



Students Excel At ArtFest Fort Myers

Students from area high schools competed in the visual arts and had their artwork hung inside the Art Under 20 tent during ArtFest Fort Myers in the downtown River District last weekend. Judges awarded ribbons for first, second and third place as well as honorable mentions in the following categories: painting, drawing, digital, sculpture, mixed media and photography. Cypress Lake High School student Luis Sanchez captured Best In Show with his untitled painting.

On February 3, high school students took to the street to compete in Chalk Block, a sidewalk chalk art competition that was sponsored by Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida. More than 30 teams drew images with chalk in the theme of Glow of Good Health inside designated blocked areas from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bishop Verot High School's only team captured first place, followed by Fort Myers 1 in second and Lehigh 1 in third. There were four Judges' Choice awards. They went to Oasis 1, South Fort Myers 1, Cypress Lake 3 and Cypress Lake 4. There was also a Sunny and Sparkle Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida award that went to Riverdale 7.

ArtFest Fort Myers, Southwest



Best of Show untitled painting by Luis Sanchez of Cypress Lake High School
photos by Bob Petcher

Florida's premier art festival, is a juried outdoor fine art festival that featured 200 professional artists from across the county and around the world displaying and selling their art in tents on the streets. It also involved hands-on art activities, live music and food vendors, and free interactive art experiences for children of all ages.✱



From left, Caroline Pesch, Nicole Holdgrafer and Chufan "Angela" Shi, the winning Bishop Verot High Chalk Block team with their blue ribbons

Celebrating An 80-Year Tradition At Festival Of Light

What began in 1938 as a tribute to Thomas Alva Edison, Lee County's most famous winter resident, has grown to be the largest series of special events in the region. The Edison Festival of Light will continue the rich tradition and culture that has helped to bring the community together for eight decades beginning this weekend with activities in downtown Fort Myers on Saturday followed by the Junior Parade on Sunday. The Grand Parade, the largest night parade in Southwest Florida, will take place on Saturday, February 17 at 7 p.m.

The following are some of the festival highlights between February 10 and 18:

STEMtastic Day of Discovery – On Saturday, February 10 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., hundreds of exhibitors will gather at the Lee County Public Education building at 2855 Colonial Boulevard to provide free interactive demonstrations related to Science, Technology, Engineering, Math and discovery of the possibilities. There will be FPL solar



Dress up for the Mutt Strutt
photos courtesy www.edisonfestival.org

trucks and Captain Wattage, bomb squad, robotics groups, fire trucks, super telescopes, oozing experiments, structural building fun, food and prizes.

Mutt Strutt – Bring your pup and strut your stuff between Hendry Street and Edwards Drive on Saturday, February 10 from noon to 4 p.m. The event includes



Marching band members during the 2017 Junior Parade

lots of vendors and a dog parade with the best-dressed pooches in town.

Food Truck/Craft Beer – There will be special brews and all kinds of food, plus entertainment will take place right next to the Mutt Strutt on Saturday from 2 to 9 p.m.

Junior Events – The Fun Run features

hundreds of children racing down First Street on Sunday, February 11 from noon to 4 p.m. Stick around afterward for awards and the crowning of the new Junior King and Queen.

Crafts on the River – Centennial Park is transformed into a craft show from

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Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

Gonzalez House On Broadway



by Gerri Reaves, PhD

The large wood-frame house pictured circa 1945 was built by a pioneer and contractor of local renown, Manuel S. Gonzalez.

The house's story also speaks to the wisdom of historic preservation and repurposing structures.

Manuel S. came to the abandoned U.S. Army Fort Myers as a five-year-old in 1866 with his parents, Manuel A. and Evalina Weatherford Gonzales.

The father, an expert seaman, had been delivering mail and supplies up and down the Southwest Florida coast since the 1850s.

Both father and son were contractors and builders, and the structures they built are prized for the excellent construction.

The son built the house in the photo in 1912 for his widowed mother, who was an important pioneer in her own right.

Evalina had started the settlement's first school in 1868 in her home with only four pupils.

The large square two-and-one-half story house faced Broadway (then called Garrett or Southern Street), on the south side of a house that Manuel S. had built in 1902 for himself on the corner at Second Street.

The Broadway house had 10 rooms, a large front porch, a widow's walk, dormers and a hip-roof porch.

Over the years, various members of the extended family lived in the houses.

The Gonzales moved from the house around 1925 and LC and Sarah Hibble later bought it. They lived there for decades and, much of that time, rented furnished rooms.



Circa 1945, the Hibbles rented furnished rooms in the former Gonzalez house on Broadway. Note the sign "rooms" in the front yard. photo courtesy SWFL Florida Historical Society



In the early 1970s, the house was turned around and moved a bit north, closer to the Garner house on the corner at Broadway and Second. The rear of the Gonzalez house is now the entrance to the Veranda. photo by Gerri Reaves

About 1973, the house was sold to Peter Pulitzer, the publishing heir.

It was joined to the house on the corner at Second Street, which was by then known as the J. Franklin Garner house, to create a restaurant and bar.

The project involved rotating the 1912 house, moving it closer to the 1902 house, and connecting them with a courtyard and an original kitchen building.

In 1973, the restored houses opened as O'Bannon's, named for Pulitzer's former fishing guide and new restaurant manager, Floyd "Fingers" O'Bannon.

The new décor capitalized on the structures' historic status, featuring antiques and historic photographs.

Other ownerships and names for the historic homes duo followed in the 1970s, including Pate's, and Mr. Kenny's. It was sold in 1979, and Paul Peden opened it as The Veranda.

Walk down to Broadway and Second and see the two historic houses that joined to create a popular downtown business.

Then visit the following two research centers to learn more about the houses the Gonzalezes built.

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 Wednesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday by appointment only.

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

Sources: Archives of the Southwest Florida Historical Society, *Historic Fort Myers* by The City of Fort Myers, *Historic Fort Myers* by Prudy Taylor Board and Esther B. Colcord, *The News-Press* and *The Story of Fort Myers* by Karl H. Grismer.*

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Famed Drummer Featured At Jazzy Nights Concert



Willie Jones III

photo provided

Willie Jones and Friends will appear at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center in an intimate setting during the final Jazzy Nights concert of the season on Thursday, February 15. Cocktail hour begins at 7 p.m., and the concert starts at 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$35 in advance and \$40

on the day of the concert. Table of four is \$220, and a table of eight is \$440.

The acclaimed jazz drummer has an unparalleled style of rhythmic expression. His monumental influences include the late greats Philly Joe Jones, Art Blakey and Billy Higgins. Jones' bold articulation and constantly innovative sense of swing are results of his lifelong musical experience.

Born in Los Angeles, California on June 8, 1968, Jones' completed his academic training after receiving a full scholarship to the California Institute of the Arts where he studied under the tutelage of the legendary Albert "Tootie" Heath. He co-founded jazz band Black Note, was a semifinalist in the 1992 Thelonious Monk Jazz Drum Competition, was the opening act for Wynton Marsalis, played sideman to the renowned vibist Milt Jackson, was a member of Arturo Sandoval's band and is featured on Sandoval's Grammy award-winning release *Hot House*, was a member of Roy Hargrove's Quintet, and has worked with Sonny Rollins, Ernestine Anderson, Bobby Hutcherson, Cedar Walton, Frank Wess, the Dizzy Gillespie All-Star Big Band, Houston Person, Billy Childs, Eric Reed, Ryan Kisor, Eric Alexander, Bill Charlap, Michael Brecker, Herbie Hancock and Hank Jones.

The Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center is located at 2301 First St. in the historic downtown Fort Myers River District. For tickets, visit www.sbdac.com. For more information, visit www.williejones3.com.✪



Stardust Memories Big Band

photo provided

Alliance Presents Free Outdoor Big Band Concert

The Alliance for the Arts is bringing the Stardust Memories Big Band to its amphitheater stage for an outdoor concert on Tuesday, February 13 at 7 p.m. While the concert is open to the general public, a \$10 donation per person is suggested to help keep Alliance programming affordable and accessible.

Coolers, blankets and lawn chairs

are encouraged. Concert-goers will hear some of the greatest hits of Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw, Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Tommy Dorsey and many, many more.

The Stardust Memories Big Band is a professional 17 piece jazz ensemble led by Craig Christman. A significant part of its mission is to support the development of young, aspiring musicians from the local Southwest Florida area.

The Alliance for the Arts is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.artinlee.org or call 939-2787.✪

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Steven Coe is Doug and Kendall Millang is Beth in a rom-com at Lab Theater photo provided

An Awkward Re-Meet At Lab Theater

by Di Saggau

The *Way We Get By* is the work of Neil LaBute, and it's playing now at Laboratory Theater of Florida. There may be a few souls reading this review who can relate to the opening moments and its embarrassing situation. Doug (Steven Coe) wakes up in a strange apartment, totally hungover with

an unexpected bedmate and a pained expression on his face. He wanders around the stage in his boxer shorts trying to figure out what he has just done. Before long, Beth (Kendall Millang) comes out of the bedroom wearing only a *Star Wars* T-shirt. Doug says, "I never expected this to happen." As the dialogue continues, one wonders why Doug is reluctant to go back to bed with Beth. They both admit they had a wonderful, satisfying experience, so why do they flinch when the conversation deals with what they might have in common? That's the twist in the story and, to reveal it, would ruin everything

for you dear theater-goer, so this will be a short review about a well-worth-seeing play. The classic mating dance of advancement and retreat takes place in the well-organized apartment that Beth shares with an absent roommate named Kim. Most of the furniture and appointments belong to Kim. That name gets proper billing in the very last scene, and it's quite funny. Things are awkward with Doug and Beth and not just because it's the morning after a one-night stand. We find out that the night before they were both at a ceremony of a couple repeating their marriage vows. Considering who the

couple was, it's no wonder that they both did too much imbibing. The play runs about 90 minutes without intermission. It's directed by Annette Trossbach, Lab Theater's artistic director, and she gets the most out of her players. As the conversation continues, we really get to know the two characters and both actors do a splendid job of back-and-forth emotional moments. *The Way We Get By* runs through February 18 at Laboratory Theater of Florida, located at 1634 Woodford Avenue in downtown Fort Myers. Tickets are available at www.laoratorytheaterflorida.com or by calling 218-0481.*

Soup Kitchen Benefit Tickets Now On Sale

Tickets are now available for the 15th annual Sam Galloway Jr. & Friends annual Soup Kitchen Benefit scheduled for Thursday, March 8. This is one of Southwest Florida's most anticipated fundraising events with over 600 guests and a donated southern-style dinner inside of the service garages at Sam Galloway Ford. The event will be once again held at Sam Galloway Ford in Fort Myers. Tickets are \$150 each, with sponsorship tables starting at \$2,500. Tickets and tables can be purchased by calling 332-7687 ext. 101, or purchased online at www.communitycooperative.com/events.

"Hunger and food insecurity continues to be an issue here in Southwest Florida, especially post Hurricane Irma," said Tracey Galloway, CEO of Community Cooperative. "We have seen significant increases in the number of children, families and elderly that benefit from our programs, and we need the community's support now more than ever." Funds raised at the event benefits Community Cooperative, the umbrella agency for the Community Cafés and Market, the Soup Kitchen, Meals on Wheels, Healthy School Pantry and Food Literacy in Pre-School (FLIP) programs, Mobile Food Pantries, and Social and Education Resource Centers for our hungry and homeless residents in need. The event has sold out for several years and continues to be one of the signature events in our community. Each year, local restaurants, companies and individuals donate the southern-style menu including barbeque chicken and pork, broasted chicken, brisket, fried shrimp and cheese grits, swamp cabbage, gourmet meatloaf

and mashed potatoes, okra, collard greens, fresh green beans, corn bread, bananas foster, homemade cookies and gourmet chocolates.*


Pancake Breakfast


Bayside Estates men's club will host a monthly pancake breakfast in its recreation hall on Sunday, February 11 from 8 to 11 a.m. All are invited to attend. The breakfast will include scrambled eggs, sausages, coffee, orange juice and all-you-can-eat pancakes for the cost of \$5. For \$1 more, get a made to order omelet. Bayside Estates is located at 17601 San Carlos Boulevard in Fort Myers.*

Garden Club Vendor Search

The Garden Club of Cape Coral is looking for plant vendors and crafters of garden related items to join the 10th annual March in the Park plant and garden art show at Jaycee Park, 4125 SE 20th Place, in Cape Coral on March 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March in the Park is the major fundraiser of the Garden Club of Cape Coral. All proceeds raised go to local high school student merit awards, civic beautification, Camp Wekiva, Habitat for Humanity and to promote civic awareness of environmental and conservation concerns. Last year's show had over 30 vendors selling plants, garden art and food. The sale also features informational speakers, a Master Gardeners booth and a kids booth. Interested plant or craft vendors can contact Ginny Huffer at 257-2654 or huffmom5@aol.com or visit www.gardenclubofcapecoral.com for an application.*

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Fort Myers Art:

Florida Rep Extends World Premiere



by Tom Hall

Florida Repertory Theatre has announced that it is extending the world premiere of *Night and Day: Love Lost and Found through the Eyes of Cole Porter* through March 11.

The show is being staged in the intimate 115-seat ArtStage Studio Theatre.

Conceived and directed by Florida Rep Founder and Producing Artistic Director Robert Cacioppo, *Night and Day* is a thrilling and glamorous revue that tells a story of love lost and love found through the medium of Cole Porter's masterful lyrics and iconic music. The show features 36 of the most beloved songs our time, including *Anything Goes*, *You're the Top*, *I've Got You Under My Skin* and *Night and Day*. Made famous on film, Broadway and a recording career that spanned decades, Porter's songs are some of the most beloved of the 20th century, and in *Night and Day* they're used to tell the story of two couples finding, falling in and falling out of love.

Each of the members of the limited cast is making his/her Florida Rep



A scene from *Night and Day: Love Lost and Found through the Eyes of Cole Porter*

photo courtesy www.artswfl.com

debut. Dan Fenaughty was last seen in Riverside Theatre's *Mame* and the national tour of *The 39 Steps*. Travis Kent recently appeared on Broadway in Seth Rudetsky's *Disaster!* Larissa Klinger comes to Fort Myers after a recent world tour entertaining our troops with the USO Show Troupe and the national tour of *The 39 Steps*, while Jennifer Lorae joins the cast after recent runs Off-Broadway and in major regional theatres across the country. Paul Gary, a performance intern here at Florida Rep, makes his ArtStage debut as The Butler.

Robert Cacioppo (*Too Marvelous for Words*, *Fascinatin' Gershwin*) leads an expert creative team, including musical

director and arranger Victoria Casella (*Fascinatin' Gershwin*); ensemble member, choreographer and co-creator Arthur D'Alessio (*Too Marvelous for Words*); set designer Jordan Moore (*Shear Madness*); costume designer Charlene Gross (*Outside Mullingar*); sound designer John Kiselica (*Disgraced*); and ensemble manager Amy Massari (*Sylvia*).

Performances for *Night and Day* are Tuesday through Saturday evenings, with 2 p.m. matinees on Thursday, Sunday and selected Saturdays. New for the 2017-18 Season, weeknight performances (Tuesday through Thursday) begin at 7 p.m. Weekend evening performances remain at 8 p.m.

Priced at \$55 and \$35 for previews, single tickets are now on sale through the box office at 332-4488 and online at www.floridarep.org. Subscriptions for the 2017-18 season offer the best seats and the biggest savings, and packages start as low as \$150 for 6 plays. Florida Repertory Theatre performs in the Historic Arcade Theatre and the ArtStage Studio Theatre on Bay Street (between Jackson and Hendry) with limited free parking in the Fort Myers River District.

Visit Florida Rep online at www.floridarep.org, and by following the company on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

Robert Hilliard Play To Receive Staged Reading February 12

Lab Theater is holding a staged reading of *Julia*, a play about a

disgruntled wife who finds herself at an emotional crossroads. She hates her insurance exec husband, Walter, and their shallow country-club life, but appreciates its economic security. At a party with former college friends, she falls in love with and begins a fulfilling sexual relationship with a struggling writer by the name of Joe, who is incapable of commitment or sincere caring. Bill is her best friend and confidante, but even though he gives her unconditional warmth and understanding, she just is not physically attracted to him. Will Julia go back to Walter, stay with Joe, or choose the emotional security of Bill?

SoCo Second Saturday Art Crawl Returns February 10

The next SoCo Second Saturday art event takes place on Friday, February 10 from 6 to 10 p.m., rain or shine. The event continues to grow, with more cultural venues, new vendors and a redesigned map that includes all of the night's attractions and the details on how to win a great prize from one of the participating SoCo stops. (To qualify for the prize, simply visit each of the SoCo Second Saturday venues and get a Golden Ticket at each location. The winner will be announced one week after the event.)

January's participating SoCo Cultural Venues are Alliance for the Arts, DAAS Co-op Art Gallery & Gifts, Ocasiocasa, The Union Artist Studios and the Crafted Shop, Catch 22, A Swedish Affair, Broadway Palm Dinner Theater, Suzanne's Dance Fitness, Studio Os Urbanos, City of Palms Studio and DM Paper Designs. In addition, more than 10 vendors, located at various spots in Royal Palm Square, will be offering their handmade, fine-crafts during the event.

The SoCo Cultural District location encompasses the block south of Colonial Boulevard, from the corner of McGregor Boulevard to Summerlin Road to Royal Palm Square Boulevard and back to McGregor Boulevard. More information about the event and vendor opportunity information is available at www.socoswfl.com.

Tom Hall is both an amateur artist and aspiring novelist who writes art quest thrillers. He is in the final stages of completing his debut novel titled Art Detective. A former tax attorney, he lives in Estero with his fiancé and their four cats.✴

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Fall In Love At Yappy Hour

Bell Tower Shops will host a Valentine's Day-themed Yappy Hour block party in center court on Friday, February 9 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Held on the second Friday of each month in partnership with Gulf Coast Humane Society, Yappy Hour is the area's largest pet-friendly social hour, providing an evening of fun for pet lovers and their four-legged friends. February's theme is Fall in Love with a Rescue. Owners and their pets are invited to dress up as a lovable duo for a chance to win a gift card for a dog-friendly Bark on the Ark cruise, compliments of Pure Florida. An on-site \$5 donation to the Gulf Coast Humane Society is requested per dog to enter.

Live music will be presented by Ayla Lynn. There will be a bounce house, a sidewalk chalk station and lawn games for guests to enjoy. Cru will present the beer and wine for the evening, with all proceeds from beer purchases to be donated to the Gulf Coast Humane Society. Omaha Steaks will offer \$2 hot dogs and \$1 water bottles with proceeds going to the Gulf Coast Humane Society. As merchant of the month, World of Beer will also provide guests with menu samplings.

Throughout the event, visitors will have the chance to stop by dog-friendly sponsor stations and meet adoptable dogs from the Gulf Coast Humane Society.

To learn more about the event, visit www.thebelltowershops.com or www.facebook.com/BellTowerShops/.*



The Gulf Coast Symphony Orchestra

photo provided

Orchestra To Perform At Estates

Edison & Ford Winter Estates will host its monthly Rhythm on the River music celebration in the river pavilion with the Gulf Coast Symphony on Saturday, February 10 at 6 p.m. The orchestra will perform Swinging with the Symphony, a program of symphonic big band music of the 1930s and 1940s.

Dr. Andrew Kurtz, the symphony's music director and conductor, founded the symphony in 1996. It is a premier community orchestra in Southwest Florida and recognized as one of the most dynamic community orchestras in the United States.

The Edison Ford river pavilion offers a river view and a chance to see a spectacular sunset. A limited number of seats will be provided; guests are encouraged to bring a folding chair.

Visitors are also encouraged to bring a jacket or blanket as the event will be outdoors.

Tickets are \$25 or \$20 for Edison Ford members. A cash bar will be available.

Edison & Ford Winter Estates is located at 2350 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.edisonfordwinterestates.org or call 334-7419.*



Shell Point 2018 Art SHOW & SALE

Friday & Saturday, February 16 & 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Sunday, February 18 from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Be inspired! Don't miss the 2018 Shell Point Art Show and Sale. This art exhibition will offer a visual extravaganza of oil and acrylic paintings, photographs, watercolors, pastels, collages, and other two-dimensional art. Featuring original works by Shell Point artists, the show promises to be a diverse, mesmerizing event, located in the Grand Cypress Room at The Woodlands. **Cash or check only, ATM on the premises.**

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Along The River

Thomas Edison's 171st birthday will be celebrated at **Edison & Ford Winter Estates** this Friday, February 9 at 10 a.m. There will be photo opportunities with "Thomas" and "Mina," performances by students from the Edison Park Creative and Expressive Arts School, author Nancy Hamilton signing her new book *100 Things to Do in Fort Myers & Sanibel Before You Die* and a happy birthday sing-along. Cake will be served.

Each year, the late famous inventor is honored for his contributions to society, including his most notable inventions of the incandescent light bulb, motion picture camera and the phonograph.

Visitors will learn about Thomas Edison's and Henry Ford's innovations during tours of the site that include the two inventors' winter homes, the museum filled with inventions and artifacts, the botanic laboratory where Edison tested more than 17,000 different plant varieties, and more than 20 acres of botanical gardens with 90-year-old trees and plants from around the world. The site is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

The birthday party is free with limited seating. There will be a fee for tours of the homes, museum and lab.

Edison & Ford Winter Estates is located at 2350 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.edisonfordwinterestates.org or call 334-7419.

The annual **Saint Hillary's Episcopal Church Shrimp Boil** will



Summer Burst by Tanya Trinkaus is one of the artworks in the Southwest Florida Pastel Show exhibit image provided

take place this Friday, February 9 from 4:30 to 7 p.m.. Guests will be treated to a half pound of fresh boiled shrimp, baked beans, coleslaw, roll, non-alcoholic drink and dessert. Guests who dine-in may bring their own wine. Tickets are \$14 for adults and \$7 for children age 12 and younger. Take-out dinners are also available.

