesn't come back to hurt you.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A stress-filled period takes a positive turn as you deal with the underlying problem. Act now to avoid a recurrence by changing some basic rules in your relationship.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your rising energy levels make it easier for you to achieve some important objectives. This could lead to a big boost in how you're perceived, both at home and on the job.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A changing picture begins to emerge as you learn more about an offer that seemed so right but could be so wrong. Look to a trusted adviser for guidance.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Spiritual aspects are strong. Take time to reflect on the path you're on and where you hope it will lead you. It's also a good time to reach out to loved

ones.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You could be assuming far too many responsibilities, whether it's at work or in personal matters. Be careful that you're not weighed down by them.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You're getting closer to your goals. And since nothing succeeds like success (or the promise thereof), don't be surprised to find new supporters swimming alongside you.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are always the first to try new ventures and confront new challenges. You inspire others with your courage to follow your bold example.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

- On April 14, 1865, John Wilkes Booth, an actor and Confederate sympathizer, fatally shoots President Abraham Lincoln during a play at Ford's Theater in Washington, D.C. The attack came only five days after Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered, effectively ending the Civil War.
- On April 12, 1888, Cecil Kimber, founder of the British sports car company MG, is born in England. Following World War II, returning American soldiers who had become fans of MGs while serving in Europe helped popularize the brand in the U.S.
- On April 16, 1917, Vladimir Lenin, leader of the revolutionary Bolshevik Party, returns to Petrograd after a decade of exile to take the reins of the Russian Revolution. Lenin was drawn to the revolutionary cause after his brother was executed in 1887 for plotting to assassinate Czar Alexander II.
- On April 15, 1947, Jackie Robinson, age 28, becomes the first black player in Major League Baseball when he steps onto Ebbets Field in Brooklyn to compete for the Dodgers. Robinson broke the color barrier in a sport that had been segregated for more than 50 years.
- On April 11, 1968, rescue workers pick up the last survivors of the Wahine ferry disaster off the coast of Wellington, New Zealand. The ferry had capsized the previous day after hitting sharp rocks, leaving 53 people dead.
- On April 10, 1972, British film pioneer Charlie Chaplin accepts an honorary Academy Award for his "incalculable" contribution to the art of filmmaking. Chaplin had left the U.S.

in 1952 for failure to pay taxes and McCarthy-era accusations. He came back long enough to accept the award.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

- It was vice president Adlai Stevenson who made the following sage observation: "All progress has resulted from people who took unpopular positions."
- We're in no danger of it happening these days, but once, in April of 1930, the British Broadcasting Corporation reported that there was no news that day. Instead of an announcer reading reports, they played soothing piano music instead.
- According to pollsters, during the year 2016, both head lice and cockroaches were more popular than the U.S. Congress.
- Before he became the beloved novelist Americans know and love, a 15-year-old Jack London worked in a pickle factory earning 10 cents an hour. Desperate to get out of the closed-in, steamy cannery, he decided to join the ranks of an entirely different profession: oyster pirates. Pacific coast oyster beds that had been accessible to the public had recently been turned into private oyster farms, off limits to the working-class fishermen who had relied on them. This created an underclass of pirates who would fill bags with oysters under cover of night -- and London, who borrowed the money to buy a sloop called the "Razzle Dazzle," quickly became one of the best. His prowess and daring earned him the nickname "Prince of the Oyster Pirates."
- You may not realize it, but if you've ever spent a winter in the northern climes, you've probably made a sitzmark (or at least seen one). That's the mark made when someone falls backward into the snow -- like a snow angel.
- If you live in or travel frequently to Las Vegas, keep in mind that in that city, it's against the law for a man with a mustache to kiss a woman.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"One of the truest tests of integrity is its blunt refusal to be compromised."
-- Chinua Achebe

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Heart; 2. Beckon;
3. Remote; 4. Thwart

Today's Word
HOMEWORK

TRIVIA TEST

1. MEASUREMENTS: How much Champagne does a Jeroboam-size container hold?
2. MEDICAL: What is the common name for the condition called onychophagia?
3. LANGUAGE: What does the Greek prefix "pyro" mean?
4. TELEVISION: How many crew members were on the USS Enterprise in the original "Star Trek" series?
5. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What country has an airport called Ninoy Aquino International?
6. STATE CAPITALS: Which U.S. state capital is named after an explorer who popularized the use of tobacco in England?
7. FAMOUS SAYINGS: What is the end of the following idiom? "Take it with a grain of ...?"
8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a male turkey called?
9. CHEMISTRY: What is another name for a mineral known as "fool's gold"?
10. GEOGRAPHY: What is the largest peninsula in the world?

