

Lauren Drexler and Sonya McCarter confront one another

photo provided

Teachers Collide At Theatre Conspiracy

by Di Saggau

Talk about a powerful, poignant, timely play. *Gidion's Knot* by Johanna Adams fits the bill and it's showing now at Theatre Conspiracy. Under the course of 90 minutes, the one-act play focuses on a grieving mother and an emotionally overwhelmed fifth grade school teacher. They engage in an

emotional conversation about the tragic suicide of the mother's son, Gidion, who was the teacher's student. Lauren Drexler is Heather Clark, the teacher, and Sonya McCarter is Corryn Fell, Gidion's mother.

Corryn shows up in the classroom unexpectedly for a meeting about her son's suspension in spite of the fact that he has recently committed suicide. The grief-stricken mother feels the appointment matters, while Heather feels it's too soon. As Corryn circles through the realistic classroom set, she comments about the student essays and mythological posters

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Famed Clydesdales To March On Presidents' Day



Budweiser Clydesdales

photo provided

Bell Tower Shops again will play host to Anheuser-Busch famed Budweiser Clydesdales on Monday, February 19 from 5 to 7 p.m.

The Clydesdale team will pose for photographs with adoring fans and strut around the mall. Horses and their handlers will be hitched for about 45 min-

utes near Cantina Laredo on the north side of Bell Tower Shops, offering plenty of opportunity for photographs before beginning a walk around the mall's ring road. The Clydesdales will make stops near World of Beer, the main entrance near Blue Point and Grimaldi's, Society,

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Shell Point Breaks Ground On Arts Center

On January 30, Shell Point Retirement Community held a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the beginning of construction on the Tribby Arts Center, a \$15 million amenity to be located near The Club at Shell Point. More than 450 people attended the ceremony, which was held on the future building site.

"It is our belief that the Tribby Arts Center will not only enrich residents' lives today, but also do so for future generations who will call this beautiful place their home," said Jeff Cory, executive director of The Legacy Foundation at Shell Point.

The two-level, 44,000-square-foot center, dedicated to visual and performing arts, as well as educational programming, will provide expanded and first-time spaces for artists to work.

The building will include a grand entrance and atrium gallery, full-time art gallery, practice rooms for musicians, numerous studios for painting, crafts, pottery, quilting, textiles, stained glass and photography, as well as the 350-seat, state-of-the-art theater-style Connie Brown Hall



From left, Tim Lochridge, vice president of finance; Jeff Cory, executive director of The Legacy Foundation; Melody Desilets, The Legacy Foundation; Dick Brown, Shell Point resident donor; Shell Point President Martin Schappell; Maggie Tribby, Shell Point resident donor; Marge Lee, Shell Point resident campaign advisor; Maria Festa, The Legacy Foundation; Karen Anderson, vice president of human resources; Ronette Icsso, vice president of sales and marketing; and Adam Hinds, senior director of operations.

photo provided

auditorium. Additional features include a gift shop featuring artists' works, a French bistro and an English sculpture garden.

The Tribby Arts Center at Shell Point is named in honor of the Shell Point resident

who provided the initial gift to launch the fundraising campaign for the future performing arts facility. Currently, \$13.5 million of the \$15 million campaign has been funded.

"The Tribby Arts Center at Shell Point is an embodiment of Shell Point's mission to ensure, through thoughtful building and

continued on page 21

Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

Highlights Of 1947 Edison Parade And Pageant



by Gerri Reaves, PhD

For the 1947 Edison Festival and Pageant, Fort Myers seemed to pull out all the stops. The celebration, held February 8 to 16, was the second one after a five-year hiatus during World War II and stands out for several reasons.

That year was the centennial of the inventor's birth, adding to the festival's significance – thus the name Centennial Festival.

Also, Mina Edison, Thomas Edison's widow, participated in the festivities. It would be her last visit to Fort Myers.

In addition, on February 11, her husband's birthday, Mrs. Edison gave Seminole Lodge, the Edison home, as well as the laboratory and grounds, to the City of Fort Myers as a memorial to her husband.

More generally, an upbeat post-war mood imbued not only in Fort Myers but the entire nation. The town was growing and prospering ready to turn attention to everyday life and fun, not to war.

There are various theories about the origin of what we today call the Edison Festival of Light and Pageant.

However, the first in its current form began in 1938. Some components were there from the first and remain today, including the coronation ball, the grande parade in which the new royalty appear, and a memorial service to Thomas A. Edison, the inspiration for the event.

In earlier decades, the festivities lasted about a week, always encompassing Edison's birthday.



Three-year-old Sharon Anne Magaha dressed as Gladiolus Queen of 1960 for the 1947 Baby Parade. She was awarded first prize as "most beautiful."

photos courtesy Florida State Archives



Seven "right numbers" adorn the Inter County Telephone and Telegraph's tiered float as it passes the U.S. Post Office, today's Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center



Harem attendants riding 10-foot elephants glide down First Street in the Edison Grande Parade. The three-part float is passing the Theatre Arcade sign (upper left), and Sears, Roebuck is in the background on the Jackson corner (upper right).

These historic photos capture a few of the more memorable moments of that Centennial Festival year.

In the 1947 Baby Parade (today called the Junior Parade), three-year-old Sharon Anne Magaha looks quite poised on her flower-festooned float. Dressed as the future "Gladiolus Queen of 1960," the youngster was awarded first prize as "most beautiful."

As for new junior royalty that year, Howard Daubman and Margie Jean Black ascended to the throne.

The grande parade, held the day after the Baby Parade, attracted a record crowd of 25,000, according to *The News-Press*. Two thousand bleachers were put out along First Street.

That three-part float with 10-foot-tall elephants linking trunks and tails won "most novel float." No surprise. Note the harem attendants, one wearing a face veil, atop the animals.

That delightful float was sponsored by the Fort Myers gladiolus industry, a very big part of the local economy in 1947.

A second-floor or rooftop photographer snapped that off-angle shot of the Inter County Telephone and Telegraph's tiered float as it was passing the U.S. Post Office (today's Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center).

Those seven women on the float represent the "right numbers" that customers no doubt reached via Inter County's service.

One exception to tradition in 1947 was that the coronation was held for the first and only time at Buckingham Air Field in a hangar, rather than at a downtown location.

On the evening of February 14, King Archie Odom and Queen Frances Harris retired and Mina Edison crowned the new royalty, King Ted Evans and Queen Esther Ann Reynolds.

The photo shows the new royal couple descending to the dance floor after their coronation.

Today the Edison Festival celebration extends throughout the entire month of February. Through the years, many events have been added and some have faded away.

For example, the Mutt Strutt, STEMtastic Day of Discover and 5K Run are fairly

continued on page 11

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From left, Cheryl and Dave Copham, Georganne Williams, Kathryn Kelly, Caroline and Bill Bloomhall at 2017 Love Your Neighbor photos provided

Neighbor Benefit To Support Heights Group

The 10th annual Love Your Neighbor, an event featuring Norman Love Confections and Mark Loren Designs, will be held at the riverfront Gulf Harbour home of Mary Jo Little on Wednesday, February 21 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Guests will enjoy fine wine and spirits and an assortment of culinary creations from local restaurants and chefs including Bahama Breeze, Blu Sushi, Cru, Gather, LYNQ, Norman Love Confections, The Timbers Restaurant & Fish Market

and Three Fishermen Seafood Restaurant. Beverage sponsors include The Lighthouse Resort & Tiki Bar. Live and silent auction items will be offered and all proceeds will benefit the School Success Program for at-risk children in the Harlem Heights neighborhood. At last year's event, \$390,000 was raised. VIP upgrades and sponsorships that include the exclusive VIP pre-party are available. Mark Loren Designs and Norman Love Confections will be recognized at the event for their 10 years of support of the Love Your Neighbor event for The Heights Foundation. "I am happy to support the good work of The Heights Foundation," said host Mary Jo Little. "The residents of Harlem Heights are



Kids from The Heights Center's After School Program Perform at 2017 Love Your Neighbor

our neighbors and The Foundation's School Success Program ensures that the children in the neighborhood have the tools they need to succeed in school." "Our School Success program includes academic tutoring, after school and summer camp programs, scholarship and college access assistance, school supplies and tuition support," said Kathryn Kelly, president and CEO of The Heights Foundation. "Each program is geared to meet the specific needs of children and young adults who seek to further their education. The Gulf Harbour community has been very supportive of the Heights Foundation, and we appreciate Mrs. Little opening

her home for this important fundraiser." Sponsors include FineMark National Bank & Trust, Mark Loren Designs and Norman Love Confections, JP Morgan Chase and Company, B&I Contractors, Entech, Suncoast Credit Union, Victor and Kathryn Mayeron, Huff Insurance Agency and Mark and Gretchen Banks. Special thanks to Greg and Jo Callaway of Gulf Harbour Properties. Tickets are now on sale for \$200 each and space is limited. Upgrades and sponsorships that include an exclusive pre-event VIP party are also available. Purchase tickets at www.heightsfoundation.org/lyn or call Karen Lesza at 482-7706.✪

Irish Festival Coming March 3

The 14th annual Irish Festival will be held at the German American Social Club on Saturday, March 3 from noon to 8 p.m. and Sunday, March 4 from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. The two-day family festival will feature Irish and Celtic music, dance and song, boy scouts and 4th Degree Knights of Columbus participating with the Lee County Pipes & Drums Band, a children's tent for kids age 3 to 12 with free face painting, games as well as arts and crafts.

Guinness Stout, Smithwick's Irish Ale and Harp Lager will be on tap. There will be 50/50 raffles and a chance to win a trip for two to the Emerald Isle. Admission is \$8 for adults; children age 12 and younger are free. Discounted tickets can be found at Cape Farmers Market in Club Square every Saturday until February 24. The German American Social Club is located at 2101 Southwest Pine Island Road in Cape Coral. Sponsored by Cape Coral Irish American Club, a nonprofit organization that supports scholarships and local charities. Advanced tickets and information available at capecoralirishfest.com.✪

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Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida has entered the next century of girl scouts selling cookies. The Girl Scout Cookie Program teaches girls essential entrepreneurial skills while powering amazing experiences for them across the United States. After last year's 100th anniversary of girl scouts selling cookies, troops in the Gulfcoast Council are kicking off this season with the return of girl scout s'mores, the most popular

flavor to launch in the 101 years of girl scouts selling cookies. Consumers can now help fuel transformative leadership experiences and build the next generation of entrepreneurs by purchasing girl scout s'mores and classic favorites like thin mints and samoas.

During Girl Scout Cookie season, each girl scout sets out to sell the iconic cookies while building entrepreneurial and business skills that are imperative for leadership and future success. Almost one million girl scouts across the country participate in the cookie program each year, generating nearly \$800 million in sales during the average season. And all of the net

revenue raised locally – 100 percent of it – stays within the Gulfcoast Council. The council uses cookie earnings to power amazing experiences for girls through their programming, while girls and their troops decide how to invest in impactful community projects, personal enrichment opportunities, and more. Further, the skills that girls learn in the cookie program also influence later success: data shows more than half (57 percent) of girl scout alumnae in business say the cookie program was beneficial to skills they possess today, such as money management, goal-setting and public speaking.

This year, girls will sell cookies door-to-door and at booth sales as well as through the digital cookie platform, an innovative and educational web-based addition to the cookie program that helps girls run and manage their girl scout cookie businesses online. Now in its fourth year, the digital cookie platform continues to bring girl scout programming into the future by

providing girls with invaluable business and science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) skills that prepare them for 21st century leadership.

As a thank-you to men and women serving in the armed forces, girl scouts will also be accepting orders for their Mints for the Military program. Cookies may be purchased from any girl scout and will be shipped directly to military personnel serving overseas. The program offers an easy way for individuals to send a taste of home to the troops while supporting the largest girl-led business program in the world.

Cookie booths will be open throughout the community from February 11 to March 11. To find out when and where Girl Scouts are selling cookies near you, visit www.girlscoutcookies.org or use the official Girl Scout Cookie Finder app, free on iOS and Android devices.

For more information about Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida, visit www.gsacf.org.☆☆

Join international bestselling author Kristin Harmel (*The Sweetness of Forgetting*, *The Room on Rue Amélie*) for How to Write a Novel at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center on Monday, February 19 from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Harmel will show participants how to come up with the idea for a novel, how to structure it and how to actually begin working on your masterpiece. Cost is \$50.

Harmel is an international bestselling novelist whose books have been translated into numerous languages and are sold all over the world. A former reporter for *People* magazine, she has also freelanced for many other publications, including *American Baby*, *Men's Health*, *Glamour*, *Woman's Day*, *Travel + Leisure*, and more.

The Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center is located at 2301 First St. in the historic



Kristin Harmel photo by Robin Gage

downtown Fort Myers River District.
For tickets and more information, visit
www.sbdac.com. ✨

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The Garden Club of Cape Coral will present March in the Park, a plant and garden art sale, at Jaycee Park on Saturday, March 10 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. More than 30 vendors will supply plants, trees, shrubs, ground covers, miniatures and more. Garden Art will include essential and fragrance oils, glass reflections, stepping stones, metal works, fish faces and various planters including hand-painted clay pots.

Speakers will make informative presentations hourly, while master gardeners will be available all day to

answer questions. A kids booth, with a face painter, will have activities and take home projects for all ages. Food, music and opportunity drawings will be available throughout the day. Admission and parking are free.

All proceeds go to the garden club objectives, which include Marty Ward Merit Awards in horticulture, civic beautification, Habitat for Humanity projects, local middle and high school garden projects, and to promote civic awareness of environmental and conservation concerns.

Jaycee Park is located at 4125 SE 20th Place in Cape Coral. For more information, visit www.gardenclubofcapecoral.com, or contact Ginny Huffer at 257-2654 or Huffmom5@aol.com ✱

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Fort Myers Art:

Art Festivals On Tap This Weekend



by Tom Hall

The 34th annual Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club Arts and Crafts Fair will take place on Saturday and Sunday, February 17 and 18. The festival is held on the lawn of The

Community House, located at 2173 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel's main street. The Community House has been an island fixture since 1927 and touts itself as "The Gathering Place on Sanibel."

Many festival-goers are already on the island, enjoying a break from the snow and ice covering the northern states this time of year. Others visit the island specifically to take in one or both days of the fair. Either way, this Rotary-sponsored classic arts and crafts fair attracts over 10,000 visitors and more than 120 artists and artisans from around the country who collectively bring paintings in oil and acrylic, watercolors, drawings and graphic art, photography and digital art, sculpture, ceramics, pottery wood working, hand-painted furniture, hand-crafted jewelry, unique gifts, wearable art



The Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club Arts and Crafts Fair will be held on February 17 and 18

photo courtesy www.artsfwl.com

and much more.

Besides the art, this fair is known for tasty food, community displays designed to introduce visitors to the islands of Sanibel and Captiva, and a tremendous silent auction.

For more information, visit www.sanibelartfair.com.

Coconut Point Art Festival On Same Days

In the geographical center of Southwest Florida, the 12th annual Coconut Point Art Festival also takes place on the weekend of February 17 and 18. The Coconut Point Mall serves as the site for this outdoor art festival,

which features more than 250 artists and artisans from 30 different states. There is something for every artistic taste and sensibility at this festival, which sets up in the parking lot just north of Panera Bread and east of U.S. 41.

With 113 stores and 25 restaurants surrounding several acres of lakes and wood boardwalk, Coconut Point Mall offers a unique outdoor shopping experience but, at the art festival, the focus is exclusively on the art and artists. Variety and diversity are themes at every Howard Alan event and, for the Coconut Point art festivals, there is something for everyone ranging from \$15 handmade

silver jewelry to life-size sculptures costing in excess of \$50,000.

For more information, visit www.artfestival.com/festivals/coconut-point-art-festival-0.

Looking Ahead: Naples National Art Festival February 24 And 25

The 39th annual Naples National Art Festival will be held on the weekend of February 24 and 25 in Cambier Park and along 8th Avenue in Naples, just steps away from Naples' historic Fifth Avenue South.

This is the No. 18 art festival in the United States, according to *Sunshine Artist Magazine*. Because of its national ranking and the beautiful weather in Southwest Florida during this time of year, Naples National draws some of the finest artists in the country. Together, they provide a diverse array of artworks that include original oil and acrylic paintings on canvas, panel and galvanized aluminum, watercolors on paper, 2D and 3D mixed media, limited edition prints, photography, digital art, metal sculpture, wood carvings, ceramics, art jewelry, leather works and more. There is also a gala on the Thursday night before the festival opens.