A portion of the proceeds for the event will benefit Community Cooperative, the umbrella agency for

the Community Cafés and Market, the Soup Kitchen, Meals on Wheels, Healthy School Pantry and Food Literacy in Pre-School (FLIP) programs, Mobile Food Pantries, and Social and Education Resource Centers for our hungry and homeless residents in need.

The event has a great turnout every year and continues to be a fun gathering of friends, old and new, for a good cause. Guests are encouraged to bring a canned or shelf-stable food donation to help stock the pantry shelves.

Tickets may be purchased on the day of the event or in advance by calling 936-1000.

Saint Hillary's Episcopal Church is located at 5011 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.sainthillarys.org.

Shell Point Retirement Community's 2017-18 Concert Series will present a live performance from **Barrage 8** at the Village Church on The Island at Shell Point this Friday, February 9 at 7:30 p.m. The concert is open to the public, with tickets available for purchase online at www.shellpoint.org/concerts or by phone at 454-2067.

Featuring a compilation of violinists, violist, cellist and double bassist, Barrage 8 has established itself as one of the pre-eminent string music performance

ensembles in the world. With a musical selection ranging from '70s rock to jazz, classical and blues numbers, in addition to original compositions, concertgoers can anticipate an infectious, high-energy show. It will feature elaborate choreography and captivating rhythms presented by Barrage 8 performers as an ensemble as well as soloists, in trios and in other collaborations.

The monthly **SoCo Second Saturday Art Crawl** will showcase another artful night along the **SoCo Cultural District** this Saturday, February 10 from 6 to 10 p.m.

Vendors will set up at various locations in the Royal Palm Square, offering their handmade and fine crafts during the event. The classic rock band MFYF will be playing at Royal Palm Square during the event.

The SoCo Second Saturday Art Crawl is a rain or shine monthly event. The SoCo Cultural District location encompasses the block south of Colonial Boulevard, from the corner of McGregor Boulevard to Summerlin Road, to Royal Palm Square Boulevard and back to McGregor Boulevard.

The Alliance for the Arts will feature a conversational walk-and-talk with exhibiting artists from its February Southwest Florida Pastel Show and a performance of *Gidion's Knot* by Johnna Adams.

For more information, visit www.socoswfl.com or call 590-8645.

The **Lee County Community Band** will present its fourth concert of the season at **Cape Coral High School** this Sunday, February 11 at 3 p.m.

The program, which is free (donations accepted) and open to the public, features excerpts from Dvorák's *New World Symphony*; a tribute to composer, pianist, singer, actor and bandleader Hoagy Carmichael; and big band classics, including *In the Mood*, *Satin Doll* and *Jumpin' at the Woodside*. Under the baton of Richard Bradstreet, the band also will play spirited marches, including the famous *Dambusters*; other band classics, including *Lassus Trombone*; and the patriotic favorite, *American Salute*.

The band is comprised of professional and amateur musicians who reside in Lee, Collier and Charlotte counties.

Cape Coral High School is located at 2300 Santa Barbara Boulevard. For more information, call Norman Jones at 995-2097 or visit www.leecountyband.org.

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Students from the Lighthouse of SWFL Transition Teen Program

photo provided

Visually Impaired Students Attend Prom Night

Lighthouse of SWFL and its Transition Teen Program recently hosted A Night with the Stars prom, which was open to teens with blindness and vision impairment living in Lee, Hendry, Glades, Charlotte, Collier, Manatee and Sarasota counties. The free event was held at Lighthouse of SWFL and was available for teens between the age 14 and 22 with blindness or vision impairment and one guest.

The "Hollywood" themed idea, complete with a red carpet and paparazzi, was an immediate hit with the visually-impaired students, who received the royal treatment that evening. Greeted like VIPs, the students were delighted to find their names in the entryway just like the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Transition student and lead guitarist Nick Bryan along with his band Theory of Knowledge entertained the attendees with classic rock and roll hits and a DJ played everything from dance club music to rap which kept the kids dancing the night away.

Transition teens from Lighthouse of SWFL practiced their dancing skills with the 4-H kids during a pre-prom event, to help the youth learn how to dance with a student who has blindness or uses a wheelchair. "Dancing, like

music or kindness, is a universal language," said Amy Turner, community relations coordinator at Lighthouse of SWFL and 4-H leader. "Providing an opportunity for youth to connect, have fun and accept one another was the heart of this community event." Transition Coordinator Jennifer Nieves commented, "The prom was an amazing experience for Transition youth."

Debby Marsh, owner of Studio RK, a local hair salon and the event's premier sponsor, recognized early on the potential impact of the prom to help foster the teens' sense of self-esteem and well-being. Through their employee-giving program, Marsh and her Studio RK co-owners and stylists, generously donated prom dresses, jewelry and the seed money to get the event off the ground for the teens. PACE Center for Girls provided prom dresses and a special "shopping day." Black Tie Tuxedos provided tuxedos to the boys at a substantial discount. North Fort Myers High School Student Government Association loaned Hollywood-themed decorations from their homecoming dance.

The Transition Teen Program prepares young adults to live as independently as possible as they transition from high school onto the next stage of their adult life. Skills taught include vocational rehabilitation, resume writing and interview skills, community integration and job shadowing and training.✱

daughter of Dali's legendary publisher and confidante Pierre Argillet, during scheduled special appearances on Friday, February 16 from 6 to 8 p.m.; Saturday, February 17 from 6 to 8 p.m.; and Sunday, February 18 from 1 to 3 p.m. All appearances are complimentary to the public. RSVP at 866-900-6699 or naples@roadshowcompany.com.

The exhibition within Mercato will be located at 9115 Strada Place in Naples. Visit www.roadshowcompany.com for more information.✱

Dali Collection Exhibition

Road Show Company, North America's premier fine art concern, will present Salvador Dali: The Argillet Collection on exhibition and available for acquisition at the Mercato. Previews begin Saturday, February 10.

The exhibition is a rare opportunity to meet Madame Christine Argillet,

Sci-Fi Thriller Writer To Present Lecture

An internationally bestselling author of sci-fi thrillers will be featured as part of the Famous Author Lecture Series at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center on Monday, February 12 from noon to 2 p.m.

Michael Byrnes, author of *The Sacred Bones*, *The Genesis Plague* and *Bounty*, will give a lecture, answer questions during a Q&A and sign books during the luncheon. Lunch is provided by G3 Catering.

Byrnes earned his undergraduate degree from Montclair State University and his MBA from Rutgers University. He currently lives in Orlando, Florida with his wife and three children.

Individual tickets are \$35, while tables of 8 cost \$280. For tickets and information, visit www.sbdac.com or call 333-1933

The Sidney & Berne Davis Art



Michael Byrnes

photo provided

Center is located at 2301 First Street in downtown Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.michaelbyrnesauthor.com/✱

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From left, Cheryl Reynolds, Terri Sobeck, Daniel Melvin, Barbara Dell, Julio Barina, Donna Marks, Karen Anderson, Barbara Melvin, Jennie delima and Chandra Spary-Kontinos photo provided

Proceeds Donation For Dress For Success

Dress for Success SW Florida was recently presented with a \$2,500 check from Board Member Barbara Melvin and her husband Daniel Melvin to be used for programming and services to support its mission to assist women with finding meaningful employment. The donation was from proceeds of Party with a Purpose 4, a fundraiser held by the Melvins at the Hilton Naples. Dinner, a cash bar, auctions and more were a part of the evening. Entertainment was provided by Daniel Melvin’s Most Romantic Voice Productions. Over 150 people attended this event which was rescheduled due to Hurricane Irma. Barbara Dell, CEO of Dress for Success SW Florida, said, “We are so

blessed to have community leaders such as Barbara serve on our board as a dedicated team member for several years as well as honoring us with this generous donation. We can do great things for the women in our community because of people like Barbara and Daniel.” This is the second time Dress for Success was chosen to receive a financial award from Daniel and Barbara Melvin. Previously, the nonprofit received \$3,000.*

Art And Poetry Networking Event

Gulf Coast Leisure will hold an Art & Poetry Networking Event at Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center (SBDAC) on Thursday, February 22 at 8 p.m. Mixed media artists, music, spoken word, and vendors are all highlighted each month. Attendees also have a chance to network and connect with other like-minded people in the arts community. Sign up early to perform, or be a part of the audience and enjoy this interactive music and art showcase. Cost is \$10. Other event dates include March 29, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26 and August 23. SBDAC is located at 2301 First Street in downtown Fort Myers. Visit www.sbdac.com or www.gclmovement.com/ for sign-up and tickets.*

Library To Host Author

The Friends of Lakes Regional Library will host author Lisa Black at the library on Friday, February 9 at 1 p.m. Black is a forensic scientist and writer of the popular Maggie Gardiner/Jack Renner books. She will introduce her latest thriller *Perish*. Lakes Regional Library is located at 15290 Bass Road. No registration is required for this free program and all are welcome.*

Churches/Temples

ALL FAITHS UNITARIAN CONGREGATION
Sunday 10:30 a.m., 2756 McGregor Boulevard, allfaiths-uc.org, 226-0900.
ALL SAINTS BYZANTINE RITE CATHOLIC
Sunday 10:30 a.m. 10291 Bayshore Road, 305-651-0991.
ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX
Sunday 9 and 10 a.m. 8210 Cypress Lake Drive, annunciation.fl.goarch.org, 481-2099.
BETH SHILOH MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE
Friday 8 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. 15675 McGregor Boulevard, 437-3171.
BIBLESHARE
10 a.m. Sunday and 7 p.m. Tuesday, 7050 Winkler Rd, Suite 121, www.simplysimpleworship.com, 437-8835.
BREAD OF LIFE MINISTRIES
Sunday 10:30 a.m. 16581 McGregor Boulevard, 267-3166.
CHABAD LUBAVITCH ORTHODOX
Friday 6:30 p.m. 5620 Winkler Road, chabadswf.org, 433-7708.
CHAPEL OF CYPRESS COVE
Sunday 10 a.m. 10200 Cypress Cove Circle, revtedalhouse@aol.com, 850-3943.
CHURCH OF THE CROSS
Sunday 9:15 and 10:45 a.m. 13500 Freshman Lane, 768-2188.
CONGREGATIONAL
Sunday 10:30 a.m. 1619 Llewellyn Drive, taecc.com, 334-4978.
COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN
Sunday 10 a.m. 2439 McGregor Boulevard, 334-8937.
CYPRESS LAKE BAPTIST
Sunday 9:45 and 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; Wednesday 6:30 p.m. 8400 Cypress Lake Drive, 481-5442.
CYPRESS LAKE PRESBYTERIAN

Sunday 8, 9, 10 and 11 a.m. 8260 Cypress Lake Drive, www.clpc.us, 481-3233.
CYPRESS LAKE UNITED METHODIST
Sunday 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. 8570 Cypress Lake Drive, 482-1250.
FAITH FELLOWSHIP WORLD OUTREACH
Sunday 10:30 a.m., Thursday 7:30 p.m., Friday 7:30 p.m. 6111 South Pointe Boulevard, 278-3638.
FAITH UNITED METHODIST
Sunday 8:45 and 10:30 a.m. 15690 McGregor Boulevard, 482-2030.
FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST
Wednesday 12 noon Testimony Service, Sunday 10:30 a.m. 2390 West First Street, christiansciencefortmyers.net, christianscience.com.
FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. 13545 American Colony Boulevard, 936-2511.
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
Sunday 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. 2466 First Street, www.fumcftmyers.org, 332-1152.
FORT MYERS CHRISTIAN
Sunday 10:30 a.m., 5916 Winkler Road, 437-4330.
FORT MYERS CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST;
Sunday 10 a.m., 8210 College Parkway, 482-3133.
IONA-HOPE EPISCOPAL CONGREGATION
Saturday 5 p.m.; Sunday 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.; Tuesday 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday 9:30 a.m. 9650 Gladiolus Drive, 454-4778.
JESUS THE WORKER CATHOLIC
Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday 8, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. 881 Nuna Avenue, 481-1143.
KINGDOM LIFE
Sunday 10:30 a.m. 2154 McGregor Boulevard, 218-8343.
LAMB OF GOD
Sunday 7:45 and 10 a.m. 19691 Cypress

View Drive, lambogodchurch.net, 267-3525.
NEW BEGINNINGS CENTER
Friday 6:30 and 7 p.m. 8505 Jenny Cae Lane, nbcministry@embarqmail.com, facebook.com/nbcministry, 656-0416.
NEW COVENANT EYES
Monthly 9 a.m. 1900 Park Meadows Drive, newcovenanteyes.com, 220-8519.
NEW HOPE BAPTIST
Sunday 11 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m. 16120 San Carlos Boulevard, Unit 10, 985-8503.
NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN
Sunday 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. 10051 Plantation Road, www.newhopefortmyers.org, 274-1230.
PEACE COMMUNITY
Sunday 10:30 a.m. www.17671PineRidgeRoad.com, 267-7400.
PEACE LUTHERAN
Sunday 9:30 a.m. 15840 McGregor Boulevard, www.peaceftmyers.com, peaceftmyers.com, 437-2599.
REDEEMER LUTHERAN
Sunday 8:15 and 10:15 a.m. 3950 Winkler Ext., 274-0143.
RIVER OF LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
8, 9:45 and 11:30 a.m. 21580 River Ranch Road, 495-0400.
SAMUDRABADRA BUDDHIST CENTER
Meditation classes. MeditationInFortMyers.org, 567-9739.
SAINT COLUMBKILLE CATHOLIC
Monday through Saturday 8 a.m.; Saturday 3 and 5 p.m.; Sunday 7, 9 and 11 a.m., 5:30 p.m. 12171 Iona Road, 489-3973.
ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC
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. 2157 Cleveland Avenue, 334-2161.
SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE METROPOLITAN

Sunday 10 a.m. 3049 McGregor Boulevard, 344-0012.
SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN
Saturday 5:30 p.m.; Sunday 8 and 10:45 a.m. 3595 Broadway, 939-1218.
SAINT NICHOLAS MONASTERY
Sunday 9:30 a.m. 111 Evergreen Road, saintnicholasmonastery.org, 997-2847.
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC
Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.; Saturday 4 p.m.; Sunday 9 and 11 a.m. 13031 Palm Beach Boulevard, 693-0818.
SOUTHWEST BAPTIST
Sunday 11 a.m.; Wednesday 6 p.m. 16940 McGregor Boulevard, 454-3336.
TEMPLE BETHEL SYNAGOGUE
Friday Shabbat 7:30 p.m.; Torah Saturday 9 a.m.; Religious School Wednesday 5:30 p.m. and Sunday 9:30 a.m. 16225 Winkler Road, templebethel.com, 433-0018.
TEMPLE JUDEA (CONSERVATIVE)
Friday 6:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. tjswfl.org, 14486 A&W Bulb Road, 433-0201.
THE NEW CHURCH
Sunday 11 a.m. 10811 Sunset Plaza Circle #401, newchurchflorida.com, 481-5535.
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
Sunday 10:30 a.m. 13411 Shire Lane, uucfm.org, 561-2700.
UNITY OF FORT MYERS
Sunday 10 a.m. 11120 Ranchette Road, unityoffortmyers.org, 278-1511.
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sunday 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. 9065 Ligon Court, 481-2125.
WORD OF LIFE
Sunday 10 a.m., Wednesday 7 p.m. 2120 Collier Avenue, 274-8881.
ZION LUTHERAN
Sunday 8, 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. 7401 Winkler Road, zionfm.org, 481-4040.*



Stardust Memories Big Band performing at Riverside Park

photo provided

Big Band Music At Outdoor Concert

The Alliance for the Arts is bringing the Stardust Memories Big Band to its amphitheater stage for an outdoor concert on February 13 at 7 p.m. While the concert is open to the general public, a \$10 donation per person is suggested to help keep Alliance programming affordable and accessible.

Coolers, blankets and lawn chairs are encouraged. Concert-goers will hear some of the greatest hits of Glenn Miller, Benny Goodman, Artie Shaw,

Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Tommy Dorsey and many, many more.

The Stardust Memories Big Band is a professional 17-piece jazz ensemble led by Craig Christman. A significant part of its mission is to support the development of young, aspiring musicians from the local Southwest Florida area.

Alliance for the Arts is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.ArtInLee.org or call 939-2787. To learn more about the Stardust Memories Big Band, visit www.stardustmemoriesbigband.com. ❄️

Estates To Hold Garden Market This Saturday



Visitors shop for plants at the Edison & Ford Winter Estates Garden Market

photo provided

Edison & Ford Winter Estates will host the Edison Garden Market on Saturday, February 10 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, February 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. More than 30 plant and garden vendors will be on site selling tropical and native plants and trees, garden art and supplies.

Plant vendors will have palms, vegetables, bromeliads, hibiscus, butterfly plants, African violets, orchids, air plants, herbs, succulents, cacti and many hard-to-find species, as well as garden supplies and gift items available for sale. Unusual, native and heritage plants are also available in the Edison Ford Garden

Shoppe, along with ceramic flower pots and garden art.

The market will also feature live music and refreshments, including craft beer brewed for Edison Ford from Millennial Brewing Company and Bury Me Brewing, using starfruit from the estates property and tea from the museum store.

Parking and admission to the event is free. Tours of the homes, museum and lab are not included.

Edison & Ford Winter Estates is located at 2350 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. For more information, call 334-7419 or visit www.edisonfordwinterestates.org. ❄️

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From left, Camden Thiele, MacKenzie McMurray, Melaine Logue and Edison National Bank's Senior Vice President Susan Nasworthy photos provided

Bank Honors Student Nature Contest Winners

Winners in the annual Student Nature Photography Contest sponsored by Edison National Bank in cooperation with the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society were recently

announced.

Camden Thiel captured 1st place, while Melaine Logue took 2nd place and MacKenzie McMurray placed third. Edison National Bank Senior Vice President Susan Nasworthy presented award medals to the winners and cashier's checks worth \$100, \$75, and \$50 for the top three selected photographs.

On December 1, Cypress Lake

Middle School students visited the JN "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge to photograph the wildlife and native plants. Edison National Bank provides overall financial support for this annual event, including the medals and cash prizes.

On January 8, Cypress Lake Art Department Chair Joy Williams emceed the award ceremony at the school with highlights about the students' photography and their time at the refuge. Refuge Ranger Monica Scroggin and volunteers Ken and Ginny Kopperl who assisted the students during their photography field trip were also in

attendance.

"It is truly an honor for Edison National Bank to sponsor this event," said Nasworthy. "Ms. Williams kindly shared that programs like this contest would not happen without the business community's support. The student photographers have captured some very beautiful images."

Every student participating in the contest will receive a \$1 U.S. Mint gold coin from Edison National Bank when they visit the bank's lobby photo display.

For more information, call 466-1800 or visit www.edisonnationalbank.com.

Florida Humanities Speaker Series

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Comes to Life: A First Person Perspective by Ersula Knox Odom will be featured at Florida Gulf Coast University Seidler Hall Room 114 on Thursday, February 15. A reception will be held at 5:30 p.m., followed by the presentation from 6 to 8 p.m.

The Florida Humanities Speaker Series event is presented by the Southwest Florida Historical Society, The Lee County Black History Society and The Florida Gulf Coast University Office of Community Outreach as part of Black History Month.

Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune (1875-1955) was the founder of Bethune-Cookman University. She served as a New Deal government official in one of the 20 highest level offices held by women in the administration and the highest held by an African American woman. She was founder of FDR's "black cabinet," served as president of the National Association of Colored Women, and founded and served as president of the National Council of



Dr. Mary McLeod photo provided
Negro Women.

Odom is an author, legacy writer/reporter with approximately 100 articles to her credit, workshop leader, Florida Humanities Council Viva La Florida performer as Mary McLeod Bethune, motivational speaker and prize winning life lyricist.



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Panel Discussion On Gender And Sexuality

The Florida SouthWestern State College Diversity Alliance presents A Panel Discussion on Gender and Sexuality at FSW Thomas Edison Campus in Building U, Room 102 on Monday, February 26 at 2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

"Gender is not the same thing we thought it was 20 years ago," said Dr. Russell Swanson, professor of philosophy. "Our discussion will explore what gender and sexuality are in the evolving cultural context we are currently living in and the changes in our belief system about gender and sexuality."

FSW Humanities Professor Dr. Elijah Pritchett, FSW Psychology Professor Terri Housley, FSW students Christine

Orlando and Fletcher Dunham, and Arlene Goldberg, founder of the Southwest Florida Harmony Chamber of Commerce, will serve as panelists. The discussion will be moderated by Dr. Russell Swanson.

FSW Thomas Edison Campus is located at 8099 College Parkway in Fort Myers. For more information, contact Dr. Russell Swanson at 489-9312 or Russell.Swanson@fsw.edu.

Engineers Club

Four Freedoms Park will host an Engineers Club class for age 6 to 12 on Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m.

This class is presented by Super Science & Amazing Art. Children will test new technologies, develop ideas and solve fun problems. There is no class on March 22.

Four Freedoms Park is located at 4818 Tarpon Court in Cape Coral. For more information, call 574-0804.

Celebration Of Reading

Best-selling authors Jan Karon, U.S. Army Staff Sergeant Travis Mills and Christina Diaz Gonzalez will join the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy for the 18th annual Florida Celebration of Reading at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa on Friday, February 16.

Since 2001, the Florida Celebration of Reading, founded by former Gov. Jeb Bush and his wife, Columba, has raised more than \$26 million in support of family literacy programs of the Barbara Bush Foundation that help children and their parents improve their literacy skills.

The annual event is led by Jeb Bush, Jr., Celebration of Reading Co-Chairs Fred and Autumn Karlinsky and Fred and Stephanie Pezeshkan, who will be joined by state, education, business and community leaders including Florida Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis, Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart, Congressman Carlos Curbelo, Senator Kathleen Passidomo, Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto, Representative Matt Caldwell and Representative Michael Bileca.

Celebration of Reading authors will read from their works during the event and sign books after the celebration dinner.

Karon is the author of 14 novels,



Christina Diaz Gonzalez photos provided

including the popular Mitford series, and was honored with the Library of Virginia's Literary Lifetime Achievement Award.