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Three liters or four bottles
2. Nail biting
3. Fire
4. 430
5. Philippines
6. Raleigh, N.C. (Sir Walter Raleigh)
7. Salt
8. A tom
9. Iron pyrite
10. Arabian

★ ★ ★ CLASSIFIED ★ CLASSIFIED ★ ★ ★

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*NS 1/27 CC TFN

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*NS 3/17 CC 4/7

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*RS 3/31 CC 3/31

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ANNUAL RENTAL

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*NS 1/13 CC 3/31

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*NS 3/31 CC 4/7

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*NS 3/17 CC 3/31

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*NS 3/31 CC 4/21

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*NS 3/31 CC 3/31

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*NS 3/31 CC 3/31

PAWS Of Sanibel
Hugo And Caramel



Hugo and Caramel

PAWS of Sanibel is trying to find a temporary foster for two dogs, beginning in April, while the owner continues to undergo cancer treatment, which is taking longer than anticipated and won't be finished until July. The dogs have been staying with friends since last fall, and the arrangement has been working great. However, they can only continue fostering them until next month.

The dogs can be fostered together or separate. They are bonded but also resilient and we know that two big dogs can be a lot for anyone. The family is staying with relatives on Sanibel, however, they're in a condo that doesn't allow pets. They would love to be able to visit with the dogs and would like to be able to walk them. They would provide all food, etc.

The two dogs are named Hugo and Caramel, short for Carmelita. Both dogs are around 3 years old. Hugo is a vivacious black labrador with a little mastiff mix and much like big teenager. He knows basic commands. He does great with dogs, so-so with cats, and he would do well with an experienced dog owner. He is a large, healthy dog.

Caramel is medium-sized Chow and Terrier mix, is a real good listener and pretty good at keeping Hugo in line. Caramel is a very obedient and attentive dog. They both are kennel trained and sleep together in the same large kennel.

They also go to the kennel for rest and and time out as their spot. They eat two scoops each of the same food, mornings and evenings. Food,

bowls, kennel and supplies will be provided.
If you can help in any way, or foster one or both of these sweet dogs, call Pam at PAWS of Sanibel at 472-4823.✱

PAWS Of Sanibel
Prince Harry



Prince Harry

This handsome guy needs a forever home. Prince Harry is a young, approximately 1-year-old beautiful light orange Ocicat mix with a beautiful coat. He has a lot of attitude/personality and loves to jump, run and play. He was picked up by the Sanibel Police on East Lake Road. He has been neutered, microchipped, combo tested and has had all his immunizations.

He is currently being fostered, but his foster parents are preparing for an extended vacation out of the country. PAWS would love to find him a great home with a wonderful family. As with all of the cats at PAWS, he must be kept inside, unless you teach him to walk on a leash during daylight hours only. Sanibel has become so overrun with wild critters that all small animals should be kept inside at night, and never should be allowed to roam free.

Call Pam at PAWS at 472-4823 with questions or to adopt Prince Harry.✱

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Top 10 Real Estate Sales

Subdivision	City	Year Built	Square Footage	Listing Price	Selling Price	Days On Market
Colony Beach Estates	Sanibel	1988	3,928	\$2,999,000	\$2,700,000	128
Murano	Miromar Lakes	2012	3,605	\$2,100,000	\$1,980,000	4
Holiday Heights	Fort Myers Beach	2016	3,945	\$1,375,000	\$1,280,000	115
Cape Harbour	Cape Coral	1997	2,653	\$1,050,000	\$975,000	37
Las Palmas	Bonita Springs	2002	2,396	\$999,000	\$975,000	10
Grande Estates	Estero	2005	3,378	\$949,000	\$900,000	45
Sanibel Woodlands Unrec.	Sanibel	1984	1,836	\$939,000	\$910,000	32
Southwinds Estates	Sanibel	1986	1,964	\$855,000	\$820,000	48
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	1999	2,426	\$799,000	\$713,000	32
Old Pelican Bay	Fort Myers Beach	1999	2,813	\$799,000	\$745,000	616

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