For more information, visit www.naplesart.org/events/feb-18-2017-naples-national-art-festival.

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.✧

Rock Out Against Domesic Violence Concert

On Friday, March 9, the Abuse Counseling and Treatment, Inc. will be hosting the Rock Out Against Domestic Violence concert at Cape Coral Yacht Club, featuring Razing Cape from 7 to 11 p.m. All proceeds will benefit Abuse Counseling and Treatment, Inc. (ACT), which operates a 22-bed safe shelter, as well as a number of safe, free and confidential services for survivors of abuse.

"We are incredibly excited by the

generosity afforded to us by Razing Cape and the City of Cape Coral," said Jennifer Benton, chief executive officer with ACT. "Raising awareness to support services for victims of domestic violence in Cape Coral is a priority. We could not accomplish this work without such meaningful partnerships." Other sponsors include Cindy D'Artagnan, CPA.

Tickets are \$8 pre-sale, or \$10 at the door.

Cape Coral Yacht Club is located at 5819 Driftwood Parkway in Cape Coral. For more information or tickets, visit www.actabuse.com/event/rock-out-against-domestic-violence-concert-featuring-razing-cape.✧

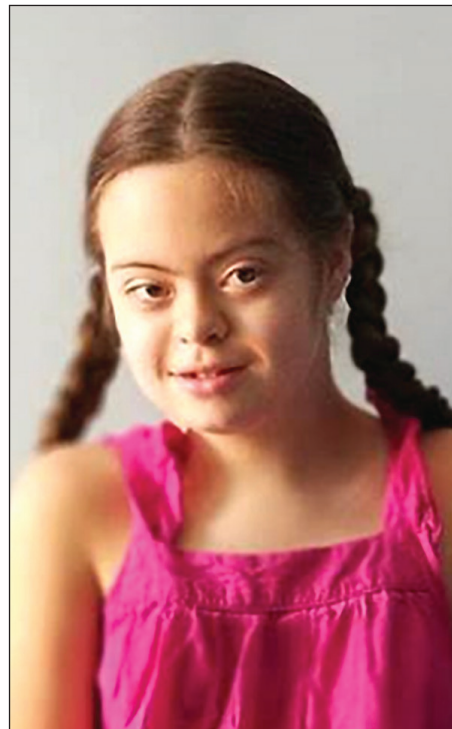
VSA Student Of The Month For January

Ten-year-old Ayelen Arabe Tardio was recently named as one of VSA Florida's Student of the Month for January 2018, according to the Lee County School District. VSA Florida is the state organization on arts and disability.

Tardio is a student at Pinewoods Elementary in Estero. She was nominated by her ESE teacher, Ximena Hurtado, for her outstanding leadership. Hurtado says Tardio is no longer the little girl who would hide under desks and not participate in creative activities with her class. "This year, Hurtado says, "Ayelen has blossomed and embraced her talents. Ayelen is able to use the arts to express herself in a positive manner. She is truly a part of the class and is a happier child because of it."

Tardio has Downs Syndrome, yet continues to be a community role model and champion for awareness and kindness. She has also modeled for Culvers, Sears, Chuck E. Cheese and Disney.

VSA Florida officials presented Tardio with a personalized trophy and gift certificate at the February 13 school board meeting. VSA Florida conducts art education programs in



Ayelen Arabe Tardio photo provided

schools, Department of Juvenile Justice facilities and community centers. It also promotes the accomplishments of artists with disabilities through our artist registry, exhibitions and performances, and increases access to the arts through professional development workshops.

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



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The Mersey Beatles

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Beatles Tribute Band Returns For Vinyl Vibes Series

The Mersey Beatles, the only complete Liverpool-based Beatles tribute band, will return to downtown Fort Myers on Saturday, February 24 for a matinee at 4 p.m. and an evening performance at 8 p.m.

The concert is part of the Vinyl Vibes Series. Tickets are \$45 or \$59 for VIP passes, which include premier seating, a

Mersey Beatles free CD download and a meet-and-greet with The Mersey Beatles, which will start one hour before show time. The band will be available for pictures and autographs.

The Mersey Beatles was the resident band for over a decade at the world famous Cavern Club, where The Beatles got their start. These childhood friends have played in 20 countries, selling out shows worldwide.

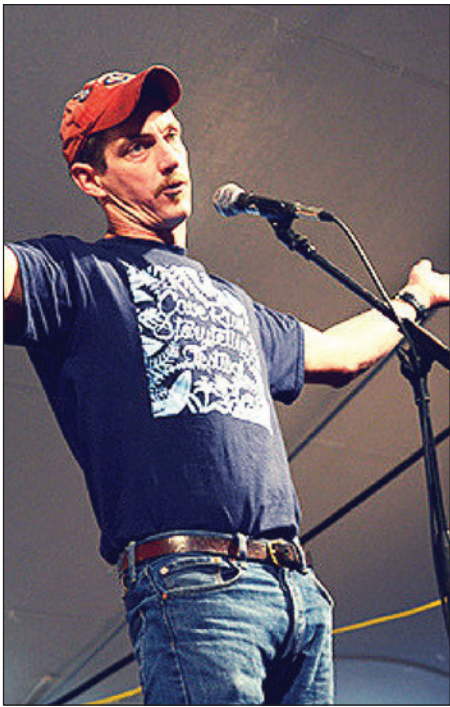
The Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center is located at 2301 First Street in downtown Fort Myers. For tickets and more information, visit www.sbdac.com.✱

Famed Storyteller To Perform

Storyteller Bil Lepp will return to the Alliance for the Arts to perform on Saturday, February 24 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for Alliance members or \$25 for non-members. Matinee and evening performances will be full of outrageous, humorous tall-tales and witty stories for listeners from all walks of life.

Lepp is a nationally renowned storyteller and five-time champion of the West Virginia Liars' Contest. He is the author of six books and sixteen audio collections. His first children's book, *The King of Little Things*, won the PEN Steven Kroll Award for Picture Book Writing, received a Kirkus Starred review, and favorable reviews from *The Wall Street Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, *The School Library Journal* and other publications. It also won the Zena Sutherland Award, the Parent's Choice Gold Award, was a finalist for the Irma Black Award, and was chosen to be West Virginia's book at the National Book Festival.

An exclusive workshop, *Storytelling: Expanding the Idea* (ages 16 and older), will take place on February 23 from 6 to 8 p.m. Lepp will share ways to combine several stories or snippets of varying length, and often diverse subject matter, into one relatively coherent, interlocking piece. This allows



Bil Lepp

photo provided

the teller to tell several short stories within the body of a larger tale without all the stops and starts. The workshop is \$15 for Alliance members or \$20 for non-members.

These events are sponsored by Briers CPA. The Alliance for the Arts is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. For more information about these events, visit www.ArtInLee.org or call 939-2787.✱

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Along The River

Gulf Coast Leisure will hold an **Art & Poetry Networking Event** at **Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center** this 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. The Sidney & Berne Davis Arts Center is located at 2301 First Street in downtown Fort Myers. Visit www.sbdac.com or www.gclmovement.com for sign-up and ticket

Shell Point Retirement Community invites art enthusiasts to its 2018 **Shell Point Art Show and Sale** this Friday, February 16, Saturday, February 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 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



An entry in the Edison Festival of Light Grand Parade

photo www.edisonfestival.org

Ageless Creativity exhibition at the Sidney & Berne Davis Arts Center in downtown Fort Myers.

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

This 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.

Lakes Park Garden Day will be held at the park this 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 Southwest Florida* and *Butterfly Gardening in Southwest 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.

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

The **Grand Parade of the Edison Festival of Light** will be held this Saturday, February 17 at 7 p.m. 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. 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

continued on page 30



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Meet Our Closing Team: Nicole Naumann and Samantha Baker

Pancake Proceeds Go To The Dogs

The Calendar Girls and the Southwest Florida Puppy Raisers will be teaming up for a benefit at Applebees on Saturday, February 24 from 8 to 10 a.m.

Proceeds from the Flapjack Fundraiser breakfast will go to support Southeastern Guide Dogs located in Palmetto, Florida. This is the only guide dog school in Florida and all their services are offered at no charge.

Cost is \$10.

Applebees is located at 2228 Del Prado Boulevard South in Cape Coral. For more information, contact Gail Gagliardi at 203-215-6617 or gagliardigail@sbcglobal.net or JJ Jones at 415-5881 or jj@jonesadncorealty.com.

Babysitting Course

There will be a babysitting course at Four Freedoms Park on Saturday, February 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$40. Participants must bring lunch.

Child and Babysitting Safety program is an American Safety and Health Institute program that has been designed to assist young people with providing proper childcare via classroom training and hands-on procedures.

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

Japanese Language Classes

Four Freedoms Park will host Japanese language classes for adults and children from February 14 to February 28. Classes for children will be held from 5 to 6 p.m., and for adults from 6 to 7 p.m. Cost is \$24 for each.

Participants will learn basic Japanese phrases that will build conversational skills in this language. A variety of everyday situations and specific aspects of Japanese culture will be covered through fun, interactive exercises. This class will also consider the basics of Japanese writing, starting with the Hiragana character system, and briefly looking over Katakana and simple Kanji.

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

Register Now For Alliance Summer Camps



Participation in a previous Musical Theatre Intensive Camp

photo provided

The Alliance for the Arts offers camp options including Summer Arts Camp for grades 1 to 6 and Musical Theatre Intensive Camp for grades 7 to 12. Alliance member registration opens February 12. Non-member registration opens February 26.

Summer Arts Camps allow children to discover their creative abilities by taking part in visual and performing arts with a different theme each week. There is an art exhibition and final stage performance each Friday afternoon. Camp runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with extended care available from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. for a fee. Summer Arts Camp is \$160 per week for Alliance members or \$200 per week for non-members. You may become a member to receive early registration and a 20 percent discount.

Themes include:

Once Upon A Time – June 4 through June 8

Trapped in a Video Game – June 11 through June 15

Robot Mayhem – June 18 through June 22

The Search for Yellow Beard's Hidden Treasure – June 25 through June 29

Are You Game? – July 9 through July 13

Broadway: Another Opening, Another Show! – July 16 through July 20

Super Heroes – July 23 through July 27

Let's Rock Out! – July 30 through August 3

Musical Theatre Intensive camp is held at Broadway Palm's rehearsal space in Royal Palm Plaza and offers students the unique opportunity to work with Broadway Palm's resident choreographer and with actors from current Broadway Palm shows. Camp runs 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Daily arrival time is 8:45 to 9 a.m. with no extended care available. There is a final performance each Friday at 3 p.m. Each week is \$175 for Alliance members or \$220 for non-members.

Themes include:

Seussical (grades 6 to 10) – June 4 through June 8

Annie, Act 1 (grades 7 to 12) – July 9 through July 13

Annie, Act 2 (grades 7 to 12) – July 16

through July 20

Mamma Mia! (grades 7 to 12) – July 23 through July 27:

Broadway Palm Season Guide (grades 7 to 12) – July 30 through August 3:

Alliance member registration opens February 12. Non-member registration opens February 26.

For more information on Summer Arts Camp or Musical Theatre Intensive Camp, visit www.ArtnLee.org/SummerCamp or call 939-2787.

You may become a member at www.ArtnLee.org/Join to take advantage of discounts. Teen volunteer and scholarship applications are also available beginning February 26.

Alliance for the Arts is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers Summer Arts Camp is sponsored by Family Thrift Center in Fort Myers.✱

Run The Lakes

Cypress Lake Middle School will hold Run The Lakes, a spring 5K Run/Walk, at Lakes Regional Park on Saturday, February 24 at 9 a.m. The event supports student success in academics, arts and athletics.

Participants can run or walk the well-marked trails around Lakes Park that are perfect for all types of runners and walkers. Cost to register is \$25.

Awards will be given to the overall male and female winner and the Top three males and females in various age groups.

To register visit www.runsignup.com/race/fl/fortmyers/runthelakesforcypresslakemiddle.✱

White Elephant Sale

Palmetto Palms RV Resort will be hosting a Craft and White Elephant Sale on Saturday, February 17 from 8 a.m. to noon. The resort is located at 19681 Summerlin Road in Fort Myers.

Coffee and donuts will be available. The public is invited. For more information, call Marge Gregg at 466-5331.✱



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Symphony To Perform With Broadway Boys

The Southwest Florida Symphony, Lee County's only professional orchestra and one of the oldest on Florida's Gulf Coast, will present Broadway Boys at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall at FSW on Saturday, February 17 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$28.50 to \$92 per person and are available by calling the Southwest Florida Symphony box office at 418-1500, by visiting the symphony office at 8290 College Parkway Suite 103 in Fort Myers, by calling the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall box office at 481-4849 or online at www.swflso.org. Tickets are also available at the door one hour before the performance.

The Broadway Boys were created in June of 2005 to play a single night at a club in New York City. The overwhelming response and a packed bar forced the club to bring the boys back again for another sold out evening. Realizing that this group had serious growth potential, The Boys decided to focus and develop their product into the "symphony of sound" that they have become.

The Broadway Boys add elements of pop, funk, gospel, jazz and folk to show tunes and classic pop songs. Performing in groups of six, the Boys are able



image provided

explore harmonies rarely presented by Broadway singers.

"This is going to be a spectacularly fun night for everyone. We truly believe this is a show to be enjoyed by all age groups. The music will be very familiar, songs that we all know and sing along

to in the car" said Beth Phillips, director of marketing.

"You don't want to miss this concert – it's like seeing multiple Broadway shows on the same night" said Amy Ginsburg, executive director. "We also have the pleasure of Mr. Leif Bjaland

joining us as the guest conductor for the evening. Leif served as our artistic advisor for three seasons, and we are thrilled to welcome him home."

Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall at FSW is located at 13350 FSW Parkway in Fort Myers.✪

Drop-Off Donation Event

Lee County government is collaborating with Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida for Good to Go, a drive-up, drop-off and drive-away donation event at the Fort Myers Regional Library from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, February 23. The event is open to the public; donations are welcome.

Donations of new or gently used clothing and household goods can be brought to the downtown Fort Myers library drop-off point. Enter at Richmond Street on the south side of the library between Lee Street and Royal Palm Avenue. In addition to household donations, Goodwill will provide a secure document drop-off bin for those who need documents shredded.

Good to Go is designed to make it easy for people to donate by offering a drive-thru experience. Drivers will not need to get out of their vehicle.

This one-day event is part of Lee County's commitment to United Way and its partnering agencies. Donations

go toward helping people with economic disadvantages who are veterans and residents of Lee County. Each donation is turned into vouchers, based on weight, to benefit the clients of Human & Veteran Services. The donations also help Goodwill with its mission to help people with disabilities and disadvantages by offering employment opportunities.

In 2017, employees of the Lee Board of County Commissioners exceeded their goal of \$95,800 by raising more than \$102,000 to support United Way and its partner agencies.

Although all household goods and gently used clothing will be accepted, some items will not be taken, including mattresses, box springs and televisions, all which can be left at home for curbside pickup. Household supplies that constitute hazardous materials, such as paint, can be taken to another Lee County site: Solid Waste's Household Chemical Waste Collection Facility, 6441 Topaz Court, Fort Myers.

The Fort Myers Regional Library is located at 2450 First Street in Fort Myers. For more information, call 533-8000.✪

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, revtedalthouse@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, lambofgodchurch.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.17671 Pine Ridge Road](http://www.17671PineRidgeRoad.com), peacecommunitychurch.com, 267-7400.

PEACE LUTHERAN

Sunday 9:30 a.m. 15840 McGregor Boulevard, www.peaceftmyers.com, peace@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

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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.✪

Denim And Diamonds Gala

Dr. Piper Center's annual gala will take place at the Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort & Spa on March 10 at 6 p.m. The Denim & Diamonds-themed event highlights Dr. Piper Center's Foster Grandparent Program, a one-on-one mentoring and tutoring program for children with special needs.

The evening includes a cocktail hour, dinner, live music and dancing, live and silent auctions, and a "jewelry tasting" with an array of sparkling selections. Top level sponsors include Dunkin Diamonds, Isenhour Senior Services and Right at Home. Sponsorship opportunities are still available.