A recalibrated warrior, motivational speaker, activist and author, Mills' memoir *Tough as They Come* is a New York Times best-seller.

Recipient of the Florida Book Award and American Library Association's Best Fiction for Young Adults Award, acclaimed children's author Gonzalez has written *The Red Umbrella*, A



Jan Karon

Thunderous Whisper and *Moving Target*.

During the Celebration of Reading, one of the nation's most steadfast voices for literacy – the Dollar General Literacy Foundation – will be recognized with the Barbara Bush Foundation Champion for Literacy Award.

Funds raised from the annual Florida Celebration of Reading help support programs of the Barbara Bush Foundation for Family Literacy,



Travis Mills

including Teen Trendsetters, a high-impact program that pairs teen mentors with first- or second-grade students who are, on average, half a year behind in reading.

Individual tickets are \$250 and include the reading program and dinner.

Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort is located at 5001 Coconut Road in Bonita Springs. For more information or to purchase tickets, visit www.BarbaraBush.org/events.✱

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From left, Judy Owen, Sharon Terestenyi and Maxine Brooks with their hand-painted designs
photos provided

Senior Talent Showcased At Shell Point Art Show And Sale

Shell Point Retirement Community invites art enthusiasts to its 2018 Shell Point Art Show and Sale on Friday, February 16 and Saturday, February 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Sunday, February 18 from noon to 3 p.m. Open to the public and free to attend, the show will be held at the Grand Cypress Room at The Woodlands at Shell Point.

For those who wish to be inspired by local artists, or enhance their collection with a new piece, the art exhibition will offer a variety of oil and acrylic paintings, photographs, watercolors, pastels, collages and other two-dimensional art. Hosted by the talented residents of Shell Point, the show and sale will feature original works by resident artists, many of whom were featured in 2017's highly successful Ageless Creativity exhibition at the Sidney & Berne Davis Arts Center in downtown Fort Myers.

For more information on the upcoming event, visit www.shellpoint.org.



Artist Holly English was among the featured Shell Point residents last year



Shell Point resident Dotty Morrison with her photography collection

Cracker Dinner To Highlight Legends

Entertainment legends who performed in Fort Myers will be the focus of the Southwest Florida Historical Society's annual Cracker Dinner at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre on Monday, February 19.

Liberace, Red Skelton, Debbie Reynolds, Carol Burnett, Minnie Pearl, Rudy Vallee, Yvonne DeCarlo and others performed in Lee County venues. Local performers will re-enact these legends on the Broadway Palm stage. The re-enactors include Cathy Pcolar, Beverly Cox, John Goulet and Bonnie Chappelle. Lee County Commissioner Frank Mann will serve as master of ceremonies.

A buffet dinner starts at 5:30 p.m. and the program begins at 7 p.m. Tickets cost \$35 and must be purchased by February 14. Tickets are available at Barbee & Sons, 1936 Grace Avenue in Fort Myers; Sam Galloway Ford, 1800 Boy Scout Drive in Fort Myers; and the Southwest Florida Historical Society on the campus of the Lee County Alliance for the Arts at 10091 McGregor Boulevard.

Checks may also be mailed to the Southwest Florida Historical Society, P. O. Box 1381, Fort Myers, FL, 33902. Tickets may also be picked up at the door on event night.

The annual Cracker Dinner is



Frank Mann photo provided

sponsored by Barbee & Sons, Sam Galloway Ford, and Susan Bennett Marketing & Media, L.C.

Funds raised at the annual dinner will be used to support the mission of the Southwest Florida Historical Society, which is dedicated to preserving the history of our area by archiving donated historical documents, photos and maps and stimulating public interest and appreciation for local history.

Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre is located at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.

Restaurants Listed For Taste Of Love

Special Equestrians is bringing together the area's most successful restaurateurs for Taste of Love – the annual food and wine extravaganza to be held at The Ranch Concert Hall & Saloon on Sunday, March 11 from 5 to 9 p.m.

The popular event's theme is Back at The Ranch and will feature food, wine pairings, live and silent auctions and entertainment. Local celebrity auctioneer Jay Severson and emcee Gina Birch will oversee the evening's events. Nearly 500 attended the event in 2017, raising \$200,000 for the therapeutic horseback riding program.

Participating restaurants include BJ's Restaurant & Brewhouse, Chef Nick Bertocci; Blue Pointe Oyster Bar & Seafood Grill, Chef Andy Brown; Bruno's of Brooklyn, Chef Calcedonio Bruno; Cantina Laredo, Chef Martin Galvan; DaRuma Japanese Steakhouse & Sushi Lounge, Chef Rick Belicano; Erickson & Jensen Seafood, Anna Erickson; European American Bakery Café, Chef Ariel Garcia

and Chef Sam Savichl Fancy's Southern Café, Chef Daniel Glick; Fudge Yeah!, Jamie Mastin; G3 Catering, Chefs Michael and Karen Gavala; Gerianne's Cookies, Gerianne Mazzant; Mastello and A Touch of Italy, Chef Robert Brandt; Sweet P's Bakery & Bistro, Chef Catherine Pinault; and Table & Tap, Babcock Ranch, Chef Rich Howse. Wine will be presented by Breakthru Beverage Company.

"We are thrilled and honored to have these highly-trained and successful culinary professionals join us to help raise much-needed funds for Special Equestrian's therapeutic horseback riding programs," said Jan Fifer, the organization's executive director.

All proceeds from Taste of Love will benefit Special Equestrians, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping children and adults with disabilities by providing a structured therapeutic horseback riding program and equine assisted activities.

Tickets are \$100 per person and may be purchased online at www.special-equestrians.net or by calling 851-7070 or emailing jtfifer@gmail.com. The Ranch Concert Hall & Saloon is located at 2158 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.

Youth Dance Combo Class

A Dance Combo class for age 4 to 7 will be held at Four Freedoms Park on Mondays each month from 4 to 5:15 p.m.

Cost is 30 for residents and \$36 for nonresidents. Pre-registration is required. The fun dance classes introduce the

student to tap, jazz and tumbling. Basic skills will be learned in each area that will emphasize improving flexibility, sense of rhythm and overall coordination. Each student will progress at their own pace while building confidence and having fun. Students will need to wear clothes that can stretch and allow full range of motion and hard-soled shoes.

Four Freedoms Park is located at 4818 Tarpon Court in Cape Coral. For more information, call 574-0804.

CROW Case Of The Week:

Tri-colored Heron

by Bob Petcher



The tri-colored heron (*Egretta tricolor*) is a medium-sized heron, slightly bigger than the little blue heron yet smaller than the great blue heron. Like its cousins, it does have a long,

slender neck and bill. This species differs from the other herons by its white bellies and lighter body color. While it does sport a bluish color, this heron also has rust-brown plumes, white plumes on the back of its neck and an olive-brown leg color to match its beak color.

Tri-colored herons like to wade in shallow waters for feeding purposes. The formerly known Louisiana heron dines on fish mainly but may eat insects, frogs, spiders and members of the lizard family. While they like to breed in colonies, this species prefers to forage alone and will chase off other birds from their feeding area.

At this time of year, tri-colored herons can be found mainly in the Southeast region, particularly in Florida. While this species suffered a decline in population between 1966 and 2014, it is stated to be back on the rise.

At CROW, an adult tri-colored heron

was admitted to the clinic from Fort Myers. It was reported by the finder that the heron was attacked by another heron. As a result of the fight, the heron suffered a small laceration on its left wing, bruising in its mouth and a corneal ulcer and hyphema of its left eye. CROW officials stated that hyphema is a pooling or collection of blood inside the anterior chamber of the eye. The heron's wounds were cleaned with dilute chlorhexidine. It was started on a course of pain medication and antibiotics to prevent infection including neopolygram, an antibiotic eye drop.

Of its injuries, the heron's eye appeared to be of most concern.

"There are superficial wounds on its face and wings, but the eye has blood in the chamber, and an extensive scratch on the cornea," said Dr. Malka Spektor, CROW veterinary intern, who confirmed that the eye was salvageable shortly after the patient's intake.

Eye drops appeared to be the best measure of treatment.

"At this point, antibiotic eye drops are being used three times daily, as well as serum eye drops, which have been shown to help with healing corneal surface defects," said Dr. Spektor.

The altercation with another heron could have been a result of male aggression towards nesting.

"It is likely the fight was over territory or a mate," said Dr. Spektor. "It is the beginning of breeding season, and males will get aggressive to secure the best mates and nesting spots."

The CROW patient was reportedly



Patient #18-0169 could not keep its food down and was found dead in its cage

photo by Brian Bohlman

healing from its injuries, but became very stressed at the clinic. In general, herons exhibit signs of high stress when in captivity. Their nervousness can be overwhelming.

"The eye was slowly healing, but the corneal ulcer was still present. The other injuries were also healing," said Dr. Spektor. "Unfortunately, herons can become very stressed in a captive situation, and that was causing our patient to regurgitate everything it was being fed. A feeding tube was planned to provide the patient nutrients; however, the patient was found deceased in its

cage before it could be placed."

Correction: In last week's issue, the photo of the red-shouldered hawk was taken by CROW volunteer Doug Albert, not Brian Bohlman. We apologize for the error.

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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Warm-up Is Now Under Way



by Capt.
Matt Mitchell

As we are finally entering a big warm-up period forecast for the next 10 days, fishing is going to come back to life and offer anglers lots of options.

For almost a month now, we have been dealing with cold-water conditions. As things gradually warm back up to around that magical 70 degree mark over the next week, catch-and-release snook fishing will come back alive after what has been a prolonged winter hibernation.

Sheepshead fishing will stay good the whole month of February as this is prime time for these fish to come inshore to pawn. Look for these fish all through our waterways or basically any place they find barnacles and structure to group up on. This past week, sheepshead were my main target on my charters. We successfully caught them anywhere from the mangrove creeks in 'Ding' Darling during the windy times and around all our local passes when conditions allowed. Docks in canal mouths and along the intercoastal also had lots of these tasty fish on them. Moving current was the key to which docks held fish and which docks did not.

Coolers full of sheepshead made it to the fillet table all week along with a few black drum and a redfish or two.

During calm periods, nearshore wrecks and reefs are hard to beat for a great mixed bag of action. Large sheepshead, grunts and snapper can all be caught fishing close to the bottom. Look for feeding birds while making the run out to these wrecks, and you will find the Spanish mackerel. Stone crab pots are also worth checking out for tripletail if conditions are right. Most of the reports of tripletail I have had this last few cold weeks have come from out in the 40-foot range. As water temperatures rise, these tripletail will be found much closer in. Many of the more well-known wrecks and reefs, including the causeway reef, May reef and Edison reef, are all worth dropping a bait down on. Fishing right on the heavy structure is the key to this.

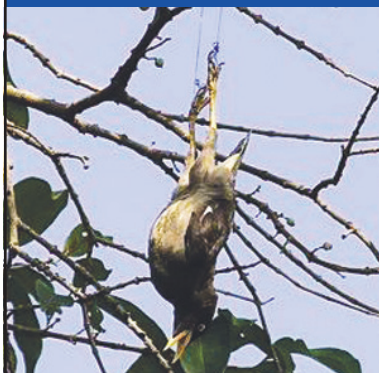
Although I do enjoy sheepshead fishing, my favorite winter fishing is catching snook on live shiners. With this bite almost being totally shut down by the cold water, I can't wait for these fish to turn back on. Warming water temperatures will fire these fish up, I expect this bite to go nuts deep in the mangrove creek systems at first then in the deeper creek mouths as the water temperature gets to 70 degrees for the first time since January 1st.

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.



Bradley Agerton with a sheepshead caught this week while fishing around the passes with Capt. Matt Mitchell
photo provided

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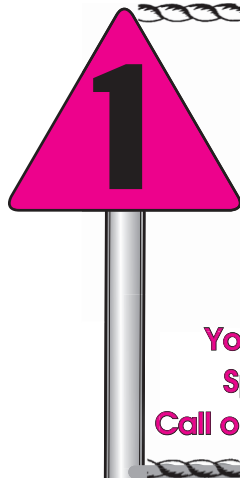
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Dave Doane

Beach Walk With Bird Patrol Guide

On Saturday, February 17, experience the beautiful birds of Bunche Beach with a bird patrol guide. Provided in cooperation with Lee County Parks and Recreation, the Bunche Beach beachfront walk begins at 7:30 a.m. and is free with paid parking. Participants meet on the beach located in South Fort Myers, off Summerlin Road. Drive south of John Morris Road until it dead ends.

Bunche Beach is excellent for both migrant and resident waders and shorebirds working the mudflats at low tide due to the diversity of micro-invertebrates. Participants may also see waterfowl, raptors and warblers.

Bring binoculars, sun protection, shoes that can get wet, a bottle of drinking water, your curiosity and love of nature.

For more information, call 707-3015 or visit www.birdpatrol.org.

Garden Day At Lakes Park

The Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation will present Lakes Park Garden Day, a morning of free education and celebration of all things gardening, at the park on Saturday, February 17 from 8 a.m. to noon.

A full morning of activities is planned for garden enthusiasts of all ages, including two special presentations to take place at the park's Train Museum. Author Charles Sobczak will talk about The Great Florida Invasion – From Pepper to Pythons and the “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society will present the award-winning documentary *Seed: The Untold Story*.

The Community Garden will provide garden-related refreshments as they present What to Plant Now in SW Florida and Butterfly Gardening in SW Florida, both taught by Master Gardener Adrienne Diaz. There will be a plant sale in the Fragrance Garden featuring specimens propagated in the new potting area. In the Children's Garden, Happy Dolphin Press will lead activities for parent-accompanied kids.

Garden tours will be conducted by Roy Beckford and Ramdas Kanissery, both from the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agriculture. The EZ Rider tour vehicle will be making continuous loops of the Botanic Gardens. Other education partners for the day's activities include Conservation 20/20, the Florida Native Plant Society and the Southwest Florida Orchid Society of Fort Myers.

This event is free and open to the public. Free parking is available by checking in on the day of the event at the Children's Garden archway; otherwise parking is \$1 per hour or \$5 per day. Lee County annual parking stickers are accepted.

The Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation, a non-profit organization that raises funds to enrich the park

with projects, has a focus to assist Lee County Parks & Recreation in the continued implementation of the \$30 million Lakes Park Master Plan, enhancing the park's environmental aesthetics, wildlife habitat and recreational amenities.

Lakes Regional Park is located at 7330 Gladiolus Drive in Fort Myers. Visit www.lakespark.org for more information.

Weather And Forecasting Class

Peace River Sail and Power Squadron will be offering a Weather and Forecasting Course at the Bayfront Center classroom beginning on Monday, February 19. For four weeks, classes will be held twice a week on Mondays and Thursdays from 9:30 a.m. to noon.

The course will answer many weather-related questions. The complex subject of weather is presented in a way that is both understandable and useful. Topics include: what causes weather; how weather systems move; why winds blow; what clouds tell us; how storms and fronts create foul weather; and why fog forms.

Seating is limited. Cost is \$65 for USPS members and \$120 for non-members.

The Bayfront Center classroom is located at 750 West Retta Esplanade in Punta Gorda. To register, or for more information, contact JoAnne Jamrose at 941-575-7793 or email jjamrose@hotmail.com.

Spiny Lobster Trap Tag Fees Waived

As commercial fishermen and women begin to purchase their spiny lobster trap tags, this is a reminder that the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has waived the \$1 per trap spiny lobster trap tag fee for the 2018-19 season. This waiver was approved at the December 2017 commission meeting as an action in response to Hurricane Irma.

“Our hearts go out to the men and women who were impacted by Hurricane Irma,” said Jessica McCawley, director of the FWC's Division of Marine Fisheries Management. “The commercial spiny lobster industry was severely impacted through the loss of traps during the height of the season. We hope this waiver will help the industry, which is one of the most economically important fisheries in Florida, get back to work.”

The commercial spiny lobster season is open from August 6 through March 31 annually. While the tag fee for the 2018-19 spiny lobster season is waived, commercial harvesters do need to submit the order for the tags and affix them to their traps prior to the August opening.

To access the Commercial Licensing System and to learn more, visit www.MyFWC.com/CLS.



Native false tamarind is a wildlife-friendly shade tree with feathery foliage

photo by Gerri Reaves

Plant Smart

False Tamarind

by Gerri Reaves

False tamarind (*Lysiloma latisiliquum*) is native to much of the Caribbean and to southernmost Florida. In fact, this member of the pea family is native to no other U.S. state.

In the wild, it grows in pinelands, hammocks and even on coastal strands, functioning as a “pioneer” species that quickly grows and creates canopied habitat for other species.

Long-lived and fast-growing, it grows up to 60-feet tall. The wide umbrella-like crown and arching zig-zag branches of feathery foliage make it a good shade tree.

Bipinnate, or twice-divided, leaves of up to seven inches long have three to five opposite pinna, or leaflets.

Those leaflets each have up to 20 paired leaflets of less than one-half inch long, thus the foliage's fern-like appearance.

In Florida's southernmost regions, the tree is evergreen.

Fragrant greenish white or creamy flowers bloom in spring, occurring singly or in groups. They resemble powder puffs and measure less than an inch across. Their 15 to 20 stamens converge into a tube.

The twisted papery pods are five to eight inches long and rather flat. They

darken with age and remain on the tree in winter, splitting open to reveal the black seeds.

The bark of younger trees is smooth, but older trees develop darker trunks with large scales.

This species provides food and cover for wildlife, particularly Florida tree snails (*Liguus fasciatus*), and attracts birds such as warblers, gnatcatchers, redstarts and flycatchers.

It is the larval host plant for several butterflies – cassius blue (*Leptotes cassius*), large orange sulphur (*Phoebis agarithe*) and mimosa yellow (aka Jamaican Sulphur) (*Eurema nise*) – and a nectar source for several others, including cassius blue and mangrove skipper (*Phocides pigmalion*).

This tree prefers full sun, well-drained soil, and plenty of room.

It has high drought tolerance but low salt tolerance. Overall, it requires little maintenance, but is subject to several pests.

Propagate it with the seeds.

Sources: *Florida Plant for Wildlife* by Craig N. Huegel, *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants* by Rufino Osorio, *Growing Native* by Richard W. Workman, *Native Florida Plants* by Robert G. Haehle and Joan Brookwell, www.fnps.org, lee.ifas.ufl.edu, and www.regionalconservation.org.

Plant Smart explores the diverse flora of South Florida.

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New Officials For Real Estate Group

The Real Estate Investment Society (REIS) recently elected new officials to lead the organization during 2018. They are President Bev Larson, CCIM, of Lahaina Realty; Vice President Alexis Crespo, AICP, of Waldrop Engineering; Treasurer Mary Gentile, CSM, CRX, of LandQwest Property Management, LLC; and Secretary Bill Morris, PE, of Morris-Depew Associates.

The Board of Governors includes Jason Brewer of BB&T; David Fry, of The Place On First; Tim Hancock, AICP, of Stantec; Travis Merrick of GFA International; Mark Morris of VIP – Commercial; Lori Moore of Roetzel & Andress; and Kent Poli of Busey Bank. The immediate past president, Karen Miller, of GHD Services, remains on the board.

The Real Estate Investment Society is an independent organization, dedicated to assisting members in the effective utilization of real estate through networking, education, public service and a common voice on pertinent issues. The



Seated from left, President Bev Larson, Vice President Alexis Crespo, Treasurer Mary Gentile and Secretary Bill Morris. Standing from left, Governors Mark Morris, Travis Merrick, David Fry, Jason Brewer, Lori Moore, Tim Hancock and Kent Poli.

photo provided

membership represents a broad spectrum of real estate, environmental, financial, legal, design, construction, marketing and management companies.

REIS luncheon meetings convene at Pelican Preserve in Fort Myers at 11:30 a.m. on the second Tuesday of each month to network and discuss current

civic and business issues affecting the commercial real estate and development industry. For more information, visit www.reis-swfl.org.✱✱

Life Insurance

Some Things You May Need To Know



J. Brendan Ryan, CLU, ChFC, MSFS

I regularly answer questions from readers and clients. Many of the answers can be of general interest to current and prospective policyowners. Here are some of those topics.

What should we consider when doing long-range planning for care for my mother?

Finances are an important consideration but only part of the picture. Regarding finances, can mom afford to pay for her future care out of her own assets? Will some other person step on to help financially? Should she look into insurance or resign herself to getting on Medicaid when the time comes? If she can afford insurance, should she get a stand-alone policy or an asset-based policy tied to life insurance or an annuity?

Other critical questions include who will provide any home health care before she may have to move to assisted living or a nursing home. If a family member, should he or she be compensated? What about independent living in a group setting? What will come of dad when mom has to move to another setting? Will he stay at home, move in with a relative, or downsize and move to a smaller place?

All this and more should be discussed among family members, including mom and dad, well in advance of the need.

My father's life insurance has been put on "reduced paid-up." What does that mean?

Your father bought whole-life insurance and paid for it over the years. At some

point, he decided that he did not want to pay the premiums anymore. But he did not want to cash it in and end all the death benefit. So, he said to the insurer, "I do not want to pay anymore but do not need the cash value. What can you do for me?" The option he chose was to allow the policy's death benefit to be permanently reduced to a fixed amount. No further premium will be required and, at his death, the reduced amount will be paid to the beneficiary. The cash value will still be available for loan or withdrawal.

If there was a loan outstanding when he did this, the loan still remains until he pays it off, if ever. If he dies before paying it off, the insurer will simply deduct the amount of the loan from the death benefit. In the meantime, ongoing interest charges will still be due. These can be paid by check, automatic loan from the cash value or use of available dividends.

He could have selected the "extended term insurance" option. Here, the full death benefit would remain in force and unchanged for a given number of years and days. If he died within the specified period, the full death benefit would be paid. If he lived one minute beyond that period, nothing would be paid. No loan or surrender is available here.

When my mother died recently, we submitted a death claim to her life insurance company. Rather than sending us a check, they sent a checkbook. What's up with that?

Many insurers are doing that now, sometimes called a "wallet." They consider it a service to the grieving beneficiary, who may not be in a position or frame of mind or emotional state to handle a large amount of money. (Many grieving beneficiaries are defrauded by rapacious relatives or con men.) The insurers do this with the commitment to send the full death benefit to the beneficiary upon request. This can be a useful way to protect the funds in a period of strain.

Also, remember that the policyowner could have specified before death to pay the money out in some fashion other than a lump sum. One option available to

the owner is to have the insurer hold the funds at interest and just pay the interest as earned to the beneficiary for some finite number of years. In this way, it can act like a "poor man's trust," though much less flexible than a trust.

J. Brendan Ryan is a Cincinnati insurance agent. He can be reached at jbryanclu@aol.com.✱✱

Airport Reports Record-Breaking Year-End Traffic

During December, 873,494 passengers traveled through Southwest Florida International Airport in Fort Myers, an increase of 3.9 percent compared to December 2016. Year-end passenger traffic was up 2.8 percent compared to last year.

"December 2017 was the best December in the 35-year history of the airport and our performance for the year exceeded all expectations to be a historic best with 8,842,549 passengers," said Jeff Mulder, AAE, executive director of the Lee County Port Authority. "Passenger growth at RSW indicates the appeal for travel to Southwest Florida, and we appreciate the support of our airline partners in adding new markets and increasing flight schedules to meet this demand."

The traffic leader in December was Delta Air Lines with 149,976 passengers traveling to and from Fort Myers. Rounding out the top five airlines were Southwest (145,615), American (115,747), Spirit (108,201) and JetBlue (105,066).

Southwest Florida International Airport had 8,008 aircraft operations, a decrease of 1.2 percent compared to December 2016. Page Field saw 7,289 operations, a 16.1 percent decrease from December 2016. In addition, nearly 3.5 million pounds of air freight moved through Southwest Florida International Airport in December 2017.

Southwest Florida International Airport served more than 8.8 million passengers in 2017 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.✱✱

Symposium For Condo Members

Board members of Southwest Florida condo and homeowner associations will have an opportunity to quiz the experts at a free event at Plantation Golf & Country Club on Friday, February 16 from 9:30 a.m. until noon.

Participants on the panel of experts include representatives from KW Property Management & Consulting; Forge Engineering; Becker & Poliakoff, Attorneys at Law; Stroemer & Company, CPAs; BB&T/ Oswald Trippe Insurance; and IberiaBank.

The symposium is limited to board members of condo and homeowner associations only, and it includes a complimentary continental breakfast. There is no cost to attend. Send an RSVP to Roy Hyman, business development manager with KW Property Management & Consulting, at rhyman@kwpmc.com or 887-1701.

"Board members will have an opportunity to ask questions from experts on condo and homeowner associations in six different fields: property management, engineering, law, accounting, insurance and banking," says Hyman. "Having the leading experts in one room will give association board members top-notch professional advice and insights into best practices and real case studies. This is a must-attend event for anyone who holds a board position with a homeowner association."

Plantation Golf & Country Club is located at 10500 Darlington Drive in Fort Myers. For more information, contact Roy Hyman at 887-1701 or rhyman@kwpmc.com.✱✱

The Cottage Selected For National Evaluation



Cypress Cove at HealthPark Florida Health Services Director David Gray, left, and Cypress Cove Executive Director Michele Wasserlauf, far right, conduct a tour of the Life Plan Community's memory care facility, The Cottage at Cypress Cove, with members of the Society for the Advancement of Gerontological Environments' (SAGE) Post-Occupancy Evaluation team. photo courtesy Cypress Cove

Cypress Cove at HealthPark Florida's nationally acclaimed assisted living memory care neighborhood, The Cottage, has been chosen as the nation's first memory care facility to undergo an extensive evaluation by the Society for the Advancement of Gerontological Environments (SAGE). The Michigan-based organization collected research regarding community designs that provide the best concepts in resident lifestyle living. This information will be distributed throughout the nation's senior housing industry.

The 40,000-square feet of the state-of-the-art Cottage at Cypress Cove was selected by SAGE as the first memory care evaluation site to have its facility design and programming techniques reviewed. A noted six-member team of experts in senior living design toured The Cottage – evaluating every aspect of the two-story facility's four 11-resident households, including common areas such as its lush outdoor tropical garden and its back-of-the-house support facilities.

SAGE selected The Cottage at Cypress Cove from among hundreds of national memory care facilities because its ground-breaking designs as a

memory care facility. In 2017, architects of the newly opened memory care facility won SAGE's national Award of Merit for design. Information submitted during the award-review process is being used as cross reference material by the evaluation team for determining the effects of the facility design and its specialized person-centered care on resident comfort and behavior.

"We are honored to have been selected as SAGE's first evaluation site," says Michele Wasserlauf, executive director of the 48-acre Life Plan Community in Fort Myers. "Since opening, The Cottage has received outstanding reviews for its unique and innovative home-like environment where the dignity and well-being of residents are met in the highest of quality. The households' design, purposely built for residents with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia, has allowed our staff to provide wonderfully fresh person-centered care to residents in our four 11-apartment neighborhoods and also gives those residents a sense of personal freedom. We are thrilled with an opportunity to support the evaluation of an industry seeking even better approaches to serving those who suffer from loss of memory."✱✱

LCEC: Center Of Excellence

Lee County Electric Cooperative (LCEC) has been recognized as a Certified Center of Excellence for the fifth consecutive year by BenchmarkPortal (BMP), the industry leader in contact center benchmarking, certification, training, assessments, industry reports and custom consulting.

The Center of Excellence recognition is one of the most prestigious awards in the customer service and support industry. Contact centers achieve the Center of Excellence distinction based on best-practice metrics drawn from the world's largest database of objective and quantitative data that is audited and validated by researchers from BMP.

Center of Excellence recognitions include companies like MetLife, Mayo Clinic, New York Life, Samsung and GE.✱✱



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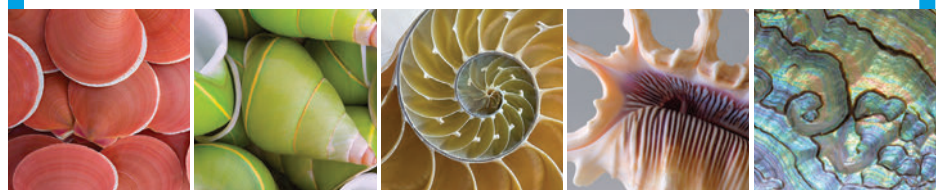


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Sponsor Reception Held For New Exhibit



From left, Bob Platt, Myra Roberts and Wes Roberts photos provided

LYNQ restaurant hosted a sponsor reception for renowned Sanibel artist Myra Roberts' Dream Peace exhibition on January 30. The exhibit, which will be on view at the Sidney



Roxane Olevsky and Paul DiBenedetto

& Berne Davis Art Center in Fort Myers through February 24, features more than 60 pieces: paintings and multi-media found object installations, including talking suitcases that play audio fragments of conversations with Roberts' subjects. The exhibit ranges from Roberts' lighthearted, vintage-inspired beach scenes to the Holocaust, Sandy Hook and the Armenian genocide.*



From left, Mark Mayquade, Ellen Mayeron and Janet Strickland



Jim and Denise Carr



Myra Roberts and Elizabeth Grimm

New CEO At Edison Estates

The Edison & Ford Winter Estates board of trustees and executive search committee has selected Michael A. Flanders as the organization's new president and CEO. Flanders has a long history with Edison Ford and has strategic planning and historic preservation experience. He has lived in Southwest Florida most of his life and has built important relationships with community and public officials that will be beneficial to Edison Ford. He will officially start his new position on Monday, February 12.

"Mr. Flanders is talented and experienced in science, horticulture, government, art, architecture and master site planning," said Lee Golden, chairman of the board of trustees. "His experience and trusted relationships will be valuable to the estates for moving forward with the organization's immediate goals and long-range master plan."

Flanders has 30 years of master site planning experience and was instrumental in the revitalization of the downtown Fort Myers historic district with the design and construction of the downtown streetscape. He also has 33 years of experience designing architecture compatible with the Southwest Florida environment and experience working with preserving historic designations.



Michael A. Flanders photo provided

"I am proud to accept the honor of becoming the new president and CEO of such an important organization in our community," said Flanders. "I look forward to working with the staff to create partnerships and collaborate in many ways with the community."

Flanders graduated from Fort Myers High School, has a bachelor of design degree from the University of Florida and a master of architecture degree from Virginia Polytechnic Institute. He has owned an architectural firm in historic downtown Fort Myers since 1984.*

Visioning Workshop For San Carlos Island

Lee County is holding a visioning workshop for residents and businesses of San Carlos Island at the AMI Kids Southwest Florida on Saturday, February 10 at 10 a.m.

The visioning workshop is to define and update the community planning goals for San Carlos Island within the Lee Plan as the county looks to the year 2040.

At the workshop, Lee County Community Development staff will begin by providing an overview of basic background information relevant to the Lee Plan, the community plans and the visioning event. After the short informational segment, guided group discussions will help to identify future opportunities and constraints on San Carlos Island.

A community plan is a goal in the Lee Plan specific to a defined area of the county where long-term objectives of the community and policies to meet these objectives are identified. There are 17 distinct community planning areas identified in the Lee Plan.

The Lee Plan requires certain day-to-day public and private activities be consistent with the goals, objectives and policies in the adopted plan. It is a source of authority for the local government's land development regulations and for an array of official discretionary actions

including but not limited to the capital improvement program. The Lee Plan represents the community's vision of what it will or should look like by the end of the planning horizon.

The purpose of community plans is to address specific conditions unique to a defined area of the county. Conditions may be physical, architectural, historical, environmental, or economic in nature. All amendments will move through the normal process required to amend the Lee Plan with opportunities for public input – one hearing with the Local Planning Agency and two hearings with the Board of County Commissioners (transmittal and adoption).

AMI Kids Southwest Florida is located at 1190 Main Street on Fort Myers Beach. For more information visit www.leegov.com/dcd/planning/cp/sancarlosisland or contact sancarlosisland@leegov.com.*

Coding And App Club

Four Freedoms Park will host a Coding & App Club for ages 6 to 12 on Tuesdays from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$45.

The class is presented by Super Science & Amazing Art. Children will design apps, games and websites, and will play chess and strategy games. There is no class on March 20.

Four Freedoms Park is located at 4818 Tarpon Court in Cape Coral. For more information, call 574-0804.*



Chuck Myron

photo provided

Marketing Firm Hires Editor

CONRIC PR & Marketing has named Chuck Myron communications editor. He brings a wealth of experience in national and Southwest Florida media as a writer, editor, author and digital content producer.

Myron will spearhead editorial content for *Res Gestae*, the monthly magazine of the Lee County Bar Association, as well as write and edit press releases, blogs, social media posts

and more. He'll use his understanding of the evolving language of engagement to craft and hone messages for CONRIC's varied and growing portfolio of clients.

"Words are everything, particularly in the Information Age," Myron said. "They can enlighten, encourage, embolden, empower and enrich. The most important word in business is 'team.' You have to be greater than the sum of your parts to compete in today's world. And what attracted me the most to CONRIC is its fundamental belief in the team concept. You can tell by the quality of the work here that everyone is moving in concert toward the same goal."

Myron previously worked for WINK-TV and *The News-Press*, as well as Trade Rumors, a national sports media company. He is one of two co-authors of *Hits and Misses in the Baseball Draft: What the Top Picks Teach Us About Selecting Tomorrow's Major League Stars*, published in 2014 by McFarland & Company. He's performed public relations for a U.S. House campaign, a political advocacy group, a software company and many others. He graduated from East Tennessee State University with a bachelor of arts in mass communications.

"Creative, compelling and accurate copywriting is at the heart of every marketing, advertising and public relations campaign we develop at CONRIC, and Chuck Myron's vast experience and positive attitude made him the perfect candidate for the role of communications editor on our growing CONRIC team," said Connie Ramos-Williams, CONRIC PR & Marketing's president and chief marketing officer.*

Law Firm To Lead Construction Conference

Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt will serve as host law firm for the 2018 Florida Law Alliance Winter Construction Conference at the Holiday Inn at Fort Myers Airport-Town Center on Friday, February 16. The full-day event begins with registration and continental breakfast at 7:30 a.m.

Speakers from Fort Myers, Jacksonville, Orlando, Pensacola and Tampa will provide legal updates to those involved in the construction industry. Attorney Michael Corso, chair of Henderson Franklin's Tort & Insurance Litigation Division, will serve as moderator.

Topics and speakers include:

Hot Topics and Defense Strategies in Construction Defect Litigation, presented by J. Matthew Belcastro, Esq. (Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, PA)

Mediating Construction Cases, presented by Joseph Amos, Esq. (Fisher Rushmer) and David W. Henry, Esq. (Marshall Dennehey Warner Coleman and Goggin)

Causes of Action and Damages in

Construction Defect Disputes: Current Issues and Developments, presented by Michael Bittner, Esq. (Marks Gray)

Best Practices Defending/Deposing Corporate Representatives in Construction Cases, presented by Michael J. Schofield, Esq. (Clark Partington)

Best Practices for Handling OSHA Claims, presented by Mark Schultz, Esq. (Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, PA)

Florida Lien Law, presented by Erik Raines, Esq. (Hill Ward Henderson)

Attendees have the option to attend live, in person, or virtually by livestream. Registration is \$35 per person for in person or virtual attendees.

For more information on the seminar or to register, visit www.floridalawalliance.com or contact Gail Lamarche, Henderson Franklin's director of marketing and business development, at gail.lamarche@henlaw.com or 344-1186.

The Florida Law Alliance is a group of independent law firms practicing throughout Florida that have combined their knowledge, efforts and resources.

Holiday Inn at Fort Myers Airport-Town Center is located at 9931 Interstate Commerce Drive in Fort Myers.

For more information, visit www.floridalawalliance.com.*

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2017 scholarship winners attending Uncommon Evening

photo provided

Applications for UFF Scholarships

The Uncommon Friends Foundation (UFF) is now accepting applications for its 2018 student scholarships, which will be awarded to deserving individuals – including veterans, single parents and the disabled – who are pursuing degrees in education, law, technology, healthcare and other studies. The deadline for nominations is April 1. Nominees must reside in Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Glades, or Hendry counties, need financial assistance, excel in school and/or their personal

lives, and possess high quality character traits. Scholarships vary in application requirements and commitments, duration and financial amounts, educational programs, and institutions. Visit www.uncommonfriends.org/scholarships/opportunities/ for scholarship application forms and specific requirements of each scholarship. Completed applications and/or any questions should be directed to scholarships@uncommonfriends.org. Winners will be announced by early summer and will be honored at the Uncommon Friends Foundation's Uncommon Evening on Thursday, November 8. Uncommon Friends Foundation board

member Brenda Stewart will again chair the scholarship committee that includes volunteers and community service organizations. Over the past 22 years, the Foundation has awarded nearly 500 educational scholarships totaling hundreds of thousands of dollars. Uncommon Friends Foundation 2018 Scholarship Award Categories: James F. Chelius, Jr. Scholarship for Disabled Students (\$1,000) – For any age student with a disability such as dyslexia, hearing, sight, physical, epilepsy, and cerebral palsy who has ambition and positive character traits. Hilliard Scholarships (\$4,000) – Two, two-year scholarships for high school

Inventors Fair Awards Recipients

Sixty-six students received scholarships or awards at the 31st annual Thomas A. Edison Festival of Light Regional Inventors Fair Awards Ceremony held at Edison Park Creative and Expressive Arts School 8 on January 20. Student exhibitors at the event were judged on originality, usefulness, safety, research, marketability, presentation and business planning. The winner of a two year scholarship from Florida Southwestern State College was announced. The James and Eleanor Newton scholarship through the Southwest Florida Community Foundation bestowed a \$4,000 scholarship to a middle school student. Several thousands of dollars in product prizes from Sony Electronics were handed out. Awards and ribbons for 4th, 3rd, 2nd and 1st place winners for grade levels K-12 will be conferred. Special Category Awards are made to exceptional inventions with the use of specific criteria set by the donor of the special category awards. Best Of Fair and Edison Festival of Light Grand Parade Honored Riders: Abigail Kohler – Shower Shield - Rayma C. Page Elementary; Autumn Rhodes - Aero-Pressure Phones - Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School; Cassandra Goss – To Save a Life-Visual Translation – Home-school (High School) Southwest Florida Community Foundation - James & Eleanor Newton

\$4,000 Scholarship (designated for a middle school student): Autumn Rhodes - Aeronautical Safety Module - Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle School Florida Southwestern State College Two Year Academic Scholarship (Senior Student): Jordan Brown – Athletes Monitor - Mariner High The Edison Festival of Light Scholarship Awards: \$2,000 EFL Scholarship - 12th Grade: Cassandra Goss - To Save a Life-Visual Translation - Lehigh Senior High; \$1,000 EFL Scholarship - 11th Grade: Katlyn Hines - Moody Wheels - Mariner High Sony Electronics Personal Product Awards – high-end cameras, WiFi speakers and headphones were handed out to participants recognized for significant merit. The 48 total product awards, valued at over \$10,000, will also be given to select participants in the Kiwanis Science and Engineering Fair on February 24th at that awards ceremony. IMAG History and Science Center (Imaginarium) Young Innovators Award (four passes to the Imaginarium): Amelia Sevest - Bogart's Bath Catnip Shampoo - Lehigh Elementary; Max Lepa Wet - Umbrella Window Rack - Allen Park Elementary SuperScienceFL Summer Camp Elementary Student Awards (attendance to One Week of Summer Camp Programs): Lila Dinkel - Mosaic Moving System - St Michael Lutheran; Jaris Allison - Walk on Water - Lehigh Elementary Edison Innovators Association Awards: \$100 Most Practical & Prototype: Sammuel Lima – Step Stool - Tanglewood

Elementary; \$50 Awards to: Runner up Best Prototype - Valerie Hernandez – 8 Cups in 8 Hours - Lehigh Elementary; Best Hurricane Innovation - Tavon Turner – Zip Screen - Gulf Middle; Most Marketable - Owen King – Checkered Flag Trading Cards -Pinewoods Elementary; Best Logbook - Rex Swank – The Freedom Fixer - Lehigh Elementary; Best Life Style - Brooklyn Alvarez – Nightlight Umbrella - River Hall Elementary; Health - Callie Spusa – Epi Tracker - Allen Park Elementary Fort Myers Kiwanis Humanitarian Scholarship: (\$100) Taylor Whitney –Stable Table - The Alva School; (\$50 each) Maxon Palumba - Sittin' Scooper - Pinewoods Elementary; Jeffrey Estes - Leg Walker - Pinewoods Elementary; Faith Farnsworth - Sure Sight Mobility System- The Alva School Seminole Gulf Railway - Advancement of Transportation Award: 1st Place (\$100) - Colton Botwick -Sinkhole Pipe Prevention - Trafalgar Middle; Runner ups \$25: Savanna Truax - Transportation Tags - Skyline Elementary; Samaira Sethi - Mess Less - Rayma C. Page Elementary CIO STEM Awards: Elementary Winner - Anthony Fantauzzo - Wound Warrior - Crestwell; Middle School Winner - Tavon Turner - Zip Screen - Gulf Middle; High School Winner - Katlyn Hines - Moody Wheels - Mariner Florida Power & Light Award – Energy Efficiency/Conservation: (Two \$100 awards) Jacob Flynn - Power Saver - G Weaver Hipples Elementary; Charlotte Swank - Electro Pure - Lehigh Elementary (\$50 awards) Jonah Dupre - Storm

seniors residing in either Glades or Hendry Counties to attend FGCU. Florida Prepaid College Foundation Scholarship – Covers two years of state college tuition and fees for a freshman or sophomore who meets specific conditions and stays free of drugs and crime. Special Recognition Scholarship – Three scholarships for any age student to help defray cost of books or education for one semester. Technical College Scholarship – For any age student to help defray tuition, books and supplies at a technical college. Berne Davis Future Teacher Scholarship (\$5,000) – For a student enrolled in a program leading to a degree in education. Single Parent Scholarship (\$1,000) – For a deserving single parent who has overcome difficult obstacles to further their education and gain skills to enter the workforce. Lee County Bar Association Scholarship (\$1,000) – For a student who is enrolled in, or intends to pursue, a program leading to a law degree to help defray tuition, books and supplies at a Florida college. Veteran's Scholarship (\$1,000) – For a deserving veteran of any age to help defray the costs of books or education. Health Sciences Scholarship (\$1,000) – For any age student working toward a degree in a health field (nursing, dental hygiene, technologist, or therapist) to help defray cost of books or education. For more information, visit www.uncommonfriends.org or call UFF Executive Director Jennifer Nelson at 337-9503.✧

Stopper - River Hall Elementary IMAG History and Science Center (Imaginarium) Young Innovators Award (four passes to the Imaginarium): Amelia Sevest - Bogart's Bath Catnip Shampoo - Lehigh Elementary; Max Lepa Wet - Umbrella Window Rack - Allen Park Elem Doug MacGregor's Framed Event Posters – All grade-level 1st place winners receive an original Doug MacGregor poster cartoon. Edison Festival of Light Inventors Fair participants will be recognized at the Fort Myers Miracle Night at the Park baseball game on April 28. Students will be receiving free tickets and have access to the field. GHN, Inc. Health & Medical Awards: Callie Spusa - Epi Tracker- Allen Park Elementary; Santino Pasquale - Cellular Epi Pen - Tanglewood Elementary; Nicholas Sheehy - Headache Hat- Diplomat Elementary; Anthony Fantauzzo - Wound Warrior - Crestwell; Jordan Brown - Athletes Monitor - Mariner High Caloosa Veterinary Medical Society Awards - Advancement of Animal Welfare: Abrianna Seibert - Clucker Armor - Murdock Middle School; Maryah Maldonado - Panther Alert - Gateway Elementary; Reid Spicker - Panther Guard - Gateway Elementary 2018 Regional Inventors Fair 'Raise the Bar' Teacher of Distinction: Skyline Elementary teacher Laura Rice for her exemplary efforts to support the program throughout fourth grade, provide mentorship and perform as a Past Regional Inventors Fair School coordinator.✧

Wildlife Refuge Scholarships Application Nears

Application deadline for about 14 scholarships from the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge (DDWS), ranging from \$1,000 to \$1,500 or more each, is March 31. High school seniors, college students and graduate students in or from Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry, and Glades counties pursuing degrees in environmental-related studies can apply.