More than 125 volunteers work with one to five children in classrooms across Southwest Florida's five-county area. Last year, the organization provided more than 100,000 hours of service to

567 at-risk children.

The Dr. Piper Center is instrumental in uniting the community by matching senior volunteers with those most in need of service. The Foster Grandparent Program, Senior Employment Program, Faith in Action and Senior Companion Programs provide seniors in Southwest Florida with much needed attention, love, care, kindness and service.

"We are looking forward to the gala where we will have an opportunity to celebrate our many success stories, thank our volunteers and share our vision for all of our programs with the community," said Nida Eluna, executive director of the Dr. Piper Center.

Tickets are \$125 per person.

Dr. Piper Center is located at 2607 Dr Ella Piper Way in Fort Myers. For more information or reservations, visit www.drpipecenter.org/annual-gala, call 332-5346, or visit the Dr. Piper Facebook page at Dr. Piper Denim & Diamonds Gala.*



On February 14, 1947, King Ted Evans and Queen Esther Ann Reynolds became the new royal couple at the Coronation Ball at Buckingham hangar

photo courtesy Florida State Archives

From page 2

Historic Downtown

modern additions. The Gopher Tortoise Sweepstakes, on the other hand, no longer takes place, much to the relief of animal lovers.

As you enjoy this year's 80th anniversary festival, take a moment and consider the community history and hard work that lies behind this Fort Myers tradition.

Walk down First Street and imagine it's 1947, and the elephants are approaching.

Then visit the following two research centers to learn more about the many parades and celebrations that have enlivened Fort Myers through the decades.

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, *The News-Press*, and *The Story of Fort Myers* by Karl H. Grismer.

(Note: The Festival of Light is a non-profit organization responsible for the Grande Parade and various events. The Pageant of Light refers specifically to the private Coronation Ball Celebration and attendant events organized by the Fort Myers Woman's Community Club.)*

Quartet To Perform At Shell Point

Washington Saxophone Quartet will perform at Shell Point Retirement Community on Thursday, February 22 at 7 p.m. The show is part of the Concerts & Conversations program and will be held at the Grand Cypress Room at The Woodlands at Shell Point. Guests can enjoy fellowship and a dessert reception with the performers following the concert. The event is open to the public, with tickets available for \$25 online at www.shellpoint.org/concerts or by phone at 454-2067.

Washington Saxophone Quartet taps into a rich repertoire from early music to newly

commissioned works, drawing on a wealth of experience to reach listeners of every age and background. The instruments evoke the refined sounds of a string quartet, the rich harmonies of an organ prelude and the excitement of a jazz sax section. The widely-recognized ensemble has played on radio and television worldwide for nearly 35 years, in addition to performing recitals, informal concerts and master classes in the U.S., the Caribbean and China.*



Washington Saxophone Quartet

photo provided

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Beach Artists Raise Funds At Paint Around Social

The Fort Myers Beach Art Association (FMBAA) held a Paint Around Social fundraiser in its gallery to a standing-room-only crowd on February 7. Proceeds from admission were collected for the Student Scholarship Fund, which includes cash prizes for graduating seniors who will have a show beginning on April 6.

The Paint Around Social involved four award-winning artists – Neil Walling Michele Barron Buelow, Lisa Grinter and Tracy Owen Cullimore – beginning an oil work on individual canvases.

After 12 minutes, the artwork was rotated to the artist to the left and that artist had 12 minutes to add to the canvas. Each artist took a turn painting on the four canvases, and the original artist received an additional 27 minutes to finish off the piece.

The social included heavy appetizers, cash donations, beverage bar and raffles with prizes.

After the completion of the four artworks, each artists were then asked to sign their artwork and the others. The pieces were then framed and auctioned off for additional fundraising funds.

The Fort Myers Beach Art Association is located at 3030 Shell Mound Boulevard on Fort Myers Beach. For more information or to check on future events, call 463-3909, email publicity chair Pam Flaherty at fmbaapublicity@gmail.com or visit www.fortmyersbeachart.com.*



Lisa Grinter's finished product



photos by Bob Petcher Neil Walling's completed abstract sunset



Lisa Grinter adds to the beach scene



Tracy Owen Cullimore with finishing touches



Michele Barron Buelow's completed artwork



Michele Barron Buelow works on the island



Neil Walling sizes up the shrimp boats



Tracy Owen Cullimore's finished product



Dr. Anna Darrow

photos provided

Luncheon Program About Everglades Doctor

Storyteller and Chautauqua Scholar Carrie Sue Ayvar will portray Dr. Anna Darrow, a pioneer physician often known as simply "Doc Anner" to her patients, at a luncheon program at Cypress Lake Country Club on Monday, February 19 at 11:30 a.m. Sponsored by Friends of the Fort Myers Library, the program is \$35 for lunch and performance. Reservations are required and seating is limited.

In 1909, only the second woman doctor in the state of Florida, Doc



Carrie Sue Ayvar

Anna traveled through the swamps and glades of Florida, braving alligators and venomous snakes to treat any and all who needed her help, no matter their color or background – from fishermen to trappers, Seminole Indians and even some of the most dangerous outlaw gangs this state has ever seen. Doc Anna was also an award-winning painter.

A third generation award-winning storyteller, Ayvar came of age in Mexico. Blending traditional and personal tales, she takes listeners on a journey into the imagination connecting people, languages and cultures.

Cypress Lake Country Club is located at 6767 Winkler Road in Fort Myers. For more information and to register, visit www.bit.ly/FML0219.

Opera Performances Come To Area

Daniel Scofield and Ola Rafalo performing in *Carmen*

photo provided

Gulfshore Opera will be performing on Sanibel and in Fort Myers in the upcoming days. The talented singers will hold a Grand Opera Night at the Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ on Saturday, February 17. There will be arias, duets and scenes in the Very Verdi Concert at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center on Friday, February 23. Both shows are at 7:30 p.m.

General Director Steffanie Pearce describes the performances as "a sort of buffet of favorite scenes, performed in

costume, with a narrator explaining the action." "We presented it last year and the audience loved it," she said.

The selections for the 2018 Grand Opera Night are from *Carmen*, *Faust*, *The Merry Widow* and *West Side Story*.

This season, Gulfshore Opera has employed seven professional singers with New York management for a nine-week residency, and several of them will be performing on the Grand Opera Nights tour. The soprano leading lady is Camille Ortiz, a native of Puerto Rico,

continued on page 22

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Acclaimed Italian singer Aaron Caruso will again perform and add to your dining pleasure on Saturday, February 16th beginning at 5 pm. This solo appearance will be the opera singer's 4th show at LaMotta's.

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Yellow oxalis is a native perennial usually considered a weed

photos by Gerri Reaves

Plant Smart

Yellow Oxalis

by Gerri Reaves

Cheerful yellow oxalis (*Oxalis corniculata*) is native to most of the U.S. and is commonly found in yards, fields, disturbed areas, and along roadside and sidewalks. It grows in full and partial sun.

Some of the many common names for this member of the wood-sorrel family are lady's sorrel, creeping oxalis, creeping woods and yellow wood sorrel.

The word creeping refers to the species' growth habit and yellow to the tiny flowers.

The trifoliate clover-like leaves earn it the names shamrock, lucky clover and good luck plant.

Because oxalic acid gives it a sour taste, it is also known as sour grass.

At first glance, the low-growing, perennial looks like clover dotted with cheerful flowers.

It can be reclining or upright in form, growing as tall as 10 inches. It spreads via horizontal underground stems, or

rhizomes, and forms dense mats.

Songbirds also spread it by eating and dispersing the seeds.

This herbicide-resistant plant is usually considered a weed.

The five-petaled flowers have five sepals and stamens and long and short filaments. Funnel-shaped and less than one-half inch across, they are borne singly or in groups of three all year in Florida. Bees love the flowers.

The dark-green leaves have three heart-shaped leaflets with a central crease. Leaflets are about half an inch across, are attached at the point, and fold up at night or sometimes in extreme heat. The stems are hairy.

The five-ridged seed capsule resembles a tiny okra pod. It dries and forcefully expels the 10 to 50 seeds.

Consuming the leaves is not advised, for serious problems can result, including internal bleeding. However, Native Americans have many traditional medicinal uses for the plant.

Sources: *Everglades Wildflowers* by Roger L. Hammer, *Florida Wildflowers and Roadside Plants* by C. Ritchie Bell and Bryan J. Taylor, *The Guide to*



This hard mat-forming plant has clover-like trifoliate leaves and cheerful flowers that attract bees

Florida Wildflowers by Walter Kingsley Taylor, *National Audubon Society Field Guide to Florida* by Peter Alden et al., *Wildflowers of Florida Field Guide* by Jaret C. Daniels and Stan

Tekiela, www.edis.ifas.ufl.edu, and www.wildsouthflorida.com.

Plant Smart explores the diverse flora of South Florida.✱

Lakes Park To Hold Garden Day

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.✱

County Farm Tours

Join UF/IFAS Extension officials for a day of farm tours in Lee County, departing from Terry Park on Wednesday, February 28 at 8 a.m. and returning at 4 p.m. The agritourism experience demonstrates new trends in tropical agriculture.

The tour will visit:

A renowned honey production facility that has been in operation for more than 30 years;

An urban farm at which a fresh, farm-raised lunch will be served farm-to-table style at the modern facility, which includes a hops production enterprise being developed for a planned microbrewery operation;

A new poultry operation in the Buckingham farming community;

A final stop offering a blend of enterprises that will interest anyone with urban agribusiness ventures.

Cost for the tour is \$65 per person. The tour is an agritourism initiative that fulfills the mission and purpose of the University of Florida IFAS Lee County Extension and Lee County Parks & Recreation.

The tour has limited space and fills quickly; early registrations are recommended. For registration details call 533-7512 or email fbeckford@leegov.com.

Terry Park is located at 3410 Palm Beach Boulevard in Fort Myers.✱

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CROW Case Of The Week:

Florida Red-Bellied Cooter



by Bob Petcher

The Florida red-bellied cooter (*Pseudemys nelsoni*) is one of the largest river or pond turtles in North America. This species of turtle is typically called a cooter due

to its freshwater habitat, dullish brown shell and yellow stripes upon its head. It is known to be a popular breed for turtle enthusiasts.

The state's red-bellied cooter can be set apart from other like turtles by its distinctive reddish underside and raised points on the crowns of teeth on its upper beak. This particular turtle does not hibernate and stays rather busy throughout the year.

At CROW, an adult Florida red-bellied cooter was admitted to the clinic from Lehigh Acres after it was struck by a vehicle while crossing the road. As a result, the turtle suffered a fractured upper shell along with small scrapes and bruising. The wounds were cleaned and flushed, then bandaged.

Due to the location of the fracture near the left lung, veterinarians were concerned that fractured pieces of the

shell may have penetrated the lungs. Luckily, this was not the case. Even if the lung was slightly punctured, the patient would have most likely escaped death.

"As long as it is a small wound, kept clean and free of contamination and closes up quickly, they can do ok," said Dr. Malka Spektor, CROW veterinary intern. "We also have to be careful when flushing the area not to get water into the lungs, or the turtle can drown."

The following day, the patient was prepped for surgery and a fixation device was mounted to its shell. The device consists of a metal bridge screwed to the shell with wire attached to screws on the fractured pieces of the shell that were depressed into the wound.

"The fixation device we used puts traction on the shell fragments to lift them back to as normal a conformation as possible," said Dr. Spektor. "The fragments were putting pressure on the lungs and overlapping each other, so they were difficult to replace with other methods."

The plan is for CROW medical staff members to tighten the wire at times to raise the fractured pieces level with the rest of the shell. A feeding tube was also placed to ensure the turtle receives proper nutrition during the healing process.

"The wire gets tightened every few days to increase the traction on the shell fragments to continue to lift them in line with the rest of the carapace," said Dr. Spektor.



Patient #18-0204 prior to surgery and being fitted with a fixation device

photo by Brian Bohlman

A badly fractured carapace is not a quick heal.

"It will take over a year for complete healing, but there may be enough stabilization after a few months for release," added Dr. Spektor.

After a full week under medical care, the Florida red-bellied cooter appears to be on the road to recovery. Its release, however, does not appear to be in the near future.

"The patient is doing really well. Bandage changes show a healing wound, and the patient is tolerating

feeding through the tube very well," said Dr. Spektor. "It will be a while before release is possible, but the patient may be able to be moved outside into a large tank within a few weeks."

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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Snook Fishing Turns On



by Capt.
Matt Mitchell

Warming water temperatures this week along with a great stretch of awesome weather finally fired up the catch-and-release snook bite for the first time since early January. Along

with the great snook action, trout and redfish became part of our daily catch, too. It's just awesome to be back shiner fishing again after over a month of grinding it out catching sheepshead on shrimp.

Once the water temperature raised to 68 degrees, snook came out of the long winter hibernation and finally started feeding again. That appeared to be the magic number. What a difference a few degrees of water temperature made, as it was like the switch got flipped to the 'on' position. The mangrove creeks that I have been catching sheepshead in all winter blew up with a fantastic topwater shiner bite. Trout, jacks and mangrove snapper also exploded on live shiners making for a great visual bite.

Mangrove creek systems came alive again when chumming live shiners. Being able to throw free-lined shiners at feeding snook as they blow up on the surface is one of my favorite ways to fish. The majority of these fish are in the mid 20-inch size range although we did catch a few this week right around 30 inches.

With another warm week forecast this catch-and-release bite will only get better and better. Clean, clear water in these creek systems only adds to enjoyment of this great wintertime fishery.

Out along the beaches, the tripletail fishing keeps getting better and closer to shore as the water continues to warm up. Some regular clients from St. Louis early in the week wanted to target tripletail. With a nice calm day, we headed out around Lighthouse Point to run the crab pots. The pots in close to the beach did not produce, so I kept pushing further and further out. I had a few reports from stone crabbers seeing fish out in the 40-foot range. After making it out to 35 feet, we finally began to see and catch a few tripletail. All in all, it was a pretty good trip. We saw six tripletail and landed three. While running around offshore in the pretty clean water, I was very surprised to not see any other life – no feeding birds, no bait or breaking fish. As our water continues to warm up this will quickly change.

Nothing makes me or my clients happier this time of year than to be back throwing live shiners. I forget how much I missed this type of fishing until it totally shut down due to the crazy cold we experienced the whole month of January. For over a week, I had caught shiners everyday, and the snook just would still not eat them. Once these snook did decide to turn on, it's been a beautiful thing.

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.✪



Mindy from Cape Coral with a big trout caught while shiner fishing with Capt. Matt Mitchell this week photo provided

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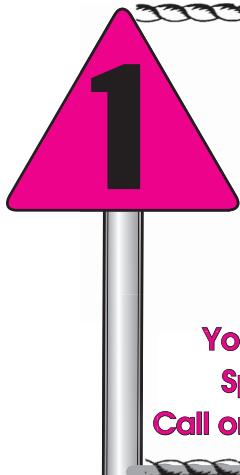
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Dave Doane



Angler with a lionfish

photo courtesy FWC

Reef Rangers Ready For Lionfish Hunters

Divers and lionfish hunters: Do you have what it takes to become a Reef Ranger? The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has updated its Reef Rangers website – www.ReefRangers.com – and the program is ready for more participants.

Reef Rangers is a year-round lionfish removal program where individuals and teams of divers pledge to remove lionfish from adopted reef sites of their choice. You can compete with other harvesters for a top spot on the leadership board and network with other lionfish harvesters around the state. The program is a great way to practice your lionfish-harvesting skills

before the 2018 Lionfish Challenge and Tagged-Lionfish Removal Incentive programs begin on May 19.

Targeted and consistent removals are known to have a positive impact on native species and habitat, which is why these programs are important and effective in controlling the lionfish population.

Explore the interactive map to see where others have been removing lionfish across Florida, and do your part to contribute to statewide removal efforts.

Sign up today to receive your very own Reef Rangers lionfish T-shirt, tank sticker and magnet, and continue your removals and harvest reports to earn more prizes.

Not a diver? You can also support a team by visiting our sponsorship page or support FWC lionfish control efforts by donating to our nonprofit organization, the Fish & Wildlife Foundation of Florida.✱

New Deputy Chief For FMPD

Fort Myers Police Department (FMPD) recently hired Jeffery Meyers as deputy chief. He was sworn in at a Fort Myers City Hall ceremony on January 26 by City Clerk Mary Hagemann.