The scholarships will be awarded at a special ceremony at the JN "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge in June 2018.

This is the 12th year that DDWS will be awarding scholarships. The program began in 2005 with scholarship awards in 2006 from Tarpon Bay Explorers, the refuge's official recreation concession. To date, DDWS has awarded \$90,000.

"Tarpon Bay Explorers started the program by offering two \$1,000 scholarships in 2005," said DDWS executive director Birgie Miller. "When four applicants turned out to be highly deserving, they doubled their commitment that year. Through the years, co-owner Wendy Schnapp has increased her annual contribution to \$5,000 and has awarded 41 scholarships. We applaud Tarpon Bay's commitment to conservation education,



Some of the DDWS 2017 scholarship winners with Education Committee chair Wendy Kindig (far left) and DDWS associate director Sarah Lathrop (far right) photo provided

always generous support of the refuge, and effective seeding of a program that now annually awards up to \$15,000 to local students."

Interested students can find more information and printable application forms at www.dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/student-scholarships.

It is still possible to honor friends and family members with a conservation scholarship in their name. To learn more, please contact Birgie Miller at 472-1100 ext. 4 or director@dingdarlingsociety.org.

Named scholarships to date for

2018 include: Richard Bailey Memorial Scholarships (2 scholarships); Mike and Terry Baldwin Scholarship; Dr. Andrew and Laura Dahlem Scholarship; Dr. H. Randall Deming Scholarship for Conservation and Environmental Studies, a permanently endowed scholarship; Hans & Leslie Fleischner Scholarship (2 scholarships); Mary Elaine Jacobson Memorial Scholarship; Francine Litofsky Scholarship; Tarpon Bay Explorers Scholarships (4 scholarships); and Jane Werner Environmental Scholarship, a permanently endowed scholarship.✪

Open House Week At FSW

Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) will host its Spring 2018 Open House Week from February 26 to March 1 at all locations. The open house at the Thomas Edison (Lee) Campus in Fort Myers is scheduled for Tuesday, February 27 from 3 to 5:30 p.m.

Prospective students, their families and community members are invited to attend an open house to see what the college has to offer. Faculty, staff and current students will be available to answer questions and provide campus tours. A limited term promotional code will be provided to open house guests to waive the admissions application fee to FSW following the event.

"Students can attend our open houses to learn more about FSW's academic programs, campus life, student support services, athletics and our unique educational opportunities," said Amber McCown, FSW director of admissions. "The first step to enrolling at FSW is to complete an application for admission, but students are often hesitant to apply because of the application fee. Prospective students who attend one of our open house events will have the opportunity to apply for admission to FSW free of charge."

FSW is located at 8099 College Parkway in Fort Myers. Register in advance at www.FSW.edu/openhouse.✪

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Spring Training Will Begin Despite Many Unsigned Free Agents



by Ed Frank

The baseball Spring Training equipment trucks have been loaded and are on their way to Florida and Arizona. But the big question is what about the more than 100 free agents who hadn't signed contracts early this week? In the quietest, strangest off-season, there are many reasons about not signing free agents given by baseball owners, even though pitchers and catchers are scheduled to report to camps on Wednesday, February 14.

One agent, Brodie Van Wagemenwag, was even quoted in the *Chicago Tribune* saying free agents might have to boycott Spring Training to force owners and general managers to come to the table. That threat was immediately downplayed by many in baseball. At the time of this writing, the Boston Red Sox still hadn't signed their No. 1 prospect, slugger JD Martienz. Top free against pitchers Yu Darvish and Jake Arrietz also remained unsigned.

There are other theories for the signing delays: There will be a banner crop of free agents next year – Bryce Harper, Manny Machado, and others. So maybe teams want to save their dollars this year.

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred agreed. At last week's owners meeting, he said "Every [free-agent] market is different. There's different players, different quality of players, different GMs, different decisions, a new basic agreement, different agents who had particular prominence in a particular market in terms of who they represent."

Rest assured, however, there will be springing baseball soon at JetBlue Park and CenturyLink Sports Complex.

Everblades Cling To First Place

The Florida Everblades hockey team started this week with a four-point first-place lead over South Carolina. The team is home this weekend at Germain Areen hosting Allentown Friday and Saturday nights.✱

Red Sox Celebrity Classic

Boston Red Sox fans and Golisano Children's Hospital supporters are invited to take part in the 25th annual Boston Red Sox Children's Hospital Celebrity Classic at Forest Country Club in south Fort Myers on Friday, February 16. Golfers and sponsors will have the unique opportunity to golf with their favorite Red Sox players and other sports celebrities while supporting the pediatric behavioral health initiative at Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida.

This year's classic marks the silver anniversary of the Red Sox, Lee Health Foundation and The Forest Country Club working together to raise money for local children. On Thursday evening, February 15, golfers and non-golfers alike are invited to the Boston "Tee" Party in the "Forest's Enchanted Fenway." There will

be food, music, cocktails and a chance to bid on Red Sox-themed packages and autographed memorabilia, getaway vacations, dining excursions and other items. Cost for the Tee Party is \$75 per person.

On Friday, February 16, Red Sox stars and golfers will hit the links. There will be a luncheon, on-course refreshments and contests, golf awards and dinner following play. Single golf slots are available for \$400 and include admission to the Tee Party. Foursomes (three golfers and celebrity) start at \$1,400.

JetBlue Airways is also offering a chance drawing for two roundtrip tickets anywhere they fly to help raise money for this worthy cause. Tickets are \$10 each or three for \$20 and can be purchased by calling or visiting www.leehealthfoundation.org/redsox.

Major supporters of the Boston Red Sox Children's Hospital Celebrity Classic Event Series include Arthrex, Storm Smart, Yawkey Foundation, Salty Crab

Bar & Grill, Chick-Fil-A, Florida Radiology Consultants, PricewaterhouseCoopers, WebTPA, B&I Contractors and TransAmerica.

Pre-registration is required for the Tee Party and golfing. For more information, to register, or to take part in the special JetBlue Airways chance drawing, visit the website or call 214-0687. Inquiries may also be emailed to bostongolf@leehealth.org.✱

Boaters Chart Reading Class

America's Boating Club and the San Carlos Bay Sail & Power Squadron will be conducting its popular Local Waters Chart Reading class in the squadron classroom on Saturday, February 17 from 8 a.m. to noon. The class will teach students how to read local waters chart #11427. Students will learn the basics of latitude and longitude, how to find where they are, how to get to where they want to go and how to take bearings.

There is a very limited number of charts in the classroom, so students are strongly urged to bring chart #11427 to class. Charts are best purchased online from Ocean Grafix. Be sure to order the mapfold version. Cost is \$45 for a single and \$70 for two people sharing the materials. Cost includes a divider and a plotter.

San Carlos Bay Sail & Power

Squadron is located at 16048 San Carlos Boulevard in Fort Myers. Students can register online at www.SCBPS.com or call 466-4040 and leave a message.✱

GPS Seminar

Peace River Sail and Power Squadron is offering the Using GPS Seminar at the Bayfront Center YMCA on Saturday February 17 from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Cost for attending the seminar is \$35. Seating is limited; register by 5 p.m. on February 14.

GPS can get you where you need to go, but did you know you can use it to steer your boat accurately? Enhance your boating experience by getting the most out of today's feature-packed GPS devices. Learn how to store and use waypoints, build and execute routes, and monitor steering. You can also get tips on connecting your GPS to your VHF marine radio, which opens up a new world of digital hailing and distress signaling.

Topics include: what GPS does; waypoint navigation; how to operate your GPS; what the buttons do; what the screens show; how to use the key functions; how to navigate safe course; and tips on choosing a GPS that's best for you.

The Bayfront Center YMCA is located at 750 West Retta Esplanade in Punta Gorda. For more information, call 941-637-0766 or email puntagordaboating@gmail.com.✱

SPORTS QUIZ

1. When was the last time before 2016 that the Chicago Cubs won 100-plus games in a season?
2. Two major-league players each smacked a triple to reach 3,000 career hits. Name either one to do it.
3. New Orleans QB Drew Brees set a regular-season record in 2016 for most 400-yard passing games in a career. Who had he been tied with at 14 games?
4. When was the last time before 2016 (Kentucky's Malik Monk) that a player scored at least 47 points in a game against the University of North Carolina's men's basketball team?
5. The Vegas Golden Knights, in their inaugural NHL season (2017-18), set a record with an eight-game winning streak. Name either of the two teams that won five in a row in their first NHL season.
6. Who did the U.S. men's hockey team beat in the final game to secure the Olympic gold medal in 1960?
7. Brooks Koepka, in 2017, tied a men's U.S. Open record for lowest score to par (16 under) in winning the event. Who else did it?

ANSWERS

1. It was 1935 (100-54). 2. Paul Molitor in 1996, and Ichiro Suzuki in 2016. 3. Peyton Manning. 4. Duke's Dick Groat scored 48 points against North Carolina in 1952. 5. The New York Rangers (1926-27) and the Edmonton Oilers (1979-80). 6. Czechoslovakia. 7. Rory McIlroy, in 2011.

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Free Hats Off To Heroes Tickets

In conjunction with their Hats Off to Heroes program presented by John Hancock, the Boston Red Sox will offer complimentary tickets to the spring training opener – a single admission doubleheader against the Northeastern University Huskies followed by a matchup against the Boston College Eagles on Thursday, February 22 at 1:05 p.m. .

All first responders in Southwest Florida including police, sheriff, emergency medical service, fire personnel and active military will receive two free tickets with proper ID. The complimentary tickets will be available for pick up at the JetBlue Park box office, beginning February 1 through 17, on a first-come, first-serve basis, while supplies last. The JetBlue Park box office hours are Monday through Friday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

"The Red Sox' Hats Off to Heroes presented by John Hancock salutes those who protect our way of life each and every day," said Katie Haas, vice president of Florida business operations for the Boston Red Sox. "This year we wanted to thank all the first responders who worked nonstop for our Southwest Florida community during Hurricane Irma."

Hurricane Irma made a direct hit on Sunday, September 10 making landfall in Lee and Collier Counties, the spring training homes of both the Boston

Red Sox and the Minnesota Twins. Following the storm, both teams joined forces to encourage giving to help those in their spring training community through the SWFL Hurricane Irma Relief Fund. Each team donated \$100,000 to assist with Hurricane Irma relief efforts.

The Red Sox Twins Relief Fund is ongoing and being administered by the Southwest Florida Community Foundation. To donate visit www.floridacommunity.com/redsox-twins-fund/. For more information, call 226-4783 or email jbpevents@redsox.com.✱

Amberjack Season Set To Reopen May 1

The greater amberjack recreational season in gulf state waters will remain closed through April 30, and will reopen to harvest May 1 through 31 and August 1 through October 31.

Greater amberjack is overfished and undergoing overfishing, and the season has closed increasingly early in recent years due to federal quotas being met or exceeded. This new season structure will optimize recreational fishing opportunities in both the spring and fall while minimizing harvest during the spawning season, helping to rebuild the stock.

For more information, visit www.MyFWC.com/Fishing.✱

Evening With The Red Sox

This year's 13th annual Evening with the Red Sox will feature new Red Sox Manager Alex Cora and CEO Sam Kennedy at Crowne Plaza Hotel at the Bell Tower Shops on Tuesday, February 20. The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. and include an extended cocktail reception with complimentary heavy hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine, autograph signings from Red Sox players, and silent and live auctions.

Cora and Kennedy will be on hand for a special question and answer session with event attendees. The silent and live auctions will include trips to major cities, sports memorabilia packages, theme park passes, golf outings and more. A raffle for a Red Sox fan experience with a trip for four to Boston (including a two-night hotel stay and tickets for four to two games at Fenway Park including seats on the famed "Green Monster," a private VIP tour of the ballpark and on-field access) will also be available. Only 200 raffle tickets will be sold at \$50 each with all proceeds going to support the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lee County. Tickets and pre-bidding on auction items are available at www.loveleekids.org/upcoming-events.

This year's presenting sponsor is Ted Todd Insurance. Bill Banfield, the voice behind the Florida Gulf Coast University Eagles and co-host of FGCU



Alex Cora photo provided

Eagles Hotline Coaches Show on ESPN Radio 99.3, will serve as the event's auctioneer.

Sponsorships are available from \$1,500. Individual tickets are \$200 per person. Donations for auction items are also being accepted.

For more information, to register, sponsor or donate to the event, visit www.loveleekids.org/upcoming-events or contact Shannon Lane at 334-1886 or slane@bgcl.net.✱

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Dominic Dent photos provided

Ethics Case Competition Winners

The Lutgert College of Business at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) hosted its first Business Ethics Case Competition, with students Julianna Curtis and Julia Ascuia making the winning presentation of the real-time case, Allergan Sells Restasis to Mohawk Tribe: Creative I.P. Solution or Gaming the System? Students Kyle Johnson and Dominic Dent comprised the second place team.

The winning team qualified to represent FGCU at the Southeast United States Business Ethics Case Competition to be held at Stetson University on Thursday and Friday, February 22 and 23. Since Curtis



Julianna Curtis

and Ascuia will be representing FGCU Athletics as members of the women's tennis team in competition against Georgia State, the Johnson and Dent will compete in the Competition at Stetson.

One Case Competition Advisor, Dr. Eric Dent, FGCU's Uncommon Friends endowed chair professor of ethics, said, "The students all made insightful presentations in which they impressively focused on the wide range of ethical issues in this case. It was great to see how strongly they recommended that Allergan 'do the right thing.'" Judges were Helena Dabrowski, CFO of Sunshine Ace Hardware and president of the Uncommon Friends Foundation, and Drs. Ashley Mandeville and Mathew Sheep of FGCU's management department in the Lutgert College of Business.

For more information, contact Dr. Dent at edent@fgcu.edu or 590-7162.✱

Documentary Film Director To Speak At FSW

Documentary film director Michael Ramsdell will present a discussion on global citizenship, Art and Activism Across Borders: A Directors Talk, at the Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) Thomas Edison Campus on Monday, February 12 at 7 p.m.

"It is part of FSW's mission to prepare a diverse population for creative and responsible participation in a global society," said Dr. Russell Swanson, professor of philosophy. "By bringing guests such as Michael Ramsdell to the college to share his experience and provide insight on global events, we hope we will encourage others to investigate beyond their own backyards."

Ramsdell is the director of the award-winning documentary films and *The Anatomy of Hate: A Dialogue for Hope*. Prior to his appearance, screenings of both films will be held at the FSW Thomas Edison Campus.

Film screenings for *The Anatomy of Hate: A Dialogue for Hope* will take place on Tuesday, January 30 at 2 p.m. and Monday, February 5 at 3 p.m. in Building U, room 102. *When Elephants Fight* will be screened on Wednesday, January 31 at noon in Building AA, room 177 and on Thursday, February 1 at 6 p.m. in Building U, room 102.

When Elephants Fight explores the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo, which has taken the lives of almost six million Congolese in the past 15 years. Since 2001, the UN and other NGO's have reported that this conflict is being funded, in part, by Western companies, armed groups and corrupt leaders whose



Michael Ramsdell photo provided

looting and selling of Congolese minerals has created windfall profits for these unsavory players, while leaving the people of Congo the most impoverished on earth... yet this looting continues still today.

The Anatomy of Hate: A Dialogue for Hope explores groups based on hate, war and violence from around the globe. Guided by Einstein's principle that peace can only be achieved through understanding, *The Anatomy of Hate* looks to bring understanding to this topic so we can better understand how hate comes to be and, more important, how we can end it.

The directors talk and film screenings are free and open to the public. The presentation will be held in FSW's Building J, room 103, at 8099 College Parkway in Fort Myers. For more information, contact Dr. Swanson at 489-9312 or rswanson@fsw.edu.✱

Students Named To Dean's List

Emma Heussner of Fort Myers was named to the Dean's List at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Daley Cline of Fort Myers was named to the Dean's List at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Samantha Dellacroce of Fort Myers was named to the President's List at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Alina Faunce of Fort Myers was named to the Dean's List at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Mackenzie Roost of Fort Myers was named to the Dean's List at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Morgan LaRosa of Fort Myers was named to the President's List at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Olivia Stover of Fort Myers was named to the Dean's List at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Alexander Gonzalez, a business

administration major from Cape Coral, was named to the Dean's List for academic achievement during the fall 2017 semester at Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Missouri.

Yitong Sun from Fort Myers was named to the Fall 2017 Dean's List at the University at Albany in Albany, New York.

Kaytlin Goodwin of Cape Coral was recognized for achieving the Dean's Honor List at Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio.

Jaelyne Gary of Cape Coral was named to the fall 2017 semester Dean's List at the University of Hartford in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Kylie Flynn of Fort Myers was named to the Dean's List at The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina for her academic achievements during the 2017 fall semester.

Jillian E Richter of Fort Myers was named to the fall 2017 semester Dean's List at Samford University in Homewood, Alabama. Richter is a Junior Foods and Nutrition (CP) major.

Zachary Yankovich of Fort Myers was named to the fall 2017 semester Dean's List at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, Iowa.✱

New Website For School District

The Lee County School District has a new section on its website dedicated to spreading accurate information about the upcoming sales tax referendum. The Change for Change webpage tackles Fact vs Myth and answers the questions, "What will the money be spent on?" "How did we get here?" and "Capital vs Operational: What's the difference?"

This year, Lee County voters will be asked to approve a half cent sales tax increase for the next 10 years. The school district estimates it will cost a family of four making \$50,000 a year about \$64, or less than 18 cents a day. The maximum amount that could be added to any one purchase is \$25.

Right now, the school district has an estimated shortfall of \$478 million in our capital improvements budget.

It is estimated the sales tax will generate \$59 million a year over the next 10 years for the school district's

capital improvements. About 30 percent of that will be paid by tourists that visit Lee County. The proceeds will be used for the construction of seven new schools, the rebuilding of two schools, a high school addition, safety and security improvements, technology upgrades and more.

Research shows that a successful, high quality public education system is the most important single economic driver in a community. It promotes higher incomes, better jobs, healthy growth and increased property values.

Businesses, professionals and highly skilled workers relocate to communities based on the merits of the school system, both for their children and for future employees. A high quality school system benefits everyone's bottom line.

To see a full list of the projects, read the referendum and see why the school board is putting this referendum to a vote, visit www.leeschools.net/change-for-change. Questions related to the sales tax referendum can be emailed to change4change@leeschools.net.✱

Book Review

Little Fires Everywhere



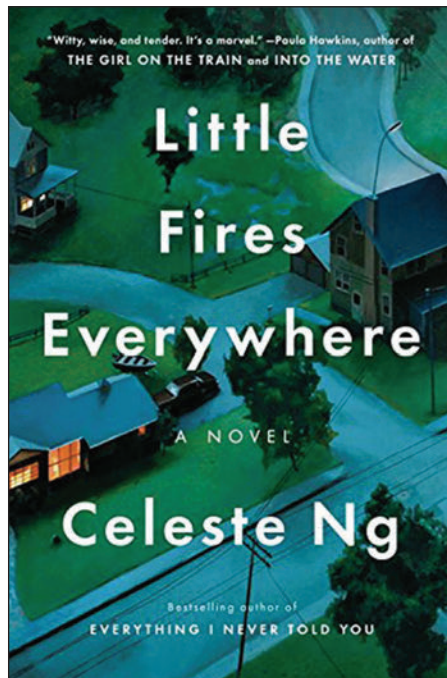
by Di Saggau

Celeste Ng has written another riveting novel that traces the intertwined fates of the picture-perfect Richardson family and the enigmatic mother and daughter who

upend their lives. Shaker Heights, is a progressive suburb of Cleveland where Elena Richardson rules her suburb as elegantly as she rules her husband and her four children. Mia Warren is a bohemian photographer who has traveled across the country with her teenage daughter Pearl and rents a house from the Richardsons, who feel Mia is deserving and would benefit from their help.

Little Fires Everywhere focuses all of its emotional energy in the relationships between mothers and their children. These are mothers who embrace their children to a fault. The children wallow in their mother's love and then reject it. Elena has four children. She doesn't pay much attention to her three eldest, but her youngest, Izzy, a high school freshman, terrifies her. Izzy was a premature birth, and Elena has never stopped fearing that something terrible will happen to her. Ng writes, "Every time Mrs. Richardson looked at Izzy that feeling of things spiraling out of control coiled around her again, like a muscle she didn't know how to unclench."

The book takes place in 1998, and Izzy does not respond well to her mother's surveillance. She lashes out and blasts music from her room. Ng writes, "The feeling coalesced in all of them: Izzy pushing, her mother restraining, and after a time no one could remember how the dynamic had



started, only that it had existed always."

Meanwhile Mia has a jealous, exclusive relationship with Pearl. Izzy is drawn to Mia and Pearl is drawn to the comfort and stability of the Richardson house. But Mia carries with her a mysterious past and a disregard for the status quo that threatens to upend this carefully ordered community.

When close friends of the Richardsons attempt to adopt a Chinese American baby, a custody battle erupts that divides the town and also Mia and Elena. Working as a reporter for a small newspaper, Elena begins investigative work that uncovers one of Mia's secrets. The book explores the weight of secrets, the nature of art and identity, and the ferocious pull of motherhood. One reviewer said: "Yes, it's the story of one Ohio town, but *Little Fires Everywhere* is not that familiar tale of the underside of the American suburb. It's a powerful work about parenthood and politics, adolescent strife and artistic ambition, and the stark choice between conformity and community." I found it to be a good read.✱

School Smart



by Shelley M. Greggs, NCSP

Dear Shelley,

Encouraging your children to meet a variety of people, ideas and experiences helps them grow intellectually,

academically, socially and emotionally. Sometimes it's difficult as a busy parent to provide a range of activities that support exposure to such encounters and individuals. I want to let you know that there is a wonderful opportunity for you and your children to participate in a children's program on President's Day, February 19, that will provide Science, Technology, Engineering,

Math (STEM) experiences for children, games, giggling, exercise and great fun.

Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) is having special presentations for its annual open house from 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. on President's Day. This event includes the opportunity to meet research scientists, STEM activities, plus exhibits, refreshments and fun for the entire family. This program is free of charge and open to all.

Are you or your child interested in marine science, water quality, indigo snakes, sea turtles, shorebirds and native plants? If so, this open house will be a great place to learn more. SCCF's research scientists will be present during the event to answer questions on these topics and more.

The Nature Sounds Contest begins at 11:45 a.m. with categories for the young at heart; age 4 and younger; and three school age groups. There are prizes for everyone. A special category

for groups and families will be added this year.

And at 1 p.m., there will be a special presentation on SCCF's RECON (River, Estuary and Coastal Observing Network) water sensors and weather stations. You will find out how the RECON sensors work and how the information they provide is used by many scientists all over Florida.

After the special events are completed, the hot dogs and lemonade digested, you and your children can hike the nature trails that are behind SCCF's Nature Center. This Nature Center Preserve comprises 240 acres and protects a core component of the Sanibel River and the unique interior freshwater wetland. The preserve encompasses the Sanibel River, uplands and a season freshwater wetland – a

unique feature for a barrier island.

So, mark your calendars for February 19 to have great fun with your children while introducing them to amazing research scientists, learning our local coastal environment, the importance of conservation and getting some exercise walking trails.

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.✱

Film Screening On Climate Change

A special showing of the movie *An Inconvenient Sequel, Truth to Power*, released in August 2017, will be shown at the Southwest Florida Masonic Temple on Thursday, February 15 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The movie will be preceded by an introduction highlighting the Climate Reality Leadership Program goals:

We must solve the climate crisis: We have a moral obligation to ourselves and

future generations

We can solve the climate crisis: We have the affordable clean energy technologies to power our economy and end the crisis in our hands today.

We will solve the climate crisis: With millions of citizens doing their part and standing up for climate action, we will solve the crisis together.

The program, presented by FGCU Sustainability Instructor Carol Newcomb, is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

Southwest Florida Masonic Temple is located at 10868 Metro Parkway in Fort Myers.✱

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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."

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



From left, Dotty St. Amand, Beth Prather, Kim Campbell and Ken Ahmadi photo provided

A Caregiver’s Journey Inspires Attendees

Hope Healthcare and Arden Courts hosted close to 400 caregivers, medical professionals and community members for A Caregiver’s Journey recently. Kim Campbell, wife of late Grammy Hall of Fame and award-winning music artist Glen Campbell, shared her experience with Alzheimer’s disease along with insights and inspiration about the relationship between caregivers and their loved ones.✽

Walk The Spectrum For Autism

My Autism Connection, a local autism support organization, will hold its second annual Walk the Spectrum event at Estero Community Park on Saturday, February 24 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The event is open to the public. Registration to participate in the walk starts at \$25 per person, with group discounts for teams.

“With such an amazing turnout last year, we are very excited to be holding this event for the second year,” said Sandra Worth, My Autism Connection’s executive director. “The Walk the Spectrum event provides us with an amazing opportunity to connect with the community, spread awareness and information about autism, and how My Autism Connection helps support children, young adults and their families affected by autism.”

There will be entertainment, activities and vendor booths with a variety of services, games and workshops. Lee County Sheriff’s Office officials will be available for fingerprinting services. Additional activities and entertainment will include bubble soccer, face painting and a bounce house for all ages. Following the walk, a talent showcase will be held

by My Autism Connection members. Nathan’s Hot Dogs, BuddhaBlends, Fireside Pizza and Yo Taco food vendors will also be onsite.

Raffle prizes, including Disney World, Sea World and Key West Express tickets, local destination passes, gift cards and more, will be announced to winners throughout the day. All funds raised through Walk the Spectrum will be used locally to support individuals with autism develop skills towards independence in the community while building healthy relationships.

Event sponsors include AltaHOPE, Lee Health Foundation, Durti Runners Race Timing, iHeart Media, Suncoast Credit Union, Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa, Coconut Point Honda, Healthcare Network of SWFL and Elite DNA Therapy. My Autism Connection is a volunteer-run organization, with no paid staff. Board members include Executive Director Sandra Worth, Vice President Tree Tietz, Secretary Erika Kiah, Treasurer Heather Keep, and Directors Paul Makurat, Amy D’Alessandro, Lisa Portnoy, Manya Vartdal, Taylor Walker and Dustin Worth.

Estero Community Park is located at 9200 Corkscrew Palms Boulevard in Estero. Registration and full event details are available online at www.walkthespectrum.org.

For more information, visit www.myautismconnection.net.✽

Financial Focus

Your Financial Team Needs A True Quarterback



by Jennifer Basey

On February 4, the eyes of most of the country – and much of the rest of the world – will be on Minneapolis, site of Super Bowl LII. As a fan, you can admire the way Super Bowl quarterbacks direct their teams. But as an investor, you can learn something from the big game by putting together your own team to help you achieve your financial goals – and you may find it helpful to have your own “quarterback.”

Who should be on your team? Your financial strategy will involve investments, taxes and estate planning, so you will likely need a financial advisor, a tax professional and an attorney. Ideally, your financial advisor – the individual with the broadest view of your financial situation – should serve as the quarterback of this team. And, just as a quarterback on a football team must communicate clearly with his teammates, so will your financial quarterback need to maintain consistent contact with the other team members.

Let’s look at a couple of basic examples as to how this communication might work. First, suppose you are self-employed and contribute to a Simplified Employee Pension (SEP) IRA. Because your contributions are made with pre-tax dollars, the more you put in, the lower your taxable income. (In 2018, the maximum amount you can contribute is \$55,000.) Your financial advisor can recommend investments you can choose from to help fund your SEP IRA. Yet you will want your

financial advisor to share all your SEP IRA information with your tax professional. When it’s near tax-filing time, your tax professional can then let you and your financial advisor know how much room you still have to contribute to your SEP IRA for the year, and how much you need to add to potentially push yourself into a lower tax bracket.

Now, let’s consider the connection between your financial advisor and your attorney – specifically, your attorney handling your estate planning arrangements. It’s essential that you and your financial advisor provide your attorney with a list of all your financial assets – IRAs, 401(k)s, investments held in brokerage accounts, insurance policies and so on. Your attorney will need this information when preparing your important legal documents, such as your will and living trust – after all, a key part of your estate plan is who gets what. But it’s imperative that you and your financial advisor convey some often-overlooked details that can make a big difference in the disposition of your estate. For example, your financial advisor might suggest that you review the beneficiary designations on your IRA, 401(k) and life insurance policies to make sure these designations are still accurate in light of changes in your life – new spouse, new children and others. These designations are meaningful and can even supersede the instructions you might leave in your will or living trust. Consequently, it’s important for you and your financial advisor to share this information with your attorney.

It can be challenging to meet all your financial objectives. But with the right team in place, and a quarterback to help lead it, you can keep moving toward those goals – and you might cut down on the “fumbles” along the way.

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.✽

Superior Interiors

Outdoor Decorating At Its Finest



by Jeanie Tinch

With so many of today’s homeowners desiring to expand their living spaces, it’s only natural to incorporate the great outdoors in your next decorating project. Whether it’s a porch, patio, sunroom or lanai, outdoor decorating can become a beautiful extension of your home.

And, as with other rooms in your home, it all begins with a plan. Do you entertain a lot? Is your new outdoor space primarily for your personal and family enjoyment? What activities might be taking place in this new area? Outdoor/indoor games? Dining? Reading? Relaxing?

Once you’ve determined your needs

and wants, it’s time to begin. And with Mother Nature as your backdrop, why not be a bit bolder in your color selections. Creating a bright and dramatic outdoor color scheme is sure to take your new space from dull to dazzling.

Furniture styles? There are a myriad to choose from – all sizes and shapes – as well as countless all-weather fabrics in gorgeous designs. Wicker and rattan continue to be the most popular and comfortable seating selections.

Area Rugs? Yes. For sure! Nothing helps set off a conversational area better than a well-designed area rug. Today’s all weather styles will add a definite touch of design excitement to our new outdoor space.

Lighting? Of course! Especially, if you intend to use your space for reading and relaxing. Task lighting options are virtually limitless.

Window Treatments? Not something that you typically think about when designing an outdoor space, but creating a beautiful, functional and practical window treatment can actually help add even more ambiance to your new room’s style.

Jeanie Tinch is an interior designer on Sanibel/Captiva Islands. She can be reached at jeanie@coindeciden.com.✽

Medicare Advantage Disenrollment

The Medicare Annual Disenrollment Period, which allows beneficiaries who have a Medicare Advantage Plan to make changes, ends on Wednesday, February 14. The disenrollment period provides beneficiaries with an opportunity to switch back to original Medicare or return to original Medicare and join a prescription drug plan. Counselors from SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) are available to assist beneficiaries with this process.

Choosing a health care or prescription drug plan requires careful consideration of coverage and cost, and some beneficiaries may need assistance in understanding the benefits. Free help is available statewide from the Department of Elder Affairs' SHINE program. Locally, SHINE is managed by the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida (AAASWFL).

SHINE is an award-winning program that provides information and free, unbiased counseling for people with Medicare, their families and their caregivers. The SHINE program can help beneficiaries compare plans and understand their options. For example, it is important to understand

that beneficiaries cannot use this disenrollment period to switch from one Medicare Advantage Plan to another. Beneficiaries are allowed only one change during this enrollment period, so it is especially important that beneficiaries review their options carefully.

Medicare beneficiaries with limited income and assets may qualify for additional assistance with the cost of prescription drug plan premiums, deductibles and co-payments. Medicare beneficiaries who believe they may be eligible are encouraged to contact a SHINE counselor for information about applying for these benefits. SHINE counselors can assist with applications for these programs.

SHINE is a program of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and is operated through the state's network of Area Agency on Aging offices. SHINE volunteers are trained to offer free, unbiased and confidential information and counseling concerning Medicare.

For help understanding the Medicare Advantage Disenrollment Period or to set up an appointment with a trained SHINE counselor to compare plans and review benefit programs, call the Elder Helpline toll-free at 1-866-41-ELDER (1-800-413-5337). You can also locate a counseling site in your area by visiting www.floridashine.org.

For more information, visit www.aaaswfl.org or call the toll-free Helpline at 866-413-5337 (866-41-ELDER).✱

FSW Nursing Information Sessions

Florida SouthWestern State College's (FSW) Department of Nursing will hold a series of informational sessions for those interested in the associate in science in nursing (ASN) degree at three FSW campuses this spring.

FSW's nursing program offers two degree programs that are accredited by the Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing (ACEN): the Associate in Science degree in Nursing (ASN) to prepare entry level registered nurses (RN) and the bachelor of science degree in nursing (RN to BSN) for Florida licensed RNs who want to advance their education and expand their employment opportunities in this high demand profession. LPN's are offered the Gold Standard pathway as entrance into the ASN degree program. FSW's Associate Nurse Evening and Weekend (ANEW) program is a flexible, hybrid nursing education offering with online and clinical training times that provide students the opportunity to fulfill other day activities while earning an ASN degree. Nursing students can seamlessly complete the ASN degree, earn the RN license and then complete the BSN degree (100 percent online) while actively employed as an RN.

The public is welcomed to attend any

of the following information sessions:

Tuesday, February 13, noon
Wednesday, March 28, noon
FSW Charlotte Campus, 26300 Airport Road, Punta Gorda, Building E, Room 113

To register for this session, email or call Wendy Morris at Wendy.Morris@fsw.edu or 941-637-5667.

Tuesday, February 20, 11 a.m.
Tuesday, March 20, 11 a.m.
FSW Collier Campus, 7505 Grand Lely Drive, Naples, Building N, Room 148

To register for this session, email or call Edna Shields at Edna.Shields@fsw.edu or 732-3748.

Tuesday, February 27, 3:30 p.m.
Thursday, April 19, 3:30 p.m.
FSW Thomas Edison Campus, 8099 College Parkway, Fort Myers, Building AA, Room 166

To register for this session, email or call Christopher Renda at Christopher.Renda@fsw.edu or 489-9239.

Graduates of FSW's ASN program are prepared to become RNs. RNs assess and evaluate clients and their healthcare needs, develop and implement plans of care, document client responses to interventions, administer care to people who are ill, injured, convalescent, or disabled, and counsel clients seeking healthier lifestyles. Graduates of FSW's RN to BSN program are prepared for career promotions and advancements in nursing to include graduate level education, academia, community health, management and leadership.✱

Symposium On Parkinson's

Health care professionals, therapists, volunteers, caregivers and those living with Parkinson's disease are invited to a morning of education and inspiration at the annual Hope Parkinson Symposium at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre on Friday, February 16. It begins with an optional pre-event session with movement disorder specialist Dr. Ramon Rodriguez, who will discuss Duopa, a gel formation of carbidopa/levodopa from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

The symposium will feature keynote speaker Dr. Chauncey Spears, neurologist and senior movement disorders fellow at the University of Florida Center for Movement Disorders and Neurorestoration, presenting The Mind, Mood and Memory in Parkinson's Disease.

John Baumann, an internationally renowned motivational speaker who has Parkinson's disease, will offer tips for living your best life in Care Partnering through Love and with Hope together with his wife, Bernadette.

Registered nurse, certified personal trainer and functional aging specialist Jeri Ann Lundgren will present How Fitness Can Improve Functional Abilities and Prevent Falls. The day will conclude with a guest speaker question-and-answer panel.

Symposium pre-event check-in begins at 8:15 a.m.; registration and exhibits



Dr. Chauncey Spears photo provided

begin at 9:30 a.m. Seating is limited and pre-registration is required at www.hopeparkinson.org/events. Cost is \$25 per person and includes a brunch buffet.

The Symposium's lead sponsor is Abbvie, and other sponsors include Acadia Pharmaceuticals, Medtronic, Seniors BlueBook; UD WorldMeds; Brookdale Senior Living Solutions; FYZICAL Therapy & Balance Centers; LeeHealth; and Osterhout McKinney, PA Elder Law Attorneys.

Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre is located at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers. For more information, call 482-4673 or visit www.HopeHCS.org.✱

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Lee Health Doctor Promotion

Dr. K. Alex Daneshmand, DO, MBA, has been promoted to Lee Health's vice president for quality and safety. In his new role, Dr. Daneshmand is responsible for quality and safety across Lee Health, including hospital accreditation, certifications, national hospital grading, conformance auditing, risk assessments, and failure mode and effects analysis to improve various processes throughout the health system. He will also continue his duties as the system's patient safety officer in improving Lee Health's safety infrastructure reporting system, and quality and performance improvement approach.

Prior to this promotion, Dr. Daneshmand served as the acute care medical officer for Golisano Children's Hospital, where he provided leadership to improve quality and safety in collaboration with physicians and staff. Over the past two years, the children's hospital has achieved outstanding clinical outcomes and has been recognized for its quality and safety excellence by the Leapfrog Group as one of the Top Children's Hospitals in the United States.

Dr. Daneshmand joined Golisano Children's Hospital in 2007 as a physician in the pediatric intensive care unit. During his tenure with the hospital, he also served as founder and medical director of the pediatric procedural sedation center, on the oversight system medical staff quality services committee and as chairman of the pediatric medical staff quality committee. Dr. Daneshmand assumed the role of medical director of quality



Dr. Alex Daneshmand photo provided

and safety at Golisano Children's Hospital in August 2015.

Prior to joining Golisano Children's Hospital, Dr. Daneshmand served as director of pediatric intensive care quality utilization, co-medical director of the pediatric intensive care unit and pediatric intensive care assistant professor at UF Health at Shands Children's Hospital in Gainesville.

Dr. Daneshmand earned his medical degree at Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine in Fort Lauderdale. He completed a pediatric residency at Michigan State University and Sparrow Hospital in East Lansing, Michigan, as well as a pediatric intensive care fellowship at the University of Florida in Gainesville. Dr. Daneshmand also earned his master of business administration at Hough Graduate School of Business at the University of Florida.*

Lee Health Speaker Series Presentation

Dr. Neal D. Barnard, author of *The Cheese Trap*, will be the next presenter in Lee Health's National Speakers' Series at the First Christian Church on Monday, February 12 at 6 p.m. His discussion will be about how breaking a surprising addiction will help you lose weight, gain energy and get healthy.

Dr. Barnard is a clinical researcher, author and health advocate. He is an adjunct associate professor of medicine at the George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences and president of the nonprofit Physician's Committee for Responsible Medicine. He is a frequent lecturer on issues of health, nutrition and medicine and is the author of several *New York Times* bestselling books including *The 21-Day Weight Loss Kickstart* and *Power Foods for the Brain*.

The free talk is open to the public. Send an RSVP for tickets to



Neal D. Barnard photo provided

speakerseriesrsvp@leehealth.org. Seating is limited and reservations are required.

First Christian Church is located at 2061 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. For more information, call 424-3234.*

Valerie's House Hires Leader In Grief Movement

Valerie's House, Inc., a Southwest Florida nonprofit helping grieving children work through the loss of a loved one together, has retained former National Alliance of Grieving Children CEO Andy McNiel as chief consultant to work hands-on with the organization. A pioneer in the children's grief movement, McNiel will work with Valerie's House to develop and enhance its grief programs, provide ongoing training and support to staff and volunteers, and expand the program's reach in the community.

"McNiel brings more than two decades of building and running grief centers around the country and his perspective and experience will significantly impact Valerie's House and the Southwest Florida community," said Angela Melvin, founder and CEO of Valerie's House. "We are fortunate to have his expertise and passion for children's grief as Valerie's House grows to help the thousands of children in our community struggling with the death of their parent or sibling."

McNiel served as founding board member and chief executive officer of the National Alliance for Grieving Children, the nation's leading organization in the development of children's grief programs, from 2011 to 2017. In addition, he is the former CEO



Andy McNiel photo provided

of The Amelia Center Children's Grief Center of Alabama, and is a nationally recognized presenter and trainer on facilitating childhood bereavement support, adult bereavement issues and group facilitation. McNiel is co-author of the book *Understanding and Supporting Bereaved Children*.

McNiel began consulting with Valerie's House on January 2 and will be commuting from his Stuart, Florida home twice a week to work onsite at the new Valerie's House Fort Myers location at 1762 Fowler Street.

For more information or if you know a child struggling with grief, visit www.valereshouseswfl.org. Valerie's House is a United Way Partner Agency and is fully supported through generous donations from the community.*

Wine And Food Fest Auction Items

SWFL Children's Charities, Inc. has unveiled the 38 offerings that will be up for bid during the 2018 Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest's live auction at Quail West Golf and Country Club on Saturday, March 3. The auction will present a selection of exclusive getaways, wine and culinary offerings and once-in-a-lifetime experiences with proceeds to support SWFL Children's Charities, Inc.'s beneficiaries.

Auction items are made possible through generous donations from trustees, donors and distinguished vintners, as well as through the travel services of Preferred Travel of Naples, Inc. For a complete list of auction items, visit www.swflwinefest.org.

A selection of trips are offered for the international travel enthusiast, including an eight-day journey for two in Lapland, Finland; a 13-day expedition for four to India and Nepal; or a 12-day premium Tauck River Cruise for four, sailing from Amsterdam to Basel. Other trips closer to home include a five-night Cuban adventure for eight, led by Havana-native, Chef Gloria Jordan of La Trattoria Café Napoli paired with a restored 1957 Oldsmobile Rocket 88; an exclusive trip for two to watch the selection of the next American Idol, with accommodations at the Four Seasons Beverly Wilshire in Beverly Hills, California; or a five-night glamping trip for four at Montana's Paws Up Resort.

Wine connoisseurs can delight in an array of offerings, including The Spire Collection experience, featuring an

exclusive three-night Napa Valley journey for four at Lokoya Villa; a five-night sojourn for nine aboard the Bella Una, a 127-foot, tri-deck yacht sailing from Newport, Rhode Island to Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard; or a Napa Valley wine soiree in Southwest Florida with an exclusive in-home dinner for 10 by the chef and winemakers of Robert Mondavi Winery.

Bidders will vie for The Perfect Score, a 13-bottle collection of wines earning the coveted 100-point rating from some of the world's most influential and discriminating wine connoisseurs. Offerings include the Opus One Bordeaux Blend Napa Valley 2013, Sine Qua Non Touche Syrah 2012 and Clos Fourtet Saint-Emilion Bordeaux 2009.

Pass the Hat, a favorite lot among bidders, will feature items from the auction-goers themselves. They include an overnight stay for two at El Dorado Hotel in Sonoma's Wine Country; an afternoon sailing expedition for six aboard Offshore Sailing School's 48-foot yacht followed by a gourmet wine dinner at Sails; a winery tour and barrel tasting for six at The Meeker Vineyard in Healdsburg, California; a photo session by award-winning photographer Megan DiPiero; and a private tour and tasting at Gargiulo Vineyards with two tickets to the Oakville Sessions members-only music festival.

The two-day 2018 Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest includes private Chef Vintner Dinners on Friday, March 2 and The Grand Tasting and Live Auction on Saturday, March 3 at Quail West Golf and Country Club. To learn more or to inquire about tickets, visit www.swflwinefest.org.*

Beautifulife:

Puppy Love



by Kay Casperson

It is always quite amazing to see just how much joy a new puppy can bring to everyone. Our family just recently got a puppy and we named him Didji. He is an Australian shepherd and he is now 7 months

old. Didji warms our hearts just like my other dogs did that were once just pups. Of course, as they grow, they are permanently embedded into our hearts as true pals, but there is something about being a puppy that brings out the best in most people. Puppies makes us smile and laugh, they keep you exercising and most of all, they bring back a discipline of creating a routine that a puppy can learn and follow for the rest of its life. Big responsibilities fall into the hands of any puppy owner but, for the most part, they put a warmth in your heart like nothing else can do.