Meyers joins the department with 27 years of law enforcement experience, 24 of those years with the South Euclid (Ohio) Police Department where he started as a patrol officer and rose to the rank of lieutenant. He is a graduate of the FBI National Academy and Northwestern University School of Police Staff and Command and holds a bachelor of science degree in criminal law at Bowling Green State University. Deputy Chief Meyers comes from a long line of family involvement in law enforcement. His parents live in Estero, and he has been visiting Fort Myers for many years.

Meyers takes on an administrative role with FMPD, overseeing support services and the development of improved tools and training for



Jeff Meyers

the officers and staff. He will work alongside Deputy Chief Randall Pepitone and Chief of Police Derrick Diggs overseeing the officers and civilian staff of the department.✱

Board Of Governors Electee

Laird A. Lile, a board-certified wills, trusts and estates attorney in Naples, has been elected without opposition to a seventh consecutive term on the Board of Governors for The Florida Bar.

Lile is one of two governors elected by members to represent the 20th Judicial Circuit, which includes Collier, Lee, Charlotte, Hendry and Glades counties. Lile's two-year term concludes in June 2020.

The 52-member board of governors represents The Florida Bar's 106,000 members and has exclusive authority to formulate and adopt matters of policy concerning the activities of The Florida Bar. Its membership includes the president and president-elect of both the bar and the Young Lawyers Division, elected members from Florida's 20 judicial circuits, four out-of-state representatives and two public members appointed by the Florida Supreme Court.

Lile was appointed by the Florida Supreme Court to its Judicial Management Council and to a third term on the Florida Courts Technology Commission. He is a member and immediate past chair of the Second District Court of Appeal Nominating Commission.

Lile is past chair of the Bar's 10,800-member Real Property, Probate & Trust Law Section. An elected member of the Board of Regents, past



Laird A. Lile

photo provided

state chair and a Fellow in the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, Lile was inducted into Florida Trend's Legal Elite Hall of Fame in 2010. He recently was named to Best Lawyers in America for the 23rd consecutive year and as a Top 100 Florida Super Lawyer for the seventh consecutive year.

Lile offers legal counsel on estate- and trust-related matters, including estate planning, estate and trust administration, probate-related litigation and tax matters. The firm's office is located at 3033 Riviera Drive Suite 104 in Naples. For more information, call 649-7778 or visit www.LairdALile.com.✱



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Katie Riemenschneider and her son with Gov. Rick Scott and his cabinet photo provided

Heights Teacher Honored With Governor Award

Heights Elementary teacher Katie Riemenschneider was recently honored as one of Gov. Rick Scott's Shine Award winners.

Riemenschneider is the International Baccalaureate (IB) World School's IB coordinator at Heights and teaches lessons to students in kindergarten through 5th grade. She serves on the district's Advisory Committee to the Superintendent and is a member of the Florida Lead Network.

Riemenschneider, who is in her 23rd year of teaching, was also Lee County's

Teacher of the Year in 2017. "While I'm so grateful for this recognition I feel that I represent all the amazing teachers in Lee County who do their best every day," she said.

The Shine Award is presented to teachers and administrators in Florida who make significant contributions to the field of education.

"It's great to see Florida educators

committed to providing every student with the opportunity to get a quality education in our state," Gov. Scott said. "We will continue our work to ensure they have the tools they need to help their students be successful in the classroom."

Shine Award winners were recognized during Gov. Scott's Cabinet meeting at the State Fairgrounds in Tampa on February 8.*

Local Elementary Students Praised For Raising Grades

The Fort Myers Metro-McGregor Kiwanis held the mid-year award ceremony for Littleton Elementary School students in the BUG (Bringing Up Grades) Program. There were 93 students recognized at Littleton. The next recognition ceremony will take place on April 6.

The Fort Myers Metro-McGregor Kiwanis BUG (Bring Up Grades) program is designed to recognize local elementary students who raise their grades to an acceptable range and maintain or continue to raise them from one grading period to the next. Each student in the program was recognized at an award ceremony with a certificate and new book. The Metro-McGregor Kiwanis currently has a BUG program at Littleton and Orangewood Elementary Schools and is seeking more schools to participate. The main fundraiser for the program is the Fort Myers Metro-McGregor Kiwanis annual Calusa BUG Chase 5K run typically held in January.

The Metro-McGregor Kiwanis Club is looking for more service-minded individuals and business professionals who would like to make a direct



Metro-McGregor Kiwanians Harris Segel and Barb Segel recognize students in the Littleton Elementary BUG Program photo provided

impact on the community through volunteering. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. in Fort Myers. For details on joining the Metro-McGregor Kiwanis Club, call membership chair Stewart Ross at 507-304-1624 or email stewart.ross@mnsu.edu. The Metro-McGregor Kiwanis Club can be found on Facebook or online at www.metro-mcgregor.com.*

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Junior Achievement CEO Academy

Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida is seeking entrepreneurial, business-minded teens for an exclusive weeklong summer camp in which they'll learn what it takes to become a successful business leader.

Open to rising high school juniors and seniors from Charlotte, Collier and Lee counties, the CEO Academy teaches students the basics of starting and operating a successful business. Under the guidance of experienced local business leaders, entrepreneurs and Florida Gulf Coast University professors, participating students work in project teams to develop a unique business concept and comprehensive business plan. Students can expect lessons in economics, entrepreneurship, ethics, finance, global economy, marketing and international trade.

The 2018 CEO Academy runs from June 4 through 8 at FGCU's Emergent Technologies Institute, located at 16301

Innovation Lane in Fort Myers. Camp hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Thanks to generous supporters, Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida is pleased to announce that college scholarship money will be awarded to each student on the winning team for the business plan competition held at the camp's conclusion. A distinguished judging panel consists of past Junior Achievement laureates, who themselves are exceptional entrepreneurs and have been recognized for making a significant contribution to the economic development of Southwest Florida while adhering to high moral and ethical principles. This opportunity offers students invaluable knowledge and experience from successful business leaders and entrepreneurs, which provides an excellent addition to a college application and the chance to participate in future Junior Achievement events.

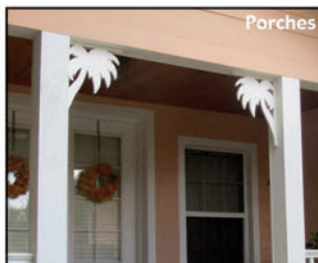
For more information on the CEO Academy or for interested students to apply, visit www.jaswfl.org or call 225-2590. There is a \$100 application fee, which is fully refundable if the student is not selected. The deadline for applications is Wednesday, April 18.*



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Gary Griffin photos provided

Tickets Available For Business Hall Of Fame

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are now available for Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida's induction and awards ceremony for the 2018 Business Hall of Fame, Lee County.

The dinner and awards ceremony is set for Wednesday, April 25 at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa, 5001 Coconut Road in Bonita Springs. A cocktail reception at 5 p.m. kicks off the event and will be followed by dinner at 6:30 p.m.

Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida will induct Pason Gaddis, co-founder and CEO of Florida Media Group, LLC, and Gary Griffin, P.E., president and CEO of B & I Contractors, Inc., into the 2018 Business Hall of Fame, Lee County. The prestigious award recognizes outstanding entrepreneurs who serve as role models for youth through their professional accomplishments and commitment to the community. Gaddis and Griffin will join a distinguished group of individuals who have been inducted



Pason Gaddis

into the Business Hall of Fame since its founding in 1999.

Business sponsorships are available and include entrance to the event with premium diamond sponsorships for \$10,000, platinum level sponsorships for \$8,000 and gold level sponsorships for \$5,500. These levels include eight seats, with an additional two seats reserved for students. Additional sponsorships available are silver sponsor level for \$2,000, which includes eight seats with two additional seats for students, and bronze sponsor level for \$1,000, which includes four seats at a reserved table. Individual seats are also available for \$250 each.

Sponsors also are needed to support student admission, which is \$125 per ticket. Junior Achievement students attending the event will have an opportunity to practice their etiquette skills while interacting with local professionals. Additionally, full-page and half-page advertisements are available in the event program book.

To reserve tables, purchase individual tickets or become a sponsor, call the Junior Achievement office at 225-2590 or visit www.JASWFL.org. Proceeds benefit local Junior Achievement programs.✱

Law Conference To Address Harassment Issues

Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, PA, will hold its annual HR Law & Solutions employment law conference at Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort & Spa on Tuesday, March 6. Conference Chair Suzanne Boy and Board Certified Employment Law Expert John Potanovic will address the #MeToo movement and renewed focus on harassment in the workplace by providing attendees with guidelines to develop and enforce solid anti-harassment policies and specific actions employers can take to help foster a harassment-free workplace.

The day will kick-off with an update from Attorneys John Agnew and Robert Shearman on recent court decisions addressing contentious employment policies, discrimination, EEOC trends and legislative developments impacting Florida

employers. Attorneys Michael McCabe, David Roos, John Potanovic, along with two guest speakers, will discuss best practices when confronted with discipline or termination of an employee with an ongoing workers' compensation claim.

After lunch, keynote speaker Steve Gilliland, one of the top-rated speakers in the world, will present Hide Your Goat: Strategies to Stay Positive When Negativity Surrounds You, exploring ways to head off conflict and find solutions for colleagues to work effectively together.

The event is sponsored in part by Lykes Insurance and Gravity Benefits. Registration fee is \$50 and includes a continental breakfast, plated lunch, valet parking and seminar materials.

Sanibel Harbour Marriott Resort & Spa is located at 17260 Harbour Pointe Drive in Fort Myers. For more information on the seminar or to register, visit www.swfemploymentlawblog.com or contact Gail Lamarche, Henderson Franklin's director of marketing and business development at gail.lamarche@henlaw.com or by phone at 344-1186.✱

Law Firm Partner To Speak At Business Summit

Pavese Law Firm partner Christina Harris Schwinn will speak at the 2018 Southwest Florida Women's Business Summit at Florida SouthWestern State College's (FSW) Building U on Friday, February 16 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The event is hosted by the Lee County Economic Development Office (EDO). Schwinn, whose practice area includes labor and employment law, will discuss employment matters for businesses conducting business in Florida. Registration for this event is free.

FSW is located at 8099 College Parkway in Fort Myers. For more information or to register for the event,



Christina Harris Schwinn photo provided

visit www.eventbrite.com and select the 2018 SWFL Women's Business Summit event listing.✱

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Lexington Sale and Have A Seat Sale End Feb 28. Stanley Sale Ends Feb 27. Sale Periods Cannot Be Applied To Previous Purchases.

Planned Giving Council Luncheon

The Planned Giving Council of Lee County, Inc. will present How To Recruit & Retain High Quality Staff at Blue Coyote Business & Social Club during a luncheon on Thursday, February 22 from 11:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m.

Speaker Christopher Simoneau will discuss and explore ways of motivating and engaging staff members, dealing with staff transitions and maintaining donor relationships in periods of transition. Best practices and ideas for recruiting, retaining, motivating and rewarding exceptional team members will be discussed.

Simoneau is vice president for University Advancement at Florida Gulf Coast University, and executive director of the FGCU Foundation. In this role he oversees all aspects of advancement, including fundraising, community relations, alumni relations, special events, donor relations and stewardship, as well as university marketing and communications. The Florida Gulf Coast University Foundation recently completed its 20th anniversary campaign with a total of \$128 million raised against a campaign goal of \$100 million.

Simoneau was previously with Tufts University, where he served as senior director of university advancement, and earlier as director of central development



Christopher Simoneau photo provided

programs for Tufts' highly successful \$1.2 billion fundraising campaign that concluded in June 2011. His previous higher education experience include associate vice president for strategic planning and university relations at Case Western Reserve University; at Columbia University as director of contract services in student services, and associate director for administration for the Earth Institute; and business manager for the Princeton University Materials Institute. Simoneau has additional experience in the private sector, including in the areas of strategic management, finance and

administration.

The meeting is sponsored by Harmaty Financial Services, James Harmaty, Life Insurance Agent/Broker. It is free to members. Cost for non-members is \$30 and includes lunch. Reservation deadline is Monday,

February 19 at noon. To RSVP go to www.plannedgivinglee.org. Blue Coyote Business & Social Club is located at 9854 Caloosa Yacht and Racquet Club Drive in Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.plannedgivinglee.org or call 850-0040.*

Tickets Available For Grande Dames Tea

Tickets are now on sale for the 10th annual Grande Dames Tea presented by the PACE Center for Girls of Lee County.

The Grande Dames Tea, honoring Dena Geraghty of Fort Myers, Elizabeth (Betty) Sanders of Fort Myers, Barbara Jean Yeomans of Fort Myers and honorary Grande Dame Eunice Bremner, will be at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre on Tuesday, March 13 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. The News-Press Media Group President and Publisher Bill Barker will serve as master of ceremonies.

Seats for the tea are \$60 per person and may be reserved online at www.pacecenter.org/locations/lee. Table sponsorships, which include eight tickets, are available for \$500. Tickets and tables may be reserved online at www.pacecenter.org/locations/lee. Attendees are encouraged to wear their favorite tea party hat.

The PACE girls will once again create handmade fascinators that will be available for sale later this month. Most hats will be \$50 with a limited number of specialty hats for \$100.

As the Grande Dames Tea celebrates its 10th anniversary this year, Eunice and Alexandra Bremner are the title sponsors for Grande Dames Tea in honor and loving memory of Berne Davis, Barbara B. Mann and Eleanore Kleist, the first class of Grande Dames honored at this event.

Major event sponsors are Edison National Bank, Galloway Family of Dealerships, Broadway Palm, Caloosa Tent & Rental, Ruth Messmer Florist, Susan Bennett Marketing & Media, Fort Myers Infiniti, Mark Loren Designs and Connie & Ed Lizak. Media sponsors are The News-Press Media Group.

Chair of the Grande Dames Tea is Kathy Toll with Nancy Finch serving as co-chair. Both women are members of the PACE Lee Board of Directors.

"Our theme of The Wisdom of Age - Honoring the Female Spirit has carried through the last 10 years and is so appropriate because each of these women has much to share from her own life's journey with our PACE girls and guests," Toll said.

The agenda for the tea will include special performances by the PACE Girls and a question-and-answer session between the PACE girls and the three Grande Dames, that Finch said "will

inspire, motivate and unite girls and women of all ages."

The Grande Dames Tea was originated by PACE Center for Girls of Lee County to honor women who have played major roles in Southwest Florida history through decades of service, philanthropy and helping others.

Besides the late Berne Davis, the late Eleanore Kleist and the late Barbara B. Mann in 2009, previous honorees have included the late Jeanne Bochette, the late Helen Hendry and the late Veronica Shoemaker in 2010; Myra Daniels, Kathleen Nealon and the late Mimi Straub in 2011; Michel Doherty, the late Mavis Miller and Anna "Boots" Tolles in 2012; Thelma Hodges, the late Helen O'Rourke McClary and Ettie Francis Walsh in 2013; Barbara Norris Brown, the late Sarah Sciple and Margaret Sirianni in 2014; Sharlene Hamel Dozier, M. Jacqueline McCurdy and Melvin Morgan in 2015; Betty Anderson, Rusty Brown and Dr. Geraldine Burchard Nobles in 2016; and Pat Carroll, the late Lalai Hamric, and Beverly McNew in 2017.

Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre is located at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers. For information about the Grande Dames Tea or to become a sponsor, contact PACE Development Manager Allyson Ross at 425-2366 ext. 2315 or visit www.pacecenter.org/locations/lee.*

Greeters Club Luncheon On Friday

Is there any better source on a particular subject than the writers of the book? Robin C. Tuthill and Thomas P. Hall, co-authors of *Female Pioneers of Fort Myers*, will be guest speakers at the Greeters Club luncheon at the Crown Plaza Hotel on Friday, February 16. Registration is from 10:45 to 11:30 a.m. with lunch to follow.

By focusing on 24 iconoclastic gritty pioneer women, the authors will share rich personal stories about the lives of the everyday female leaders who helped transform Fort Myers from a rough-and-tumble cow town into a modern-day city.

Cost for the luncheon is \$20. Email greetersclub@gmail.com and provide your contact information (name, email address and phone number). You will receive a return email confirming your reservation.