You remember that warm, butterfly feeling you had back in your school years when you had a crush on someone or you thought you really liked that person alot. It's similar to that of a love for a puppy which is why they also associate that kind of a feeling to puppy love. But the true love for a puppy lasts much longer and turns into a trusted companionship that can bring much joy to our lives for as long as you have with them.

We show love to a puppy by spending time with them, playing with them, walking them, teaching them how to do certain things and training them to be a good fit for your household and environment. But, the unconditional love that puppies have for their owners is hard to beat since regardless of where they came from or what environment they now live in, the only thing that matters to them is that they are loved and they can give love back.



Kay Casperson and Didji photo provided

Puppies show love in many ways and although they can't talk back to us or with us, we feel like they are communicating just the same. You know when they are happy either from a wag of a tail, rolling over for a tummy rub, raising a paw for a hand shake or bringing you their favorite toy to play with. Cuddling next to you is a sure sign that the love bond has begun and the journey of growing your companionship will be a long lasting, wonderful adventure.

I am a big animal lover and enjoy every stage of the game, from young to old, but there is something new and fresh about puppies and I appreciate all they have brought into my beautiful life.

My affirmation for you this week is:

"I will cherish the times that I am lucky enough to experience the feeling of puppy love and will celebrate when others do as well."

Kay Casperson is a beauty and lifestyle expert, founder and CEO of Beautifulife by Kay Casperson. She owns resort spas on Sanibel and Captiva islands and manufactures beauty and lifestyle products sold across the country. To stay inspired, visit www.kaycasperson.com or follow on social media @kaycasperson.✧

Radiothon A Success For Local Kids Cancer Fund

The Southwest Florida community joined together on January 12 during the 16th annual Helping Kids With Cancer Radiothon and showed their support of Barbara's Friends – Golisano Children's Hospital Cancer Fund. Supporters included Mel's Diner; current and past Golisano Children's Hospital patients and their families; Commissioner Cecil L. Pendergrass, chairman of Lee County Board of County Commissioners; Florida Chapter Club Managers Association; Hospitality Financial and Technology Professionals Florida Gulf Coast Chapter; and representatives from Lee Health including pediatric oncology nurses, among others.

On this annual day of giving, the

12-hour Helping Kids with Cancer Radiothon aired on Cat Country 107.1 with a live broadcast from Mel's Diner in Fort Myers, and showcased the positive impact Barbara's Friends and the Kimmie's Angels Assistance Program has on the lives of children and families while raising funds for the pediatric oncology program at Golisano Children's Hospital.

To close out the event, Barbara's Friends chair Al Kinkle recognized gifts totaling more than \$173,000 including sponsorships, direct donations and proceeds from events leading up to the radiothon. Donations raised total just under \$2 million since commencement. Those who would like to donate can still call in to 1-866-609-KIDS or visit BarbarasFriends.org.

For more information about the Barbara's Friends fund and supporting child patients in your community, call 343-6950 or visit www.leehealthfoundation.org/barbarasfriends.✧

BEFORE

Undiagnosed ligament laxity can lead to cervical instability and an abnormal "S" curve, causing **painful head and neck conditions, and symptoms like dizziness and balance difficulties.**

AFTER

Restoring the proper "C" curve and ligament strength with Prolotherapy and Caring Cervical Realignment Therapy can **alleviate chronic pain and symptoms associated with cervical instability for good.**

CARING CERVICAL REALIGNMENT THERAPY

Only at Caring Medical Regenerative Medicine Clinics



239.303.4069
CaringMedical.com

9738 Commerce Center Ct.
 Fort Myers, FL 33908

We are an out-of-network provider.

dearRPharmacist

Chaos And Screaming Over Nutella



by Suzy Cohen, RPh

Dear Readers: I was perusing the week’s horrible news stories like the one about the Olympic doctor sex abuse case, and another about 11 school shootings this year. I read another on Xanax, and how

it’s become rampant among college users, especially British teens. Shame on our world. Then, when it couldn’t get anymore senseless, I saw how rioting broke out over Nutella in France.

What’s in Nutella that would make people go ape crazy over it? People at supermarkets across France literally risked a broken nose to snag a jar of Nutella for \$1.75 versus \$5.85? The sale apparently triggered the chaos.

Why the craziness? Was it over a few bucks?

Does it speak to our lack of self control? A food addiction?

Let’s zoom in to see what’s in Nutella:

Hazelnuts – Nutella is supposed to have 90 to 95 hazelnuts in an average size jar. There are no peanuts in this. The hazelnuts are roasted and ground to create the smooth, delicious paste. Did you know that centuries ago, in France, the hazel plant was given as a wedding gift to symbolize fertility.

Sugar – Nutella brand includes pure cane sugar and/or beet sugar, and it’s non GMO.

Oil – Specifically red palm fruit oil which comes from the African tree, *Elaeis Guineensis*.

Cocoa powder – This is basically chocolate powder; think of it like you do

hot cocoa. It’s processed, fermented and roasted.

Milk – skim milk powder, think of this like you do whey.

Lecithin – A smoothing agent (emulsifier) and it’s derived from either soy beans or sunflower seeds.

Vanillin – It’s a type of synthetic vanilla for aroma and flavor.

I’d like to propose a natural, delicious spread that tastes similar, but you can make it without risking your life (wink!)

Easy Nutella Spread
3 cups organic hazelnuts, roasted unsalted

3/4 cup dark chocolate chips
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 teaspoon sea salt
(Optional) Sweetener to taste
Directions:

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees. If you bought the “roasted” hazelnuts, spread them on a cookie sheet. Cook them for about 5 to 10 minutes to warm them up and loosen their skins. Put them in a kitchen towel and roll them around to remove as much skin as possible. Put the cleaned/warm hazelnuts in a Vitamix and blend on low until a butter is formed. Melt the dark chocolate in a saucepan or microwave. Add the salt and vanilla. Continue to blend on low. Let it cool to room temperature, so it will thicken.

You will probably want to add maple syrup or honey. If you’re using one of these liquid sweeteners (this is a bit counter intuitive) but the more liquid sweetener you add, the stiffer it makes the nutella.

You could try confectioner’s sugar (but add that before you process it). If your spread is too thick for your liking, add a teaspoon or two of some oil like grape seed, olive or almond oil. There you have it, nutella in the safety of your own kitchen.

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.✧

Doctor and Dietician

Pain From Smartphone Use



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

Many of us are familiar with the association of computer use with neck and shoulder pain, but did you know that neck pain due to smartphones is on the rise? Chronic neck pain has significantly increased, especially in those age 20 to 35, and smartphone use is considered the culprit. The phrase “Text Neck” has been used to describe this condition. But no matter our ages, we’re accustomed to smartphones being a huge part of our lives and should be conscientious of our body positioning when using them to avoid long-term pain.

The head weighs about 10 to 12 pounds, so spending hours hunched over a phone puts a lot of strain on the neck. As the head moves forward

from the shoulders, the center of gravity changes. This significantly increases pressure on the musculature of the head, neck and shoulders due to the downward angle and weight of the head. This gravitational demand from the forward head posture, flexed neck and hunched shoulders can be three to five times higher than in a neutral neck posture. The more the head shifts forward, and the longer time spent in a forward head posture, the greater the pressure. Frequent and prolonged flexion of the neck while texting stretches the ligaments that connect the cervical vertebrae to each other, and they eventually become like overstretched rubber bands. This can ultimately lead to arthritic degeneration and abnormal curvature of the cervical spine, which may require realignment therapy to correct.

Both one-handed and two-handed texting are associated with asymmetric cervical posture, according to a 2018 article in *Applied Ergonomics*. Prevention is key by practicing good ergonomics while using smartphones and correcting forward head posture. Hold your phone at eye level, while supporting your arms, and take frequent breaks from the phone to walk around.

This information is not intended to treat, cure or diagnose your condition. Caring Medical Regenerative Medicine Clinics 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.✧

Gift Awarded For Scholarship Program

Officials at the Fort Myers Life Plan Community of Cypress Cove at HealthPark Florida recently received a \$30,000 endowed gift to support its budding staff scholarship program.

Community Philanthropy Specialist Allen Abbott says that the generous donation from Cypress Cove resident Bill Nichols “guarantees that the seven-month old scholarship program will have a bright future.”

Named the Bill & Janet Nichols Scholarship, the annual award will provide support to Cypress Cove student employees seeking a professional career in the medical field. Creation of the scholarship explains Abbott “is a way for the Nichols family to offer a perpetual path to purposeful living for our student employees.”

Michele Wasserlauf, executive director at Cypress Cove, commended the Nichols family for their continued support and gifting to community projects. Three years ago, Mr. Nichols, in honor of his late wife, Janet, provided the needed funding for the development of a fenced dog park – T-Bone Dog Park. Mr. Nichols wife

Janet’s nickname was affectionately known as T-Bone.

Still in its infancy, the scholarship program, in November, awarded \$24,000 in scholarship assistance to 12 qualifying college student employees. Eight of those 12 employee recipients are pursuing degrees in the field of health care.

The program’s purpose, explains Wasserlauf, “is to financially reward our employees for their educational endeavors. Most of today’s college students face a difficult financial hurdle. We are hopeful that this program will help ease some of their burden.”✧

Karate Classes

Four Freedoms Park will host Isshinryu Karate classes for ages 5 and older on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 7 p.m. Cost is \$85 per month with second family member receiving half off.

The class is a traditional Okinawan style of karate. They teach Kata (prearranged form), Kumite (sparring) and self-defense techniques. Students will develop self-discipline, self-control, confidence and a variety of life skills through the classes.

Four Freedoms Park is located at 4818 Tarpon Court in Cape Coral. For more information, call 574-0804.✧

From page 1

Festival Of Light

Friday, February 16 to Sunday, February 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Classic Car Show – More than 100 classic cars will be set up along Edwards Drive on Friday, February 16 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Grand Parade Day – On Saturday, February 17, parade day runs from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. On Edwards Drive, there will be free entertainment all day. A 5K Run begins at 5:45 p.m. At 7 p.m., the Grand Parade begins at Fort Myers High School and travels down U.S. 41 to the River District and ends on Jackson and Second streets. Suncoast Beverages and Anheuser Busch is bringing back the Clydesdale horses, which will join two other local horse groups and the Wells Fargo stagecoach during the parade. Catch the fireworks show afterwards.

Hurricane Heroes and Mandy Harvey will be honored as grand marshals of the parade – FPL and

LCEC representatives will be this year’s grand marshals in honor of their work during Hurricane Irma restoration. Honorary Grand Marshal Mandy Harvey, the deaf *America’s Got Talent* singer finalist, will also be honored in the parade thanks to her local ties. Many other dignitaries will join in the festivities as well.

Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Motorcycle Drill Team will perform tricks on their Harley Davidson Road King bikes all along the route. They have performed in six presidential inaugural parades, many bowl parades, at the Kentucky Derby and all across the United States and Australia.

Expect to see at least 18 marching bands throughout the Grand Parade. More than a dozen local bands, including Gulfcoast High School with nearly 300 members, will put on a show. In addition, the Second Time Arounders from St. Petersburg, which is the largest permanent adult marching band in the world, will be in the parade.

For more information, visit www.edisonfestival.org.✧

PETS OF THE WEEK

Haven on Earth Animal League

Bam Bam And Luci



Bam Bam

photos provided

Hi there! I'm Luci. I'm a beautiful, 12-week-old Tortoiseshell kitten with a cute little pink nose. I'm just waiting for someone to take me home and love me forever. I'm currently staying at Petco in Gulf Coast Town Center. I am spayed and up-to-date on vaccinations. My adoption fee is \$125.

Hi, I'm Bam Bam! I am a gorgeous, young tabby boy with beautiful markings – and I have my own built-in camouflage. I have a bum leg, but that doesn't stop me from getting around.



Luci

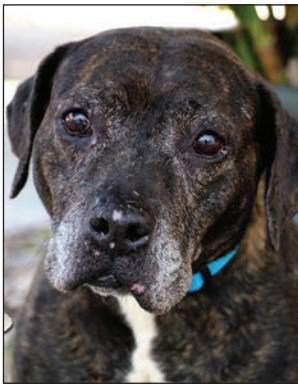
My foster mom thinks that I may have gotten my leg stuck in a car engine. I'm currently staying with a foster family. I'm neutered and up to date on vaccines. My adoption fee is \$100.

We are being cared for by Haven on Earth Animal League. For more information, call Diane at 860-833-4472 or email haveneearthanimalleague@yahoo.com.✱

Lee County Domestic Animal Services

Empress And Tiger

Hello, my name is Empress. I am a 6-year-old female Florida cur mix who is the perfect medium-sized dog that will go for a walk with you and then snuggle in for some popcorn and TV at the end of the day. My face shows the wisdom of a life where I may not have had the comforts I deserved. I am patiently waiting at LCDAS for someone to come and show me how truly wonderful life can be.



Empress ID# A525065

photos provided

My adoption fee is \$14.

Hi, I'm Tiger. I am a 1-year-old male domestic shorthair who is an energetic young fellow with a zest for life and all it has to offer. I love to play with people and my feline friends. Take advantage of the adopt-one-get-a-feline-friend-at-no-charge special and take a friend home with me.

My adoption fee is \$14.

Through Wednesday, February 14, Valentine's

Day, all adoptions of dogs over 30 pounds and all adult cats will cost \$14.

For information about this week's pets, call 533-7387 (LEE-PETS) or log on to Animal Services' website at www.LeeLostPets.com. When calling, refer to the animal's ID number. The website updates every hour so you will be able to see if these or any other pets are still available.

The shelter is open for adoptions from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The shelter is located at 5600 Banner Drive in Fort Myers, next to the Lee County Sheriff's Office off Six Mile Cypress Parkway.

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

The adoption package is valued at \$500.✱



Tiger ID# A713624

LCDAS Promotion

Take a departure from the traditional roses and chocolates with the Give Love promotion this year by adopting a furry Valentine from Lee County Domestic Animal Services (LCDAS).

Through February 14, all adoptions of dogs over 30 pounds and all adult cats will cost \$14. The reduced adoption fee includes the complete package of services: sterilization; age-appropriate vaccinations; county license;

microchip ID; de-worming; flea treatment; a heartworm test for dogs; feline AIDS and leukemia test for cats; and a 10-day health guarantee. The adoption package is valued at more than \$500.

For more information about LCDAS, visit www.LeeLostPets.com or call 533-7387 (LEE-PETS). The public also can visit the shelter located at 5600 Banner Drive in Fort Myers from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. Check out the Facebook page @ LeeCountyDomesticAnimalServices and on Instagram at LeeAnimalServices.✱



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

American Legion Post #38	239-332-1853
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
Embroiders 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 Fort Myers Beach	765-4254 or 454-8090
Kiwanis Fort Myers Edison	694-1056
Kiwanis Fort Myers South	691-1405
Gateway to the Islands	218-5768
Iona-McGregor	482-0869
Lions Club Fort Myers Beach	463-9738
Lions Club Fort Myers High Noon	466-4228
Lions Club Estero/South Fort Myers	898-1921
Notre Dame Club of Lee County	768-0417
Organ Transplant Recipients of SW Florida	247-3073
POLO Club of Lee County	477-4906
Rotary Club of Fort Myers	332-8158
Sanibel-Captiva Orchid Society	472-6940
United Way of Lee County	433-2000
United Way 211 Helpline (24 hour)	211 or 433-3900

AREA ATTRACTIONS

Bailey-Matthews National 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

PUNNING UP AND DOWN

- ACROSS**
- 1 Jan. and Feb.
4 Project detail, for short
8 Coll. dorm monitors
11 Salt Lake City athletes
15 Speedy WWW hookup
18 Nibble away
19 Funny Bombeck
20 Trio after N
21 12-point-wide type
22 Lemur kin
23 Start of the first riddle
26 Ship routes
28 Henry of Time and Life
29 The Teletubby that's yellow
31 Certain citrus grove yield
32 Middle of the first riddle
37 Lingerie garment
39 Snobbery
40 Un-PC suffix
41 Retort to "Not so!"
42 Wrestling pad
- 43 Party game cry
44 Peaty place
47 Slave over — stove
49 End of the first riddle
58 U.S. snoop gp.
59 Creameries
60 State as fact
61 First riddle's answer
65 Zagreb site
66 "My Man" singer Yoko
67 Pre-58-Across org.
68 Immodesty
70 Old fed. led by Nasser
71 Hydrogen atom's lack
75 Start of the second riddle
81 Holds up
82 Cybernames
84 English rocker Brian
85 Middle of the second riddle
91 Andy Taylor's son
92 Look at
93 Org. giving tows
94 See 75-Down
- 95 Storage site
100 Misfortunes
102 Livy's 2,150
103 Couple
104 End of the second riddle
110 Intercept and turn aside
111 Gin joint
112 Oohs and —
115 "You have my word"
117 Second riddle's answer
121 Cinematic Spike
122 Purple fruit
123 Go — rant
124 Black-and-white treat
125 — culpa
126 Cut out
127 Aug. follower
128 April follower
129 Simple
130 Purported psychic gift
- DOWN**
- 1 Cry feebly
2 Island of Hawaii
3 Detached, musically
4 Jiffy
5 Ace
6 Aussie bird
- 7 Hardened skin area
8 Fit for a king
9 Straight as —
10 Nerdy sort
11 Big name in pkg. shipping
12 Get stewed
13 PC-sent greeting
14 Deli meat
15 "Blasted!"
16 Big name in swimsuits
17 Not to such a degree
24 Tetley option
25 "True —!" ("Yes siree!")
27 Santa — (hot winds)
30 All the world, per the Bard
33 Actress Metcalf
34 One-dimensional
35 Body part above eyes
36 One of the Musketeers
37 X6 and Z4 carmaker
38 Pep rally cry
44 Doldrums
45 Any of the Joads, e.g.
46 Female kid
- 48 Old despot of Russia
50 Cry in Berlin
51 Tallies
52 Bite playfully
53 General —'s chicken
54 "There — tide ..."
55 Abate
56 Event with evidence
57 Gawk
61 Pilot and Fit carmaker
62 "— a nap!"
63 Pianist Glenn
64 History unit
65 Fishcake fish
68 Actor Murphy
69 Main point
72 Oil byproduct
73 Bread or booze
74 — buco
75 With 94-Across, donkey noise
76 Sun, moon and star
77 Cablegram
78 Jewish Passover
79 Surround with a saintly ring
- 80 Caveman Alley
82 Functional
83 Turtle covers
86 Makes natty
87 "— Rock" (1966 hit)
88 "Heavens!"
89 Liquid filling la mer
90 A couple
95 For some time
96 Prison, informally
97 Began to cry, with "up"
98 Prefix with Chinese
99 Chews noisily
101 Ski race
102 "Some Like It Hot" actress
105 Cyber-submit to the IRS
106 Massey of "Rosalie"
107 "Never ever!"
108 Common site for a 7-Down
109 Set (down)
113 Tilling tools
114 Flip one's lid
116 First-aid ace
118 History unit
119 — Moines
120 Male kid

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10		11	12	13	14		15	16	17
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121				122						123				124				125		
126					127								129					130		

King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Shopper's aid
5 "— and Circ-umstance"
9 Frenzied
12 Sandwich treat
13 Vicinity
14 Rocks
15 Teeny
17 Gun lobby org.
18 Thwarts
19 Bad lighting?
21 Conversation starter
22 "Olympia" artist
24 Knighted woman
27 Stashed
28 Carey or Barrymore
31 — Baba
32 Literary collection
33 Before
34 Carte
36 Doctrine
37 Exercise target
38 Bygone airline
40 On the other hand
41 Top story
43 Critter
47 Slithery squeezer
48 Twins' home
51 Flightless bird
- 52 Tied
53 It's tied
54 Aachen article
55 — good example
56 Former frosh
- DOWN**
- 1 Barbershop item
2 Seed coat
3 Nevada city
4 Fencer's call
5 Campaign-funding grps.
6 Tulsa sch.
7 Blanc or Brooks
- 8 Song of praise
9 Troubadour
10 High (Pref.)
11 Campus big-wig
16 Schuss
20 Crimson
22 Capital of Belarus
23 Leading man
24 Weir
25 Hearty quaff
26 Labyrinth beast
27 Groundbreak-ing musical
29 Historic time
- 30 Charlotte's creation
35 Submachine gun
37 Pats down
39 Pinnacles
40 Inseparable
41 Sleeping
42 Heavy reading
43 Kournikova or Karenina
44 Stereo alter-native
45 On
46 Wood strip
49 "— had it!"
50 Profit

MAGIC MAZE ● AUSTRALIAN CITIES

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

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

- | | | | |
|--------|-----------|------------|-------------|
| Albury | Geelong | Kalgoorlie | Wagga Wagga |
| Burnie | Gympie | Orange | Whyalla |
| Darwin | Hobart | Sale | Wollongong |
| Dubbo | Joondalup | Sydney | |



"Check the computer for available females and see what we have listed under

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!

Area
ANGER

Level
BLASTE

Basic
PETALS

Create
SINGED

TODAY'S WORD

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

SUDOKU

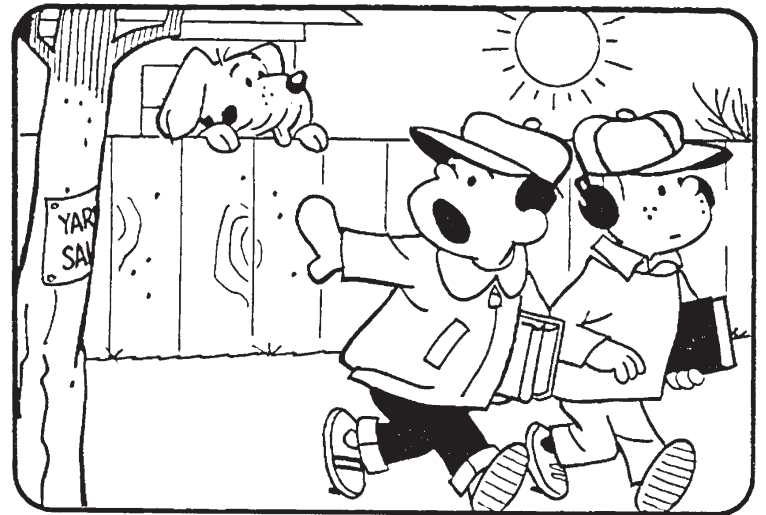
To play Sudoku:

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

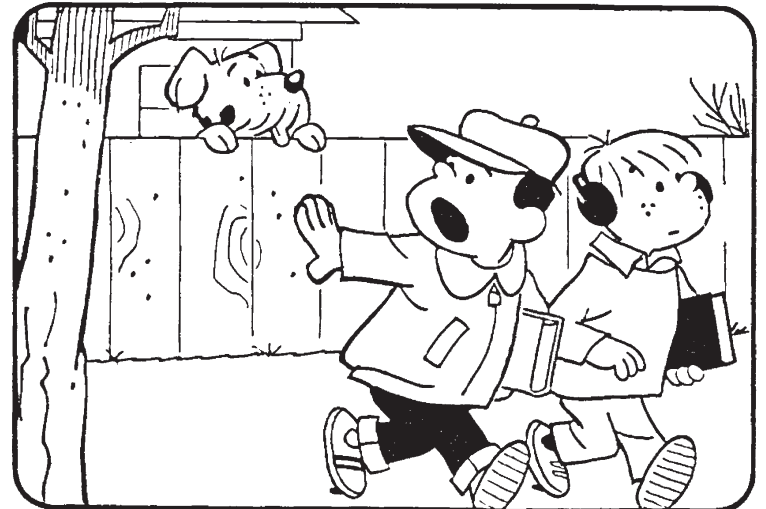
answer on page 37

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



FIND AT LEAST SIX DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS



Differences: 1. Sign is missing. 2. Dog's ear is shorter. 3. Mitten is removed. 4. Sun is missing. 5. Book is missing. 6. Cap is missing. 7. Kitten is missing.



Strawberry Parfait

2 cups fresh strawberries, rinsed, hulled and sliced

8 ounces low fat cream cheese, whipped

2 tablespoons natural sugar

1/2 cup low fat vanilla yogurt

4 graham crackers, crushed

1 lemon, juiced

4 sprigs fresh mint (for garnish)

In a medium sized mixing bowl, combine whipped cream cheese, sugar and lemon juice. Fold the yogurt into the cream cheese mixture. In four wide mouth glasses, evenly layer cream cheese mixture, strawberries and crushed graham crackers. Garnish with sprigs of fresh mint. Serve chilled.✱



Strawberry Parfait

photo courtesy Fresh From Florida

	FRIDAY Sunny High: 71 Low: 65		SATURDAY Mostly Cloudy High: 73 Low: 67		SUNDAY Sunny High: 75 Low: 65		MONDAY Mostly Sunny High: 70 Low: 64		TUESDAY Sunny High: 66 Low: 60		WEDNESDAY Sunny High: 64 Low: 58		THURSDAY Sunny High: 62 Low: 56
--	--	---	--	---	--	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	--

Redfish Pass Tides					Point Ybel Tides					Punta Rassa Tides					Cape Coral Bridge Tides				
Day	High	Low	High	Low	Day	High	Low	High	Low	Day	High	Low	High	Low	Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	11:06 am	2:57 am	7:54 pm	12:51 pm	Fri	10:11 am	2:59 am	6:59 pm	12:53 pm	Fri	9:04 am	2:46 am	8:18 pm	2:26 pm	Fri	1:16 pm	6:13 am	10:04 pm	4:07 pm
Sat	12:08 pm	3:57 am	8:55 pm	2:12 pm	Sat	11:13 am	3:59 am	8:00 pm	2:14 pm	Sat	11:24 am	3:40 am	9:15 pm	3:19 pm	Sat	2:18 pm	7:13 am	11:05 pm	5:28 pm
Sun	12:45 pm	4:47 am	9:51 pm	3:23 pm	Sun	11:50 am	4:49 am	8:56 pm	3:25 pm	Sun	11:32 am	4:31 am	10:10 pm	4:10 pm	Sun	2:55 pm	8:03 am	None	6:39 pm
Mon	1:12 pm	5:29 am	10:40 pm	4:18 pm	Mon	12:17 pm	5:31 am	9:45 pm	4:20 pm	Mon	11:53 am	5:18 am	10:55 pm	4:57 pm	Mon	12:01 am	8:45 am	3:22 pm	7:34 pm
Tue	1:34 pm	6:05 am	11:22 pm	5:01 pm	Tue	12:39 pm	6:07 am	10:27 pm	5:03 pm	Tue	12:18 pm	5:59 am	11:31 pm	5:37 pm	Tue	12:50 am	9:21 am	3:44 pm	8:17 pm
Wed	1:49 pm	6:37 am	None	5:39 pm	Wed	12:54 pm	6:39 am	11:06 pm	5:41 pm	Wed	12:46 pm	6:35 am	None	6:14 pm	Wed	1:32 am	9:53 am	3:59 pm	8:55 pm
Thu	12:01 am	7:05 am	2:02 pm	6:16 pm	Thu	1:07 pm	7:07 am	11:43 pm	6:18 pm	Thu	12:01 am	7:09 am	1:16 pm	6:50 pm	Thu	2:11 am	10:21 am	4:12 pm	9:32 pm

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THE RIVER
WEEKLY NEWS
FROM THE BEACHES TO DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS

Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

PUZZLE ANSWERS

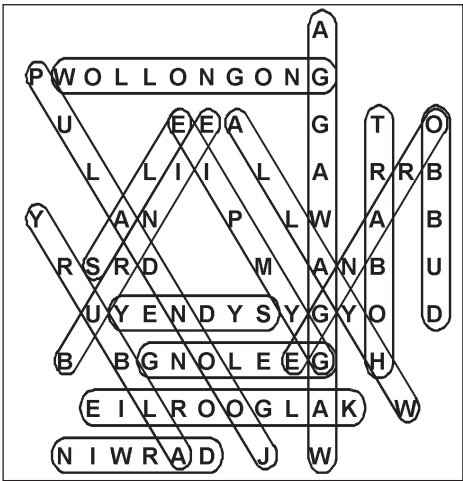
SUPER CROSSWORD

MOS	SPEC	RAS	UTES	DSL
EAT	ERMA	OPQ	PICCA	APE
WHAT	COULD	YOU	SEAL	ANES
LUCE	CO	LAALAA	ORANGE	S
CALL	BUT	TLERS	SAND	MAIDS
BRA	AIRS	ETTE	ISTO	OO
MAT	UNO	BOG	AHOT	
WHO	ARE	WALK	INGON	STILTS
	GIA	DAIRIES	ASSERT	
HIGH	ERED	HELP	CROATIA	
ONO		OSS	EGO	UAR
NEUTRON		HOW	DID	PEOPLE
DELAYS		USER	IDS	ENO
ADDRESS		THE	BRITISH	POET
	OPIE	SEE	AAA	HAW
ATTIC	ILLS		MMCL	DUO
WHEN	HE	FELL	INTO	AHOLE
HEAD	OFF	SALOON		AHS
I	PROMISE		LOWERED	BYRON
LEE	PLUM	ONA	OREO	MEA
END	SEPT	MAY	EASY	ESP

KING CROSSWORD

CART		POMP		MAD
OREO		AREA		ICE
MINUS		CULE		NRA
BLOCK		S		ARSON
	H	I		MANET
DAME		HID		DREW
ALI		ANA		ERE
MENU		ISM		FLAB
	OZARK		OR	
ATTIC			ANIMAL	
BOA		MINNESOTA		
EMU		EVEN		KNOT
DER		SETA		SOPH

MAGIC MAZE



SUDOKU

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

My Stars★★★★
FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 12, 2018

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) It could be risky to push for a project you believe in but others are wary of. Never mind. If you trust your facts, follow your courageous Aries heart and go with it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your enthusiasm sparks renewed interest in a workplace project that once seemed headed for deletion. Support from supervisors helps you make all necessary changes.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A colleague might be a bit too contrary when your ideas are being discussed in the workplace. A demand for an explanation could produce some surprises all around.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Try to avoid distractions at a time when maintaining stability in a fluid situation is essential. There'll be time enough later for the Moon Child to enjoy some well-earned fun and games.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Stop wasting energy licking your wounded pride. Instead, put the lessons you learned from that upsetting experience to good use in an upcoming opportunity.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You love being busy. But try not to make more work for yourself than you need to. Get help so that you don't wind up tackling tasks that are better left to others.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your usually balanced way of assessing situations could be compromised by some so-called new facts. Check them out before making any shift in judgment.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You might feel angry over an unexpected shift in attitude by someone you trusted. But this could soon turn in your favor as more surprising facts come out.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Love rules everywhere for all amorous Archers, single or attached. It's also a good time to restore friendships that might have frayed over the years.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) It's not always easy for the proud Goat to forgive past slights. But clearing the air could help establish a better climate for that important upcoming venture.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Good news: Your skillful handling of a recent matter has won admiration from someone who could be influential in any upcoming decisions involving you.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You continue to welcome new friends into the widening circle of people whom you hold dear. One of those newcomers might soon have something special to tell you.

BORN THIS WEEK: You love nature and inspire others to follow your example of concern for the planet's well-being.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

- On Feb. 16, 1848, composer and pianist Frederic Chopin plays his final Paris concert. Chopin's musical goal had been to speak to the heart and soul of man. Upon his death, at his request, Chopin's sister was able to smuggle his heart in a jar back to Poland, where it was buried in a church.

- On Feb. 18, 1856, the American Party, also known as the "Know-Nothing Party," convenes in Philadelphia to nominate its first presidential candidate. The Know-Nothing movement began in the 1840s as a result of increasing immigration. When questioned by the press, members would reply that they knew nothing, hence the name.

- On Feb. 14, 1929, penicillin is discovered by Sir Alexander Fleming, a bacteriologist. Fleming left a plate of staphylococcus bacteria uncovered, and noticed that mold that had fallen on the culture had killed many of the bacteria.

- On Feb. 13, 1945, Allied firebombing raids begin against the German city of Dresden, reducing the city to rubble. The medieval city, renowned for its artistic and architectural treasures, had never been a site of war production or major industry.

- On Feb. 15, 1950, Walt Disney's animated feature "Cinderella," six years in the making, opens in theaters. "Cinderella" has been rereleased periodically to keep its popularity alive among new generations.

- On Feb. 17, 1966, Brian Wilson of the Beach Boys rolls tape on take one of "Good Vibrations." Six months, four studios and \$50,000 later, he completed his 3 minute, 39 second symphony, pieced together from more than 90 hours of tape recorded during hundreds of sessions.

- On Feb. 12, 1999, the five-week impeachment trial of Bill Clinton resulting from his affair with 21-year-old intern

Monica Lewinsky comes to an end. The Senate voted to acquit on both articles of impeachment: perjury and obstruction of justice.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

- It was Italian novelist, philosopher and university professor Umberto Eco who made the following sage observation: "Fear prophets and those prepared to die for the truth, for as a rule they make many others die with them, often before them, at times instead of them."

- The average (presumably non-bearded) man will shave at least 20,000 times over the course of his lifetime.

- Although it is a dog, the dhole, which is native to Asia, doesn't bark; to communicate with other members of its pack, it whistles. Evidently, that high-pitched sound carries better than low-pitched barking in the dense forests where it lives.

- Third-century Saint Lawrence of Rome was martyred for his faith by being roasted alive on a gridiron. I suppose it makes a certain kind of sense, then, that he's the patron saint of cooks and tanners.

- If you're not in a romantic mood as Valentine's Day approaches, you might want to consider reviving the vinegar valentine popular in the 19th century. Rather than conveying love and affection, these insulting missives -- usually sent anonymously, for obvious reasons -- were dripping with sarcasm and black humor. Some were intended to discourage unwanted suitors, but others were just mean, accusing the recipient of being too aggressive (for women) or too submissive (for men) or of putting on airs, among other things. There were even occupation-specific cards targeted at doctors, salesladies, artists, etc. According to an article in Smithsonian magazine, in the mid-1800s, these vinegar valentines accounted for half of all valentine sales in the United States.

- Those who study such things say that 20 percent of American men have spent at least one night in jail.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

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

SCRAMBLERS

1. Range; 2. Stable;
3. Staple; 4. Design

Today's Word
DESPERATE

TRIVIA TEST

- Language:** What is a lexicon?
- Psychology:** What is a fear of fish called?
- Astronomy:** What is the sixth planet from the sun?
- U.S. States:** Which is the only U.S. state to begin with the letter "P"?
- Science:** What is the term used when heat is transferred through a solid object?
- Famous Quotes:** Which 20th-century playwright once said, "If you can't get rid of the skeleton in your closet, you'd best teach it to dance"?
- Movies:** In what movie did an American actress say: "Fasten your seatbelts. It's going to be a bumpy night"?
- General Knowledge:** What kind of flower bulbs once were used as a form of currency?
- Art:** What is the painting called "La Gioconda" more commonly known as?
- History:** When did the Cold War between the United States and the Soviet Union end?

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Dictionary 2. Ichthyophobia 3. Saturn 4. Pennsylvania 5. Conduction 6. George Bernard Shaw 7. Bette Davis, in "All About Eve" 8. Tulips 9. "The Mona Lisa" 10. 1991

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ CLASSIFIED ★ CLASSIFIED ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

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12/22 * 2/9

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1/26 * TFN

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12/22 * TFN

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1/12 * TFN

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2/9 * 2/23

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ANNUAL RENTAL

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12/22 * TFN

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9/29 * TFN

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- Solar Pathfinder analysis of shading effects at your site

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1/26 * 2/9

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2/2 * 2/9

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 The Children's Education Center of the Islands is looking for an Front Desk/ Floating Substitute. This is a part-time position, from 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., during the school year, following the Lee County Schools schedule. The perfect job for a mom with school-age children or someone just looking for a fun job a few hours a day!

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 for more information.

1/26 * 2/9

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2/2 * 2/9

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2/9 * 2/16

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2/2 * 2/9

Passport Applying Now Made Easier

Are you planning international travel this year? Are you applying for a passport for the first time? If so, the U.S. Postal Service has made applying for your passport easier with the launch of the USPS Retail Customer Appointment Scheduler tool (RCAS) at www.usps.com/scheduler.

There are a total of 4,800 post offices around the country that offer passport acceptance service. Of these, more than 3,100 offer appointments via telephone, and these select offices will also now offer the ability to schedule appointments through the online RCAS tool.

“The postal service accepts passport applications on behalf of the U.S. Department of State,” said Kelly Sigmon, vice president of Retail Operations. “The RCAS tool provides customers with an easy, convenient way to schedule appointments to apply for their passport at one of the 4,800 post offices that offer passport services, and some offices offer photo services as well.”

For the appointment, travelers need to bring the following items:

The completed DS-11, application for a U.S. Passport form, which can be found at the Department of State website at www.travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/passports.html. Do not sign the form;

Proof of U.S. citizenship;
Proof of identity (valid driver’s license, government employee ID, military ID);

Photocopies of U.S. citizenship and identification documents (these will be sent with the application, but bring originals for proof documentation);

Appropriate payment. Acceptable forms of payment can be found on the Department of State website. (Please note that neither debit nor credit cards are acceptable forms of payment by the Department of State);

Appropriate passport photo, if passport photo services are not available at the selected post office location;

Passport applications for children under age 16 have special requirements. Visit www.travel.state.gov for more

information.

After scheduling a passport appointment, make sure to click the Informed Delivery button. This new feature allows you to preview your mail and manage packages when you’re not home.

The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations.*

Pet Foundation Grant Awarded

Bissell Pet Foundation has awarded \$10,000 to assist the lifesaving efforts of PAWS Lee County Inc. (PLC). Grant funds will prevent pet

overpopulation in the Fort Myers area through funding of spay and neuter procedures for pets of low-income residents.

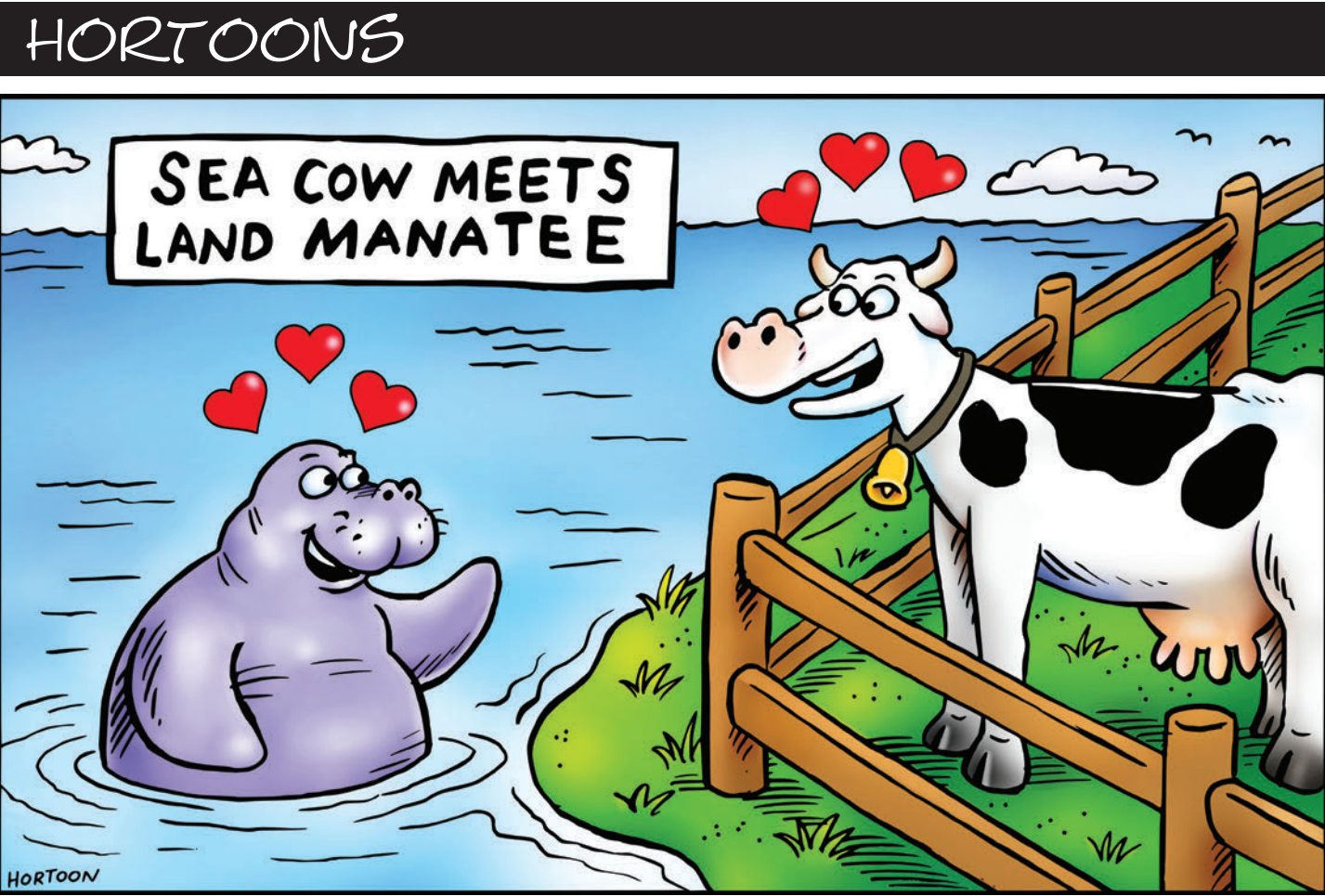
Pet overpopulation is a major problem due to lack of economic access to preventive veterinary care. The grant will provide 215 low-income pet owners with free or subsidized spay/neuter to end the cycle of unplanned and unwanted litters. PLC has been increasing its animal sterilization outreach into the community with the goal of ending pet homelessness in Lee County and the surrounding counties. Fewer pets in area shelters will result in lower euthanasia rates.

“The greatest reward is to help our partners save thousands of animals’ lives each year by supporting their efforts,”

said Cathy Bissell, founder of Bissell Pet Foundation. “We hope to see the day when every pet has a loving, forever home.”

“Thanks to a generous grant from Bissell Pet Foundation, PAWS Lee County Inc. will be able to provide spay/neuter surgery assistance to more than 200 dogs or cats. Today, we were able to spay a five-year-old pit bull, who had already had three litters. In addition, the owner has asked us to spay her mother’s pit bull who is three years old and has never had any veterinary care. This grant will make a huge difference for animals in our area,” stated Theresa Ink, president of PAWS Lee County Inc.

For more information, visit www.bissell.com.*



Top 10 Real Estate Sales

Subdivision	City	Year Built	Square Footage	Listing Price	Selling Price	Days On Market
Jonathan Harbour	Fort Myers	1998	3,521	\$2,295,000	\$1,925,000	212
Magnolia Bend	Estero	2004	4,281	\$1,795,000	\$1,500,000	139
Caprini	Miromar Lakes	2006	2,977	\$1,695,000	\$1,600,000	6
Whisperwood Cove	Sanibel	2004	3,951	\$1,499,000	\$1,450,000	14
Augusta Creek	Bonita Springs	1997	3,321	\$1,450,000	\$1,389,130	12
Butterknife	Sanibel	1994	2,880	\$1,395,000	\$1,377,000	37
Town and River	Fort Myers	1981	4,167	\$1,299,000	\$950,000	416
Edgewater	Fort Myers	1995	5,252	\$1,299,000	\$1,180,000	71
Intracoastal Harbour	Fort Myers	2001	2,923	\$1,250,000	\$1,100,000	133
Ferry Landing	Sanibel	1986	1,832	\$1,200,000	\$1,175,000	15



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