Crown Plaza Hotel is located within the Bell Tower Shops area at 13051 Bell Tower Drive in Fort Myers.*

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Designer Earns Home Specialist Designation

Decorating Den Interiors (DDI) congratulates Katie Frederic on her achievement of attaining the DDI designation of LIVV Home Specialist.

A Fort Myers native, Frederic joined the Sanibel studio of Decorating Den Interiors in March 2017 after working as an independent designer with Frederic Design & Décor, which she established shortly after her studies at Art Institute of Fort Lauderdale and IDI Interior Design Institute.

"I was interested in providing a full-service experience to my clients from design to products and installation," Frederic said. "The DDI team was a perfect fit for me."

Decorating Den Interiors exclusively offers the LIVV Home Collection, an extensive catalog of preferred suppliers handpicked throughout the home furnishings industry. These suppliers are chosen for their demonstrated quality, unique design, incomparable service, and



Katie Frederic

photo provided

exceptional value.

"Katie will be able to bring our customer-oriented approach to interior design and home furnishings to her existing and future clientele" said Linda Coin, DDI co-owner. "The addition of Katie Frederic to our design staff will be an integral part of our continued market expansion."*

From page 1

Shell Point

relevant programming, an exceptional quality of life for the residents we serve," said Martin Schappell, president of Shell Point.

Once completed, the Tribby Arts Center at Shell Point will join the long list

of amenities that Shell Point residents and their guests enjoy, which include boating, championship golf with an elegantly appointed clubhouse, six restaurants, the Academy of Lifelong Learning, salon and spa, miles of walking and bike trails, and fitness centers.

To learn more, visit www.shellpoint.org or call 1-800-780-1131.*

Marketing Firm Hires Graphic Designer

CONRIC PR & Marketing has added graphic artist Justin Ungar to its award-winning creative design team. He lends a fresh perspective to CONRIC's approach to imagery and visual design and has extensive experience crafting logos, advertising design, promotional marketing materials and digital graphics for a number of local and national brands.

Ungar will work collaboratively with CONRIC team members and clients to build customized designs that are innovative and contemporary, yet capable of withstanding the test of time. Communication and attention to client needs will be a key part of the process to ensure that campaign objectives and client expectations are exceeded.

"What drew me to CONRIC is its strong sense of community both inside and outside the office," Ungar said. "I like the way the team interacts personally and professionally with vendors and clients. I look forward to the opportunity to work with CONRIC's diverse portfolio of clientele on their individualized and unique design concepts."

Ungar previously worked with Scott Fischer Enterprises, serving as graphic designer and creative lead for the Southwest Florida firm that owned Six Bends Harley-Davidson and operates Top Rocker Field and Events in Fort



Justin Ungar

photo provided

Myers. He was also a graphic designer for Zumiez, a Seattle-based clothing/skate retailer that sells several brands alongside its own private-label goods. He previously had his own company, providing freelance graphic design work for brands beginning in 2008, and he received his degree in fine arts from Florida Gulf Coast University in 2014.

"Ungar was the perfect fit for our expanding graphic design team," said Connie Ramos-Williams, president and chief marketing officer for CONRIC PR & Marketing. "He has a very distinct and recognizable design style that will serve our clients well."*

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Public Relations Accreditation

Molly Schweers, APR, of the Southwest Florida Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association (FPRA) recently earned professional public relations accreditation, and received the designation of Accredited in Public Relations (APR).

Schweers joins the more than 4,300 active public relations professionals worldwide who represent an elite group of skilled professionals committed to practicing with high ethical standards, including 34 currently in Southwest Florida.

Schweers is the outreach and education coordinator for Lee County Solid Waste. She's responsible for developing and implementing recycling and waste awareness campaigns. Among her community involvements, she serves on the legislative committee for Recycle Florida Today, serves on the board of directors of Keep Lee County Beautiful and is on the leadership team for the Southwest Florida chapter of FPRA. Schweers, a Fort Myers resident, earned a master of public administration from Florida Gulf Coast University and a bachelor of science from New Mexico State University.

To earn public relations accreditation,



Molly Schweers photo provided

candidates must pass an oral presentation and rigorous written examination administered by the Universal Accreditation Board (UAB), which is an alliance of eight national and statewide professional associations dedicated to furthering the field of public relations and the development of public relations professionals. FPRA is a member of the UAB.

Established in 1938, the Florida Public Relations Association is the oldest public relations organization in the United States.

For more information, visit www.fpraswfl.org or Like Us on Facebook.✧

Overdevelopment Still An Issue On Fort Myers Beach

Members of the Voice of Fort Myers Beach, a group of concerned citizens and business owners who advocate for responsible development on Fort Myers Beach, are anxious to see new development at the main entrance to the island. Still, watchdogs say it is vital that development be built to the size and specifications that maintain the integrity of the island in accordance with the Town's comprehensive plan.

"The Voice is in favor of new development, but strongly advocates against overdevelopment on the island," said spokesperson Connie Ramos-Williams. The FMB comprehensive plan, which is in place to protect the island from overdevelopment, clearly defines the maximum size developers are permitted to build in a given space. TPI Hospitality is requesting a deviation from the comprehensive plan's land development code (LDC) to obtain additional square footage. If this deviation is approved, the size of the development could double.

The Voice hopes that the excitement and desire to see a facelift at the entrance of the island doesn't tempt some to rush into accepting the overdevelopment plan with its 290 proposed hotel rooms. "The decisions made now in regard to the Times Square project are critically important, as it's likely not the last development project the island will see. Our beaches will continue to attract new developers, so setting clear rules for all to follow is in the best interest of all," said Doug Speirn-Smith, owner of Matanzas Inn & Resort.

The Voice states overdevelopment will negatively impact traffic, parking, tourism and infrastructure of the island. Density and intensity of any new development matters because space is limited for parking, traffic and beach access on the island. The off-island Park & Ride was built to provide parking for day-to-day users who support small businesses on the island, not to be used as an employee parking lot as specifically planned in the TPI proposal.

"Our hope is that the town's new land planner and council will remain cautious and recognize that the size of new development really does matter to the sustainability of the island," said Robert Boykin, co-owner of the Pink Shell Beach Resort. "Infrastructure on the island has not changed since the creation and adoption of the town's comprehensive plan. Density was a concern then and is a concern now."

The Fort Myers Beach comprehensive plan, as codified by the Land Development Code, recognizes that the town is already overbuilt. Policy 4-B-1 cites overbuilding as the cause of traffic congestion. A no-net development capacity policy is established in Policy 5-A-5. The Voice is concerned about many aspects of development for which the plan defines and recommends policies, including traffic, building height, setbacks, flood zone regulations, parking, density, intensity, health, safety and environmental impacts.

Paul Malbon, owner of Best Western Beach Resort, said, "Voice of Fort Myers Beach feels TPI Hospitality, like any other developer, should respect and build within the guidelines set by the Town's comprehensive plan."

For more information about the Voice of Fort Myers Beach or how you may get involved, visit www.VOICEofFMB.com or contact Voice of Fort Myers Beach spokesperson Connie Ramos-Williams at 690-9840.✧

LeeTran Launches Beach Tram Pilot Program

Lee County Transit, LeeTran, launched the Fort Myers Beach Tram Pilot Program on Monday, February 12 to provide additional public transportation options to the residents and visitors of Lee County just in time for Valentine's Day and the three-day Presidents Day weekend.

The Tram, which replaces the trolley on the north end of the island, runs from Bowditch Point Park to Matanzas Pass Preserve. The tram will turn around near Matanzas Pass Preserve by looping around Bay Road, Oak Street and School Street to head back to the north end of Estero Island.

This open-air, multi-car vehicle is free of charge and provides an easy, fun way to travel along the beach from hotels to restaurants, shopping and other attractions in the area. It stops along Estero Boulevard and throughout the Times Square area, providing easy access.

The Beach Tram connects with LeeTran's Beach Park & Ride Trolley, which originates from the county's new Beach Park & Ride facility located on the corner of Pine Ridge Road and Summerlin Square Drive. At its southernmost stop on Bay Road, it also connects with the Beach Trolley, which provides transportation on the southern end of the island to Lovers Key State Park. The Tram is ADA accessible and offers securement for one mobility device.

The new Beach Tram runs from 6:20 a.m. to 10:12 p.m. and has a 20-minute frequency, depending on traffic.

The Lee County Commissioners approved the \$268,400 purchase of two trams from Trams International, including automated vehicle locator systems, on December 19, 2017. Lee County Transit presented the pilot program to the Tourist Development Council in October 2017 and to the Fort Myers Beach Town Council and at a Lee Board of County Commissioner workshop in November 2017.

Lee County Transit, LeeTran, is the public transit provider for Lee County, providing more than 3 million rides per year. LeeTran operates 26 bus routes during season, 23 bus routes during off-season, a paratransit service called Passport and an

employer vanpool program. LeeTran has a fleet of 50 full-size buses, 9 trolleys and 45 paratransit vans.✧

Hours Extended For Passport Applications

The Clerk of Court's Recording Office is expanding its passport acceptance hours the weeks of February 12 and March 12. No appointment is necessary. During those two weeks, the office will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Lee Clerk's Office accepts and verifies passport applications on behalf of the U.S. Department of State. Officials review the passport application, collect the correct fees and make sure that all required documentation is included prior to it being sent. Passport photos can be taken for an additional fee.

Some applicants may not be required to visit the Lee Clerk's Office for a passport renewal. To see if you qualify for a renewal by mail, check passport renewal information, required fees, documents and all other information at www.leeclerk.org. Select the Passports link or call 533-5007 to get things started.

The Recording Office is located at 2115 Second Street in Fort Myers.✧

Continental Women's Club

The Continental Women's Club will hold its annual scholarship fundraiser, a style show and luncheon at Heritage Palms Country Club on Monday, March 19 at 11 a.m.

The fundraiser will feature many raffle items and a Chinese auction, with proceeds going to Continental Women's Club Scholarship Fund.

Tickets are \$35. Luncheon choice is Chicken Picatta or Fresh Fruit with Seafood Salad. Fashions by Dillard's at Coconut Point. This event is always sold out, so don't miss out on the fun this year.

Heritage Palms Country Club is located at 10420 Washingtonia Palm Way in Fort Myers. For more information, contact Nancy Crout at 223-6282.✧

From page 13

Opera

who recently completed her doctoral degree in voice performance and pedagogy from the University of North-Texas. Ortiz will play Vallencienne in *The Merry Widow* for the Grand Opera Nights series.

Ola Rafała, the Polish-American dramatic mezzosoprano, returns to Gulfshore Opera this year as Carmen in Grand Opera Nights. Rafała has been called a "vocal powerhouse" by critics, and she has performed in Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center and many other places nationally and internationally.

Baritone Daniel Scofield joins the Grand Opera Nights tour as Danilo in

The Merry Widow and Escamillo, the Toreador in *Carmen*. He has performed leading baritone repertoire across the United States including New York City, Houston and Los Angeles.

Tyler Putnam returns to Gulfshore Opera this year as the Resident Artist Bass. TheaterMania describes his voice as "robust and resonant" and audiences will see Putnam's artistry on display on the Grand Opera Nights tour. Putnam has appeared nationally and internationally as his talents are in high demand.

Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ is located at 2050 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel. Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center is located at 2301 First St, Fort Myers. To purchase tickets, visit www.gulfshoreopera.org or call 529-3925.✧



Joe Mitchell of Pool Pros, Inc. and Keith Ruebeling of Larue Pest Management, Inc. were the Big Bug Co-Title Sponsors for the 10th annual Kiwanis Calusa BUG Chase 5K run



Bo Campbell won overall male with a time of 17:38



Caroline Mackenzie won overall female with a time of 20:47



From left, Fort Myers Metro-McGregor Kiwanians Dick Arndt, Steve Hess and Paul Weinstein volunteered at the 10th annual Calusa BUG Chase 5K run

Bug Chase 5K Raises Money For Local Children

The Fort Myers Metro-McGregor Kiwanis held the 10th annual Calusa BUG Chase 5K run on January 27 at the Calusa Nature Center in Fort Myers. The race benefited the Fort Myers-Metro Kiwanis Club's BUG (Bring Up Grades) Program and other local club sponsored youth service projects. There were over 225 registered participants who traveled the trails at the nature center and a portion of the asphalt bike path on Ortiz. The race was timed with Chrono Track Bib Tag Technology, and was supervised by the Fort Myers Track Club. The run raised a net total of over \$3,000.

The Big Bug Co-Title Sponsors for the race were Pool Pros, Inc. and Larue Pest Management, Inc. Other sponsors included Nova Southeastern University, Leslea Ellis, LLC, United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee, Island Aire of Southwest Florida, Inc., Paychex, Pampered Pooch Dog Boarding, Ludden

Insurance, Weinstein Wilkes Financial Group, MLS Title and Great Clips Cape Coral. The Bagel Factory of Fort Myers, IBERIABANK, Sun Harvest Citrus, Garden Street Portables and Calusa Nature Center were in-kind sponsors.

Caroline Mackenzie won overall female with a time of 20:47. Bo Campbell won overall male with a time of 17:38. Other winners included Lisa Roeth (Masters Female), Gary Kinnee (Masters Male), Leslie Harrison (Grand Master Female), Leo Turchyn (Grand Master Male), Terry Willow (Senior Grand Master Female) and Frank Vecchione (Senior Grand Master Male). Age group awards were also presented. Full race results and photos can be found online at www.ftmyerstrackclub.com. Photos from the race can be found on the Metro-McGregor Kiwanis Club's Facebook event page (www.facebook.com/events/1305798532882301/).

All proceeds benefit the Fort Myers Metro-McGregor Kiwanis BUG (Bring Up Grades) program, designed to provide recognition to local elementary students who raise their grades to an acceptable range and maintain or continue to raise them from one grading period to the next, and



Runners line up for the 10th annual Kiwanis Calusa BUG Chase 5K run

other local club sponsored youth service projects. The Metro-McGregor Kiwanis currently has BUG programs at Littleton Elementary School and Orangewood Elementary School, and is actively seeking more schools to participate.

For more information regarding the 10th annual Calusa Bug Chase, contact Chrysten Foley at chrysten.foley@gmail.com.

The Metro-McGregor Kiwanis Club is looking for more service-minded individuals

and business professionals who would like to make a direct impact on the community through volunteering. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. in Fort Myers. For details on joining the Metro-McGregor Kiwanis Club, call membership chair Stewart Ross at 507-304-1624. Interested individuals or businesses can also email stewart.ross@mnsu.edu. The Metro-McGregor Kiwanis Club can be found on Facebook or online at www.metro-mcgregor.com.✱



Fort Myers Metro-McGregor Kiwanians volunteered at the run. From left, Chrysten Foley, Rachel Toomey, Liz Ross, Lindsey Lenhart, Patrice Cunningham, Karen Hurst, Harris Segel, Todd Adams and Weinstein



Runners exit the nature center trail portion of the run

Complimentary Hats Off To Heroes Tickets

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

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 until February 17, on a first-come, first-serve basis, while supplies last. The JetBlue Park box office hours



are Monday through Friday from 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/

JetBlue Park is located at 11500 Fenway South Drive in Fort Myers. For more information, call 226-4783 or email jbppevents@redsox.com.

Open House At JetBlue Park

The Boston Red Sox will kick off the 2018 season prior to spring training with a free public open house at JetBlue Park on Saturday, February 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Family friendly activities will include inflatables on the field, player autographs, discounted concessions, face painting and magicians, meet and greet/photo opportunities with Wally the Green Monster and his little sister Tessie, and self-guided tours of the park.

The open house will also feature the new Red Sox Showcase powered by T-Mobile. This is the first-of-its-kind mobile experience. The 14-foot box truck transforms into a full-blown Fenway experience including a pitching accuracy challenge, Green Monster photo backdrop, batting cage where fans can choose to walk up to their favorite player’s music, steal 2nd challenge, highlight reels, Red Sox virtual reality lockers, authentic player jerseys, and bats and helmets.

Guided public tours of JetBlue Park began Tuesday, February 13. Tours will be conducted daily from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the hour on non-game days until April 7. Tickets are \$7 per person, children age 12 and younger are free. Tickets go on sale the day of the tour at 10 a.m. at the box office and are

available on a first-come basis.

Pitchers and catchers held their first workout on Wednesday, February 14. The first full squad workout will take place on Monday, February 19. Workouts are free and open to the public.

VIP pregame tours are also available on game days for \$40 per person and \$15 for children age 12 and younger. Reservations must be made in advance and require a ticket to that day’s game.

The Red Sox play their first exhibition game on Thursday, February 22 at 1:05 p.m. against the Northeastern University Huskies.

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

The team will play a total of 19 home games, including 15 Grapefruit League games and two games against the Chicago Cubs on March 26 and 27 to close out the exhibition season.

Red Sox Spring Training is presented by CVS Health.

JetBlue Ballpark Netting Extended

Boston Red Sox officials, in collaboration with Lee County, will extend protective netting at JetBlue Park in Fort Myers from Field Box Section 111 to Left Field Box Section 114, expanded from Field Box Section 105 to Left Field Box Section 106. This new system will be completed for the start of the upcoming 2018 spring training season.

Besides its spring training facility, protective netting will be extended beyond the dugouts at Fenway Park in Boston for the start of the 2018 season. The new netting system will extend from Field Box Section 79 to Field Box Section 9, expanded from an area

previously covering Field Box Section 61 to Field Box Section 29. It will be positioned with the same consistent height as the existing system, which stands at 12 feet, 8 inches above the playing field.

The club has worked with design and engineering teams, as well as netting vendor Promats Athletics, to devise and install netting solutions for both Fenway Park and JetBlue Park that offer optimal visibility for the fan-viewing experience. All netting will be “field green” in color to further minimize the impact to sightlines in affected areas.

While expanded netting will offer additional protection, the club continues to encourage fans to be vigilant during games and to be on the lookout for balls and bats that may enter the stands in their seating area.

SPORTS QUIZ

1. Four players have hit at least 250 home runs for the Philadelphia Phillies. Name three of them.
2. How many times did New York Yankees legend Mickey Mantle have a season in which he had 40 or more home runs, but did not have 100 or more RBIs?
3. Ahmmon Richards set a University of Miami (Fla.) record in 2016 for most receiving yards by a freshman (934). Who had held the record?
4. Who was the last No. 1 overall draft pick by the Philadelphia 76ers before Ben Simmons in 2016 and Markelle Fultz in 2017?
5. How many years had it been before 2017 that the San Jose Sharks won a regulation NHL game in Buffalo?
6. In 2017, Lewis Hamilton set the Formula One record for most poles won (72). Who held the old mark of 68?
7. How many Wimbledon singles finals has Roger Federer been in during his 20-year pro career?

ANSWERS

1. Mike Schmidt (548 homers), Ryan Howard (382), Del Ennis (259) and Pat Burrell (251). 2. Twice – 1958 (42 home runs, 97 RBIs) and 1960 (40 home runs, 94 RBIs). 3. Michael Irvin had 840 receiving yards on 46 catches in 1985. 4. Allen Iverson, in 1996. 5. It was 12 years (2005). 6. Michael Schumacher. 7. Eleven, with eight wins.

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Tennis Brothers To Perform At Gala And Auction

The Bryan Brothers Band will make a different kind of string music at the 10th annual Madisen's Match Gala and Auction at Miromar Lakes Golf and Beach Club on Sunday, March 18. Cocktail reception and silent auction begin at 6 p.m., with the main event and live auction getting underway at 7:30 p.m.

Bob and Mike Bryan, the legendary doubles-playing brothers, will join bandmate Jim Bogios, the drummer for the Grammy Award-winning Counting Crows, and other world-class musicians for a very special poolside musical performance. The much-anticipated gala and auction offers a chance to bid on silent and live auction items as well as fine cuisine, all with a Grand Slam theme.

In March 2017, Madisen's Match raised nearly \$150,000 for brain tumor-related care and research programs in Southwest Florida.



Bob and Mike Bryan photo provided

Tickets start at \$175, and tables of eight are also available.

Miromar Lakes Golf and Beach Club is located at 10160 Miromar Lakes Boulevard. Visit www.madisensmatch.com for tickets and more information.*

Junior Achievement Golf Tournament

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are now available for Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida's sixth annual Breaking Par at Grandezza Gala & Golf Tournament at The Club at Grandezza from Saturday, April 21 through Sunday, April 22. Festivities will kick off with a gala dinner with live and silent auctions starting at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday evening.

On Sunday, the Shotgun Scramble Golf Tournament featuring students from the PGA Golf Management Program at FGCU begins at 8:30 a.m. Then an afternoon luncheon, prize giveaway and awards ceremony will conclude the weekend's activities.

The full event is in support of the community's future CEOs and business leaders. Breaking Par at Grandezza serves as the primary funding source for Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida's flagship program, CEO Academy. In partnership with Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU), the "model" week-long, business school summer camp is held for rising high school juniors and seniors.

In recognition of FGCU's valued, long-standing partnership, Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida recognizes FGCU President Dr. Michael Martin as the Breaking Par at Grandezza Guest of Honor. He will be attending both the gala on Saturday and the Shotgun Scramble Golf Tournament on Sunday.

Over the past five years, Breaking Par at Grandezza event proceeds have contributed more than \$247,000 in funding to support Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida's CEO Academy, and its additional programming. In an effort to help prepare students for success in the global economy, the CEO Academy focuses its teachings on business, economics and the value of free enterprise. From a practical standpoint, the CEO Academy also facilitates high-energy team building activities and provides an

invaluable professional setting whereby students interact with local leaders.

For local businesses interested in fostering young talent, event sponsorship opportunities are currently available at all levels. Scalable options range from Hole Sponsorships at \$300, right up to the premium Title Sponsorship at \$15,000.

Tickets for the Saturday night gala dinner are \$65, while all-inclusive tickets are \$175, which grant patrons attendance at the Saturday evening gala dinner, live and silent auctions, Sunday golf tournament and awards luncheon.

The Club at Grandezza is located at 11481 Grande Oak Boulevard in Estero. To purchase tickets or learn more about sponsorship packages available, visit www.jaswfl.org.*

LCEC Fishing Tournament

Calling all anglers to the 22nd annual Lee County Electric Cooperative (LCEC) United Way Fishing Tournament to be held on April 21. The Captain's Meeting to be held at 6 p.m. at D&D Matlacha Bait and Tackle on April 20.

Cost is \$65 per angler before April 18, \$75 thereafter. Students (with valid student identification) can fish for just \$50 before April 18, \$55 thereafter. Cash and prizes will be awarded. There will also be barbecue for sale, in addition to a huge silent auction and raffle.

A separate raffle will be held for a 2002 Ford F150 4x4 automatic with 86,000 miles, new tires, chrome wheels, A/C, bed cover and more. Tickets for the truck will be \$5 each or six for \$25. The winner will be announced at the tournament but does not have to be present to win.

Visit www.uw.lcec.net for information on registration, sponsorships and raffles, and contact fish@lcec.net or 656-2122 with questions. All proceeds from the tournament will benefit the United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee Counties.*

Madisen's Match Raises \$650K Plus For Charities

A decade of compassion goes a long way. Madisen's Match is celebrating 10 years of giving that has benefited cancer treatment charities in Southwest Florida and across the country. The annual tennis event and gala has raised more than \$650,000 to help children and adults stricken with the same sort of challenges that its namesake has faced since she was diagnosed with an inoperable brain tumor at the age of 3.

"It truly is hard to believe that we are at this point, 10 years later," said Duane Chaney, Madisen's uncle and the founder of the event. "It has been great to see the community support this vision. Without the backing of our community, Madisen's Match would not have evolved into the event that it is today. It's impossible to know just how many people Madisen's Match has helped."

Community supporters can see the impact of their generosity in the long list of medical equipment and other items the money has gone toward:

A VGo robot, which enables children with extended illnesses to attend school without leaving home or the hospital

Six chemotherapy chairs, which make the wrenching experience as comfortable as possible

Two Phillips transport monitors to



Madisen and her mother Faye Abramson photo provided

help medical professionals keep tabs on patients

Two Vecta distraction stations designed to help make hospital treatment less upsetting for children

A GestureTek game cube, which is a virtual reality gaming system to help keep children's minds off their treatments

The charitable giving also financed the \$75,000 needed to dedicate the Madisen's Match Activity Room at the new Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida.

"This playroom with Madisen's name continued on page 26

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Volunteer Income Tax Assistance preparers and assistants at work

photo provided

Taxathon Yields \$112,600 In Refunds

United Way Lee, Hendry, Glades, and Okeechobee launched tax season with its first annual Taxathon, a 12-hour free tax preparation and filing event designed to help families who may qualify for Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Care Credits.

United Way's Taxathon was held for individuals and families whose household income is \$66,000 or less as part of its mission to improve the financial stability of low to moderate income members of our community. While IRS trained volunteers provided free tax preparation, clients were also able to visit a variety of agencies that offer banking, voter registration and affordable healthcare counseling. Agencies and vendors present to assist clients included BB&T, United Way 211, the Health Planning Council and Lee County Elections Office.

The Taxathon statistics are as follows:

- 35 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) preparers and assistants
- 47 clients
- \$112,663 in refunds
- \$11,750 saved in tax preparation fees (avg. \$250/return)

"By holding this Taxathon, we are helping many low to moderate income working families who anticipate receiving tax refunds and want to file early," said Mary Meador, VITA volunteer trainer and site coordinator. "Having a 12-hour-long event ensures that more people can be served with high quality, free tax assistance. It also means people will be able to keep more of their hard-earned money because they won't be paying \$200 or more

in tax preparation fees. Households receiving large refunds are often getting the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and are encouraged to save a portion of it."

According to the Brookings Institution, the EITC is the nation's most effective anti-poverty tool, moving 6.2 million people out of poverty every year. This year, the maximum credit is \$6,269, and eligibility is determined by family size and income. According to the IRS, one in five taxpayers eligible for the credit are not claiming it.

United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades, and Okeechobee provides free tax filing services at 15 sites in Lee, Hendry, and Charlotte counties to individuals and families making less than \$66,000 per year.

More than 160 volunteers are staffing the sites this year. Tax preparers have been trained and certified by the IRS. Returns are filed electronically, making tax refunds available as quickly as from commercial tax preparing companies.

United Way VITA services will continue through the tax-filing deadline of April 17. Taxpayers can locate the most convenient VITA site, and schedule an appointment by visiting the United Way website at www.unitedwaylee.org/freetaxprep, or by calling United Way 211 by dialing 2-1-1 or 433-3900.

Last year, 3,900 individuals and families were able to utilize the earned income tax credit and other available credits through free tax preparation resulting in \$5.7 million coming back to our region.

If the tax payer has access to a computer and would like to file their own taxes free of charge, United Way can help with that too. Logon to www.myfreetaxes.com. It's simple, fast and secure while offering online assistance with the process.✱

Financial Focus

The Investment Outlook For 2018



by Jennifer Basey

By most measures, 2017 was a pretty good year for investors. But what can you expect in 2018?

It's difficult to precisely predict the immediate future of the financial markets. However, many signs point to improved global economic growth and rising corporate earnings – both of which are important drivers of stock prices. In the United States, economic growth may be more modest than in other regions, which could result in international stocks outperforming domestic ones.

Here's another consideration: Low interest rates typically benefit the financial markets – and unless inflation jumps sharply, the Federal Reserve will probably remain patient, only raising short-term rates slowly throughout 2018.

Despite these positive signs, there's also reason for caution. Political uncertainty and changes in economic policies may lead to increased market volatility. Another factor is the long-term history of the stock market, which includes a drop of 10 percent or more – technically called a "correction" – about once a year. We've gone two years since the last correction, so it would not be surprising if we saw one in 2018.

Given this outlook – which could be classified as "moderately optimistic" – what investment moves should you consider this year? Here are a few suggestions:

Rebalance your portfolio – The market's gains may have increased the value of your stocks so much that they now represent a greater percentage of your portfolio than you had intended – and you may not be comfortable with this increased presence.

So, you may want to rebalance your portfolio to achieve a suitable mix of stocks and bonds, based on your goals, risk tolerance and time horizon. As part of this rebalancing, and in an effort to help reduce the impact of market volatility, you may need to add investment-grade bonds and cash investments. (Of course, bonds carry some risks, too, including interest rate risk and credit risk.) The availability of cash will also make it easier for you to purchase stocks during a market downturn, when prices may be lower.

Look beyond U.S. borders – You may want to consider adding some international equity investments to your portfolio, if appropriate. As mentioned above, these stocks may do better than U.S. stocks in 2018, but regardless of performance, the presence of global stocks can help diversify your portfolio – and diversification can help decrease your overall risk level. (However, diversification can't guarantee profits or protect against all losses.) Keep in mind that international investing carries some inherent risks, such as those related to currency fluctuations and foreign political and economic events.

Be aware of "big" versus "little" – If you don't own many stocks of smaller companies, you might consider adding them to your portfolio. Smaller U.S. stocks have traditionally outperformed larger ones and may benefit from stronger economic growth and lower corporate tax rates. Be aware, though that small company stocks tend to be more volatile than those of larger companies. And, as with all stock investments, you may risk losing some or all of your principal.

You may want to consult with a financial professional to determine which of these moves, or any others, are right for you. You can't control the external factors affecting the financial markets, but you can take total charge of your own investment decisions – and in the long run, these decisions can help determine your success as an investor.

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.✱

From page 25

Madison's Match

on it will ensure that the legacy of Madisen and Madisen's Match will live on and inspire children who visit that playroom for generations to come," Chaney said.

Today, Madisen is 13, and her tumor is stable and shows no signs of growth. Aside from a once-a-year sedation and MRI, she lives life just like any other girl her age, excelling in school and enjoying time with her friends. In March, she and her parents will travel from their home in Maryland to visit Southwest Florida and serve as guests of honor for this year's Madisen's Match.

"It has been great to see Madisen understand the 'why' of what we do," Chaney said. "A few years ago, she finally was able to understand how the

event helps others like her, and how she can be an inspiration for kids who are faced with similar situations."

Madisen's Match Tennis Pro-Am will be held at Miromar Lakes Beach & Golf Club on Monday, March 19 at 1 p.m. It will be preceded by Madisen Match's Legends Tennis Camp at 8:45 a.m. Tennis stars such as world No. 13 Sam Querrey, 16-time Grand Slam winners Bob and Mike Bryan, and former U.S. No. 1 men's player Mardy Fish headline the two-day event this year.

The grand finale of the two-day fundraiser will start at 6 p.m. Monday, March 19 when the Golisano Children's Hospital Pro Tennis Classic becomes Southwest Florida's first indoor tennis event at the Suncoast Credit Union Arena on the campus of Florida SouthWestern State College.

Tickets, sponsorship opportunities and ways to give can be found at www.madisensmatch.com.✱

Book Review

The Chilbury Ladies' Choir



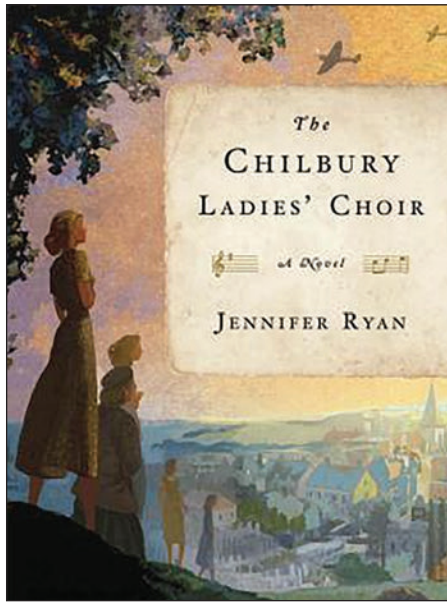
by Di Saggau

The *Chilbury Ladies' Choir* by Jennifer Ryan gets extremely high marks from those who have read it. It's another story about World War II with a different view. As England enters the war,

spirited music professor Primrose Trent, a newcomer to the village of Chilbury, emboldens the women in the town to defy the Vicar's stuffy edict to shut down the church's choir due to the absence of men. "Just because the men have gone to war, why do we have to close the choir? And precisely when we need it most."

The women of this small village resurrect themselves by lifting themselves up in joint song as the war tears through their lives. Told through letters and journals, the book moves from budding romances to heartbreaking matters of life and death. We come to know the many members, which includes a timid widow worried over her son at the front; a town beauty drawn to a rakish artist; her younger sister nursing an impossible crush and dabbling in politics she doesn't understand; a young Jewish refugee hiding secrets about her family. We get to know them all.

Though the action spans only a few months in 1940, a lot happens. There are bombings, a cruel baby-swapping scheme by a conniving midwife, passionate love affairs, acts of espionage and moments of triumph. It seems the women of Chilbury are constantly being tested. Their strength and the choir binds them together. The choir director tells them, "Music takes us out of ourselves, away from our worries



and tragedies." Real tragedy visits the town but the indomitable spirit of these women carries on.

Key female figures include the sensible widow and nurse Mrs. Tilling; the scheming midwife Miss Paltry; Kitty Winthrop, a headstrong 13-year-old; and her older sister Venetia, the town beauty and hopeless flirt. I found the book to be well-paced, with interesting characters and a feel for how their journals gave us a sense of understanding the times. Jennifer Ryan's debut novel illuminates the true strength of the women on the home front in a village of indomitable spirit.

Best selling author Beatriz Williams said, "*The Chilbury Ladies' Choir* sinks you deep inside the rich, intricate atmosphere of an English village in the middle of war, when quiet lives are upended and secrets unravel. With her unforgettable characters and vivid narrative, Jennifer Ryan creates the kind of wartime novel that plays out over the intimate territory of the human heart, full of soul, full of hope. You'll be thinking about this book long after the last page turns." I think you'll like this one.*

School Smart



by Shelley M. Greggs, NCSP

Dear Shelley, My daughter was recently diagnosed with a learning disability, and I am worried about her self-esteem. How might this affect her? What should I look for, and what can I do to help her?

Isabel G, Fort Myers

Isabel,

It is common for kids to go through at least some period of emotional struggle after being identified with a learning disability. It isn't easy for children when they see themselves falling behind their peers at school. Even if they pretend that they don't notice or care, struggling in school is a disheartening experience. Here are some signs of emotional struggle to watch for:

- Lowered self-esteem
- Increased anxiety, particularly in academic situations
- Increased sadness or irritability

Acting out
Physical symptoms like headaches or stomach aches

Reduced motivation

Children's emotional responses can be obvious like crying or worrying, while others might act out and are more frequently misunderstood. Laura Phillips, PsyD, a neuropsychologist, explains, "Sometimes kids would rather be the 'bad' kid than the 'dumb' kid, or they'd rather be the class clown. They're either trying to divert attention away from their academic struggles or they're trying to have the 'I don't care' attitude as a way of saving face."

Children with learning problems and disabilities need academic support to strengthen skills and find strategies that enhance their strengths, and they need support to cope with the emotional upheavals that may result from their learning issues. If you see signs that your child is struggling, try to understand what specifically is troubling her. Below are the two most common reasons why kids with a learning disability might feel badly about themselves and what to do about them.

The number one issue is that kids think they are dumb. This false belief usually develops during the period before a child has received a diagnosis. Children

often notice if they aren't learning at the same pace as the other kids, and then assume it is because they just aren't smart. Unfortunately, many kids continue believing they aren't smart even after they are diagnosed with a learning disability.

Here are a couple of ways to handle this situation:

Make sure your child understands what a learning disability is; talk it through. "Kids might not know, that the definition of a learning disability means that a student is of at least average intelligence," explains Dr. Phillips. In fact, a learning disability is identified when an expert recognizes that a child is not performing up to her natural ability in an area. Hearing explicitly that a learning disability has nothing to do with intelligence can be very meaningful to kids.

Examine your own feelings and think about the messages you are sending. Children are very sensitive to their parents' emotions and, if they sense that you are uncomfortable with their diagnosis, or that you think that having a learning disability is a tragedy, they will probably feel the same way. Because learning disabilities in children can be genetic, sometimes seeing a child struggling can also bring back difficult memories for parents, or make them feel guilty. The best way to help your child feel more positive is to be positive yourself.

Another reason that children struggle emotionally with a learning disability identification is that they do not want to be different from their friends. So, when kids get pulled out of class for tutoring or special classes, they may feel embarrassed. They may dread certain classes where they struggle and can't keep up with their peers. These experiences day after day can damage their sense of self.

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Female Pioneers of Fort Myers

Women Who Made a Difference in the City's Development

By Robin C. Tuthill and Thomas P. Hall

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

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



Audrianna Macchia photo provided

Sunshine State Scholars Selected For Lee County

Lee County high school juniors, Audrianna Macchia from North Fort Myers High School and Mary Brady from Cape Coral High School, have been selected as Sunshine State Scholars for 2018. The honor means they are the Lee County School District's top 11th grade students in the areas of Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM).

Macchia has a weighted Grade Point Average of 5.14. She has also somehow also managed to complete 146 hours of community service. Her school counselor, Darcy Coleman, says school officials are so excited for Audrianna to participate in the Sunshine State Scholars event. "She is a dedicated student who excels in math and science here at North Fort Myers High School. We are proud for her to represent our school".

Brady is the founder and president of the Science National Honors Society at Cape Coral High School. She participated in a two-week STEM camp at FGCU



Mary Brady

last summer. Her weighted Grade Point Average is 5.0. Her IB Counselor Michael Scott said, "In all endeavors, I have seen neither complacency nor timidity. Mary knows that excellence comes from effort. It is not her success that is impressive, it is her constant pursuit of excellence that is remarkable."

The Sunshine State Scholars event is a convergence of Florida's highest caliber STEM students, the universities that hope to enroll them, and employers who might soon be very pleased to have them on their team. It will be held May 17 to 18 in Orlando. Both students will join the state's 100 other top 11th grade STEM students for an extraordinary two-day program. Together they will conduct a "think tank" on tough Florida challenges.

The two-day program culminates with the Commissioner of Education honoring each scholar for their significant academic accomplishments and celebrated for the potential they represent for our communities and state.

In addition to bringing together the scholars to be honored by the Commissioner of Education, representatives from Florida's colleges and universities meet with the students and discuss higher education opportunities available to them in Florida.*

FSW is located at 8099 College Parkway in Fort Myers. For more information, contact The Office of Student Financial Aid at 489-9336 or visit www.fsw.edu/financialaid.*

College Prep Course

Four Freedoms Park will hold a College Unmazed course on Saturday, February 24 from 9 a.m. to noon. The course is designed to thoroughly prepare students for the college application process from college searches, resumes, essays and scholarships.

Cost is \$75. A workbook will be included, and parents are welcome to attend at no additional fee. A computer with Wi-Fi is suggested.

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

Superior Interiors

The Powder Room



by Linda Coin

Called all kinds of names – hall bathroom, powder room guest bath, half bath, little's girl's or boy's room, it's probably the smallest room in your home. And, all too often, it's the most blandly decorated room in our home. And, worse still, it's probably the room most often frequented by your guests.

So, why not let your imagination and creativity flow into overtime. Make a bold statement in the room. Work on creating a focal point. It's not uncommon for these small room to have no window, and let's face it, there's not much beautiful about a toilet and vanity.

Here are a few ideas you might want to incorporate, when considering giving this room a complete makeover.

1. Start with the vanity. Replacing a plain laminate top with a beautiful granite surface might be just ticket. Or, how about considering some of the handsome furniture pieces that are not only graciously designed but fully functional as well. They are totally designed to give a small powder room a fabulous focal point.,

2. Dramatic wallpaper could certainly reduce the boxy feeling these small rooms are typically known for. Think about selecting something exciting and spectacular. Today's faux finish wallcoverings come complete with embedded jewels and crystals. Just think of the drama you can create.

3. Your flooring. How about replacing that vinyl with a new laminate or tile floor. Even a multi-patterned area rug, might add just the right touch to this often used space.

So how about it. Get up right now and go and look in your powder room. Could it use a little makeover – or a large redo? If so, give us a call, and let us help you create a room that your guests will be unable to stop raving about.

Linda Coin is an interior designer on Sanibel/Captiva Islands and can be reached at linda@coindceden.com.*

Science And Engineering Fair Awards Winners

The Thomas Alva Edison Kiwanis Science and Engineering Fair Award Ceremony held on the campus of Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) on January 24 recognized 150 students with hundreds of family members looking on proudly.

The signature event of the Fort Myers Kiwanis and a sanctioned Edison Festival of Light event announced winners of both Senior High Division and Junior High Division participants in 13 distinct science categories.

The Best of Fair Award in the Senior High School Division: Biological Sciences – Senior Anna Kucera, Canterbury School; Physical Sciences – Junior Dahila Dry, Fort Myers High School (who also won Best of Fair, Physical Sciences last year). Best in Fair in the Junior High School Division: Eighth grader Junwei Tan, Gateway Charter Intermediate School. All three students will be honorary guests of the Edison Festival of Light and ride in its Grand Parade on Saturday, February 17.

For a complete list of winners, visit www.leeschools.net/news?id=a75ff2fd-6982-4a13-bce9-e29b2eedf61d. Prize winners are selected to compete as finalist at the 63rd annual Florida State Science and Engineering Fair in Lakeland, Florida, on March 27 to 39. A total of 36 students will be competing.

Over five years, students from the Kiwanis Science Fair had 148 student participants with 113 receiving awards, a recognition rate of 76 percent, the

envy of regional science fairs across Florida.

Five students will be advancing to the Intel International Science and Engineering competition in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania from May 13 to 18.

Those students advancing to State and International competitions will be competing for millions of dollars in additional scholarships. Thirty six scholarships came from Florida Gulf Coast University with other scholarship donated by the Southwest Florida Community Foundation, Florida Southwestern State College and the SW Florida Regional Technology Partnership.

Scores of Special Awards were bestowed. Sony Electronics, a long-time partner of the Kiwanis Science and the Edison Festival of Light Inventors Fair, donated over \$10,000 in high-end personal electronics products to both the Kiwanis Science Fair and the Edison Festival of Light Inventors Fair, held the same day. Other awards were made by individuals, organizations and agencies using special criteria set by the donors. Cash prizes, certificates of merit, memberships, tickets to events, trophies and prizes were given out during the program.*

Master Graduates

Fort Myers natives Kate Marie Brink and Kathryn F. Catina recently graduated from the University of Alabama and were among some 2,077 degrees that were awarded during winter commencement on December 16.

Brink graduated with a master of arts degree, while Catina graduated with a master of science degree in human environmental sciences.*

FAFSA Assistance Available

Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) will assist current and prospective students with the 2018-19 Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at its Lee Campus in Building Q, Room 128 on Thursday, February 22 from 4 to 6 p.m.

The FAFSA is used to determine eligibility for federal and state grants, loans and work-study awards. Students and their families will have the chance to sit one-on-one with a financial aid specialist and complete the FAFSA application as well as the FSW Scholarship Application.

Every year, FSW recognizes outstanding students with the award of institutional scholarships that are based on merit and financial need. Admissions staff will be present to answer questions and offer assistance.

Little Hats, Big Hearts Raises Awareness

Kenly Luttrell was born in early February at Cape Coral Hospital, where she quickly received a hand-made red hat in celebration of American Heart Month. More than 2,000 red hats were hand-knitted or crocheted by local volunteers and donated to Lee Health hospitals in Cape Coral and Fort Myers for the annual Little Hats, Big Hearts initiative. Lee Health began distributing the hats to babies and mothers in its birthing centers at Cape Coral Hospital, Gulf Coast Medical Center and HealthPark Medical Center during Congenital Heart Defect Week from February 7 to 14.

Little Hats, Big Hearts raises awareness of heart disease – the No. 1 killer of all Americans – and congenital heart defects, the most common type of birth defect in the country.

An estimated 40,000 infants are expected to be affected by congenital heart defects each year in the United States. Of these babies, about 25 percent require invasive treatment in the first year of life. Parents and



Kenly Luttrell at 1 day old photo provided

children are affected every day by heart disease and stroke, yet many individuals still don't see cardiovascular disease as a threat to children.

Little Hats, Big hearts began in Chicago in 2014. The project has grown to include 460 hospitals in 40 states. For more information, visit www.heart.org.✱

Learn The Latest About Alzheimer's

If you're concerned about losing your mind, don't forget to attend a free seminar packed with information about keeping your brain healthy

Florida Gulf Coast University and the Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer's Resource Center will hold the 6th annual Symposium on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias in FGCU's Cohen Center Ballroom on Monday, March 5 from 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m.

Experts will share information about reducing the risk of dementia through nutrition and lifestyle changes; enhancing dementia care through music; and evaluating prevention therapies.

"The information will be of special importance to family caregivers, health care professionals and others interested in the care of memory-impaired persons," said Mitch Cordova, PhD. "However, most adults will find the

symposium interesting, informative and helpful. This is tremendous opportunity for our community to listen and interact with world-class scientists and practitioners in the area of Alzheimer's disease at no cost. We encourage everyone to attend." Cordova serves as president of the Dubin Center board of trustees and dean of FGCU's Marieb College of Health & Human Services.

Three speakers will be featured. Jessica Langbaum, PhD, is principal scientist with the Banner Alzheimer's Institute in Phoenix, holds a graduate degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Public Health and will speak about the Alzheimer's Prevention Initiative Program. Richard Isaacson, MD, is associate professor neurology and director of the Alzheimer's Prevention Clinic at Weill Cornell Medical College/New York-Presbyterian Hospital. He will share strategies for keeping the brain healthy and reducing the risk for Alzheimer's disease. He also will discuss recognizing how Alzheimer's

continued on page 31

From page 1

Theatre Conspiracy

tacked to the walls. She is an intellectual, a literature professor at Northwestern University. The exchanges between the two are tense.

The issues are whether Gidion was bullied or was lashing out, whether a girl had a crush on him or whether he had a crush on a popular boy, and was that boy being abused or was he an abuser. The tension escalates when it is revealed what Gidion wrote in a story that resulted in his suspension. The story is shocking and yet brilliantly written. A horrified teacher is the

narrator, a sympathetic mother her audience. We hear conflicting attitudes and views on the comprehension of art.

The success of the play falls on the shoulders of the two leads, and both Drexler and McCarter offer compelling performances. It is directed by Rachael Endrizzi. This is a bold play about a parent-teacher meeting that leaves you talking about it at length. I thoroughly enjoyed the performance.

Gidion's Knot plays through Sunday, February 18 at Theatre Conspiracy, located at Alliance for the Arts, 10091 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. Tickets are available by calling 939-2787.✱

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The Calendar Girls met some friends at the Gumbo Fest photo by Bill Floyd

Gumbo Fest Performers

The Calendar Girls, along with their sponsored guide dog, performed at Gumbo Fest at the Shell Factory and the Cypress Bend Community in Fort Myers on Sunday, January 28.

The Calendar Girls have sponsored 22 world class puppies for Southeastern Guide Dogs since 2006 and would like to thank the generosity of Southwest Florida during the process.✧

Free Insurance Counseling For Seniors Available

Seniors with concerns about Medicare and other health insurance options can receive free insurance counseling at three Lee Health locations. SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) counselors are now providing free, unbiased health insurance counseling at Lee Memorial Hospital, Cape Coral Hospital and HealthPark Medical Center. SHINE counseling sessions are available by appointment only.

Offered locally through the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida (AAASWFL), SHINE empowers seniors, their caregivers and family members to make informed decisions about health care coverage. By partnering with organizations like Lee Health, AAASWFL is able to reach more Medicare beneficiaries in Lee County.

SHINE counselors assist clients with Medicare, Medicaid, prescription assistance and long-term care planning. SHINE counselors can help seniors and people with disabilities find programs that may lower their prescription drug costs, provide prescription drugs at no cost, or help with Medicare Part B costs.

To make an appointment at any of these sites, or to receive assistance by phone, call the AAASWFL's toll-free Elder Helpline at 1-866-413-5337. Additional counseling sites can be found at www.floridashine.org. SHINE is a volunteer program of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs.

Lee Memorial Hospital is located at 2776 South Cleveland Avenue in Fort Myers. Cape Coral Hospital is located at 636 Del Prado Boulevard in Cape Coral. HealthPark Medical Center is located at 9981 South HealthPark Drive in Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.aaaswfl.org or by calling the toll-free Helpline at 866-413-5337 (866-41-ELDER).✧

Festival Funds To Support Pediatric Oncology

The diagnosis of childhood cancer is devastating for families. However, the journey of care can lead to hope when the family is able to turn to Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida for world-class pediatric oncology treatment. In support of this lifesaving program that enables local families to stay close to home, the 2018 Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest's Fund-A-Cause initiative is dedicated to supporting the pediatric oncology program at Golisano Children's Hospital.

The two-day festival 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 in Naples.

With 43 children across the nation diagnosed with cancer every day, the need for pediatric oncology resources within the region is imperative. During the Live Auction, auction-goers can raise their paddles in support of this year's Fund-A-Cause, helping make unbearable circumstances much easier for young patients undergoing months, or even years, of treatment for cancer at Golisano Children's Hospital.

"Offering lifesaving treatment right here in Southwest Florida, the pediatric oncology team at Golisano Children's Hospital enables families to stay together, keeping loved ones close without having to travel out of the region or state for superior services," said Elaine Hawkins, trustee and president of the board of directors, SWFL Children's Charities, Inc. "Providing for our children and families in need is key to our mission at SWFL Children's Charities, Inc., and we are honored to dedicate our Fund-A-Cause dollars to the pediatric oncology program at Golisano Children's Hospital."

The benefits of having these services available nearby is deeply appreciated and important to families of pediatric cancer patients, including the Bell family. One of the many children treated at Golisano Children's Hospital, Jack Bell, son of Ed and Rachel Bell, was diagnosed with stage four liver cancer at the age of two.

Because the tumor would not respond to treatment alone, Jack needed a liver transplant in partnership with Cincinnati Children's Hospital. Thankfully, because



Jack Bell photo provided

of the services available at Golisano Children's Hospital, the Bell family was able to return home less than a month after the transplant, and Jack received seven months of chemotherapy at Golisano. He is now a healthy 12-year-old boy who is thriving in school and playing sports.

"If we didn't have this amazing children's hospital in Fort Myers, we would have been forced to move permanently," said Rachel Bell. "To this day, Jack goes to the hospital every two months for testing, so it continues to be very important to his survival."

The Pediatric Hematology/Oncology Program was created in 1997 to meet the growing need for a comprehensive pediatric health care facility in Southwest Florida. The State of Florida Department of Children's Medical Services has designated Golisano Children's Hospital's Hematology/Oncology Program as one of just nine centers in the state for infants and children diagnosed with cancer and blood disorders. Through the center's membership in the Children's Oncology Group, a cooperative research group supported by the National Cancer Institute, Golisano Children's Hospital can ensure that patients have access to advanced therapies and the collective expertise of world-renowned specialists.

To learn more about these initiatives and their impact on Southwest Florida children, or for more information on the 2018 event, visit www.swflwinefest.org.✧

From page 8

Along The River

the fireworks show afterwards.

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.

The 5th annual **Sing Out! Chorale Festival** will be held at **New Hope Presbyterian Church** this Saturday,

February 17 and Sunday, February 18. Rehearsals are held between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Saturday, while the concert will be held on Sunday at 3:30 p.m.

The first half of the concert will feature the Symphonic Chorale and FGCU's University Choir and Chamber Choir. All are under the artistic direction of Dr. Trent Brown. The latter half of the concert will feature the Festival Chorus, led by Festival Clinician Dr. James Kinchen. There is no charge for admission to the festival concert.

Registration fee is \$50 for community participants and includes lunch, music and snacks. Student singers (age 15 and older) can participate free of charge, thanks to

support from the LAT Foundation.

New Hope Presbyterian Church is located at 10051 Plantation Road in Fort Myers. For more information or to register, visit www.symphonicchorale.org or call 560-5695.

The 13th annual **Evening with the Red Sox** will take place at Crowne Plaza Hotel at the Bell Tower Shops this Tuesday, February 20. The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. and include an extended cocktail reception with heavy complimentary hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine, autograph signings from Red Sox players, and silent and live auctions that will include exciting trips to major cities, sports memorabilia packages, theme park passes, golf outings and more.

A raffle for a Red Sox fan experience

Beautifulife:

TMI



by Kay Casperson

What does this stand for? Too much information. We are on information overload in so many ways. From the unlimited amounts of resources we are able to sift through online, to people everywhere dishing out

their opinions about absolutely everything under the sun on social media. Then, to top it off, there are those that feel it is appropriate to unload bunches of information on you that you never even asked for. In most cases, people don't even realize they are giving out too much information. So how should we react to all of this?

There is always a time and place to be social and to want to learn more about others, as well as to let people know more about you and your opinions. But, we need to be clear about when it is appropriate to give or get this information. Did you ask for it? Did someone ask you for it? Is this information going to help someone understand me more? Is the information I am getting from someone helping me understand more about them? All of this takes discipline, and understanding what your limits should be.

I try to share information with others on social media that is inspiring, interesting and, for the most part, positive. There has been a big increase over time of individuals sharing too many of their own opinions, experiences, thoughts and feelings about various aspects of life on all the social media platforms, and I just don't think

people want or need all of that.

It is amazing to me the amount of information that pops up when I do a digital search about something. Regardless of what I am looking for, there are hundreds and even thousands of answers and opinions about that particular subject. How do you know which answers are right or wrong? Common sense and instinct. Weed through the plethora of information and keep what makes good sense to you and feels like it would work or be a good fit for your situation and your life.

Many of us remember when the only way to find something out was to learn it from someone or to read it in a book, newspaper or magazine. Now, of course, in the palm of our hands lies an information source that is limitless in terms of what can be found, what questions can be answered and how much information we can get. It is up to you to decipher through and determine what is helpful to you.

Yes, we are definitely living in an age of too much information, so my advice is to carefully select what information you give people when communicating and to choose wisely the information you get from sources unknown to you. And, it just might be OK to say "TMI" to someone who is giving you information you have not asked for and certainly don't need.

My affirmation for you this week is: "I will carefully share information with others that is relevant and inspiring and will be diligent in searching for information that will continue to help me live my most balanced and beautiful life."

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.

Chronic Pain Workshops

Lee Health will hold a free six-week workshop, entitled Chronic Pain Self-Management – a research-based program developed by Stanford University – at the Beacon of Hope. The sessions will be held on Wednesdays, beginning February 21 from 9 to 11:30 a.m.

Participants will learn how to better manage chronic pain conditions such as arthritis, fibromyalgia, back pain, headaches and more. Information

presented in the workshop can help you become empowered to improve your quality of life. Learn how to more easily manage your medications; understand the benefits of exercise; manage symptoms of stress, pain and fatigue; and make smarter decisions related to health eating. Participants will also receive a copy of the book *Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Pain*.

The Beacon of Hope is located at 5090 Doug Taylor Circle in St. James City. Seating is limited and registration is required. Call 343-9264 for more information.

From page 29

Alzheimer's

disease develops long before symptoms appear. Dan Cohen, who holds a master's degree in social work and is founding executive director of Music & Memory Inc., will present Enhancing Care Through Music & Memory, which is sponsored by FGCU's Bower School of Music and The Arts. He was featured in the award-winning documentary film *Alive Inside* that showed the healing power of music on those with Alzheimer's disease.

The symposium is free to the public. Registration is required by Friday, February 23 by calling 437-3007. Three continuing education units are available for nurses,

nursing home administrators, guardians and social workers. The CEU fee is \$50.

The symposium is presented by FGCU's Marieb College of Health & Human Services and the Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer's Resource Center, a United Way partner agency that provides information, education and support to individuals with memory impairment and their family caregivers. Lecture sponsors are Grant Fridkin Pearson Attorneys and Counselors at Law and the Bower School of Music & the Arts at Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers.

FGCU's Cohen Center is located at 11090 FGCU Boulevard North in Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.Alzheimersswfl.org.



FSW President Jeff Allbritten, right, with FSW Marketing Coordinator Santiago Arenas, who designed the flag.

photo courtesy FSW

FSW College Flag Officially Unveiled

Florida SouthWestern State College now has an official college flag. The new design was unveiled Friday, February 2 at a college-wide event for faculty and staff.

"The flag showcases our college colors, purple and aqua, plus our official college seal. It was designed with four blocks which represent the four locations we have in Southwest Florida," said Dr. Jeff Allbritten, FSW president. "Along with

our college colors and seal, the flag also has our FSW letters, and a wavy pattern in the aqua block. The overall design is eye-catching."

In the coming weeks, the college flag will be installed on FSW's campuses and regional education center. The college flag will fly next to the American flag in front of Suncoast Credit Union Arena in Fort Myers; the Grand Lely Drive entrance on the Naples campus; in the center of the Punta Gorda campus; and off Cowboy Way on the LaBelle regional education center.

Visit www.FSW.edu for more information.

FREE SEMINAR

Volumizing Facelift: Fat vs Fillers

Join us for a light lunch and presentation, followed by a valuable Q&A session with SW FL's Facial Expert, Dr. Prendiville. He will explain the benefits of volumizing fillers and other aesthetic procedures. Also, find out the latest information on minimal incision surgeries, injectable facelifts, wrinkle reduction, skin smoothing techniques, and our newest fat dissolving treatment, SculpSure®.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD AT 11:30AM

GULF HARBOUR YACHT & COUNTRY CLUB

14500 VISTA RIVER DRIVE, FORT MYERS, FL 33908

Space is limited. RSVP Today. Please Note: This is hosted in a gated community, therefore we will need names of all attendees prior to seminar.

Stephen Prendiville, MD

Fellowship Trained & Double Board Certified Facial Plastic Surgeon



Call 239.437.3900 or visit www.DrPrendiville.com
9407 Cypress Lake Drive, Fort Myers, Florida 33919
1201 Piper Blvd, Unit 1., Naples, Florida 34110



dearRPharmacist

Six Natural Remedies For Varicose Veins



by Suzy Cohen, RPH

Dear Readers: Sometimes it seems like varicose veins come out of nowhere when you're least expecting it. Most people over the age of 60 have some degree, and usually they're not a big deal. But they

could be; it depends on the general health of your pipes. When I say "pipes" I mean your veins, they are the pipes that push blood throughout your body.

It is estimated that more than 40 million Americans have varicose veins. They mostly impact the legs and feet. It's different from spider veins which are not nearly as noticeable unless you have "Drinker's Nose" which causes spider veins to appear on the nose. People are sometimes worried that they'll be exposed as a heavy drinker or smoker because of these.

Varicose veins can become serious and cause pain, throbbing, swelling and increased risk of blood clots. If these angry swollen veins occur in the region of your anus, it's called a hemorrhoid.

Unfortunately, your risk of developing problematic veins increases as you age. If your mom or dad has them, chances are you'll get them too. I'm going to quickly share six ways to help with varicose veins right now. But if you have a serious condition, I urge you to read my longer article (3,400 words) which offers more treatment options. You can get that by signing up for my free newsletter at www.suzycohen.com, and I'll email it to you.

1. Weight
You can take some pressure off your legs by losing weight. The less pressure, the less puffy, twisted and distended your veins are. You see, your veins are weak, and the burden of having 50 to 100 pounds adds pressure to your veins and making the blood pool.

2. Weird Shower
You will love me, then hate me. When you are taking a shower, alternate between comfortably hot water, then colder water. You can do this to your legs only if you want to versus your whole body, and try each temperature for 10 or 20 seconds each. You should probably ask your doctor about this first. It helps your veins 'practice' the process of constriction and dilation.

3. Collagen
Collagen makes you elastic, so think of collagen allowing for healthy firm skin and a tight neck. Without enough collagen, your blood vessels and skin begin sagging.

4. Water.
Make sure you are hydrated throughout the day. Did you know that coffee dehydrates you? It makes you more prone to leg cramps through the 'drug mugger' effect of magnesium and other minerals. Energy drinks rob the same vein-loving minerals.

5. Diosmin
Bioflavonoids are found in the outer peel of citrus fruits. Diosmin is a well-studied citrus bioflavonoid that has been consumed for years, and it's well known within medical circles to support healthy veins and circulation in the body.

6. Hesperidin
Hesperidin is a citrus bioflavonoid, and it comes from oranges and lemons. It assists your body in the quest to fight varicose veins, hemorrhoids and micro leaks of blood (which causes easy bruising). Hesperidin can help strengthen capillaries.

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

Replace Some Sedentary Time With Bicycling



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

The average person spends over half of their waking day sitting or reclining. Too much sedentary time is a health concern and associated with cardiometabolic diseases. Even light intensity physical activities (LIPA), such as standing, encourage musculoskeletal changes that result in health benefits. Moderate to vigorous physical activities (MVPA), such as bicycling, have been shown to improve cardiopulmonary fitness. Combining short periods of MVPA with frequent intervals of LIPA can yield the greatest cumulative energy expenditure. We love bicycling for its many benefits: it burns calories, strengthens muscles, improves coordination and builds endurance. Bicycling is excellent for those who

want to protect the knees, hips, or ankles from higher impact exercises while promoting a good range of motion and improved joint lubrication. Bicycling also thickens and strengthens ligaments, which helps prevent injury. If you already cycle, you know the countless rewards.

People with limited mobility might consider low-intensity activity in combination with stationary bike riding. The exercise benefits are still there, especially compared to a compared sedentary lifestyle. A recumbent bike is another option that works well for some people, such as those who are recovering from an injury. The seats are comfortable and allow you to sit in a reclined position with the benefit of moving the leg joints through their range of motion. During unfavorable weather, indoor bike trainers are a fantastic option to convert your outdoor bike into a stationary bike so you can keep exercising.

Whether you're riding with friends for fun, biking to work, working out, or pedaling for injury recovery, cycling is a wonderful activity with numerous health and wellness benefits. Combining MVPA and LIPA can be an important step in reducing the health risks of a sedentary lifestyle. We hope to see you on the road.

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.✽

Our email address is press@riverweekly.com

Center Offers Nutrition Series

Lee Health's Healthy Life Center at the Wellness Center – Cape Coral is hosting a free an educational series about nutrition in the coming weeks. The lecture series features physicians who have pursued advanced nutrition training, utilize it daily in their practices and embrace nutrition as the best form of medicine. The lectures run from 5 to 6 p.m. on the following dates:

February 20: Phytonutrients, Why Should I Care? – Heather Auld, MD, integrative medicine physician

February 22: The Fundamental Nature of Rest, Movement and Nutrition – Jose Colon, MD, MPH, sleep medicine physician

February 27: The Anti-Inflammatory Diet – Julie Hill, RD, LDN, registered dietitian

March 1: Can Diet Affect Chronic Pain? – Sebastien Klisiewicz, DO, physiatrist

March 6: Food is Medicine – Brian Taschner, MD, cardiologist

March 8: Nutrigenomics: Have Your Food Control the Destiny of Your Genes – Teresa Spano, naturopathic consultant

Healthy Life Center at the Wellness Center – Cape Coral is located at 609 SE 13th Court in Cape Coral. For more information or to register to attend, call 424-3210 or email healthylifecenter@leehealth.org.✽

FSW To Offer Physical Therapist Assistant Program

The public is invited to learn more about the Physical Therapist Assistant program at Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) during a series of monthly informational sessions on Tuesdays from 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. in Building A, Room 215 at the FSW Thomas Edison Campus. The series will be held on February 20, March 20 and Tuesday, April 24.

The Physical Therapist Assistant program is offered by Broward College

(BC) through a partnership with FSW. Classes at both sites participate in all lecture classes together through live interactive video conferencing with the FSW students located at the Fort Myers campus. All lab sessions and clinical practicums are managed by the individual sites with a full-time program manager located at FSW who serves as a liaison between the sites. Program degrees are conferred by BC.

The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education (CAPTE). A licensing examination is required upon completion of the two-year associate degree program and the physical therapist assistant shall be eligible for an appropriate membership category in the American Physical Therapy Association.

FSW Thomas Edison Campus is located at 8099 College Parkway in Fort Myers. For more information, contact Jodi Gootkin, program manager, Broward College Physical Therapist Assistant Program, at 489-9494, jgootkin@broward.edu, or visit www.fsw.edu/academics/programs/asphysicaltherapistassistant.✽

From page 1

Clydesdales

Regal Cinemas and Shoeless Joe's Sports Café before returning to Cantina Laredo.

The Budweiser Clydesdales will celebrate their 85th anniversary on April 7. In 1933, the Clydesdales made their first appearance on behalf of Anheuser-Busch by delivering a case of Budweiser to the White House.

It's only fitting that the Clydesdale's appearance at Bell Tower Shops falls on Presidents' Day, when many retail stores and restaurants will be offering special sales and discounts during the "al fresco" sales extravaganza. Cheshire Cat Fine Toys will have a sale on its Breyer brand horses in addition to a raffle for a stuffed Clydesdale horse. Edison Ford Shoppe will be offering discounts on a variety of merchandise, including books, T-shirts and holiday items. DaRuMa Japanese Steak House & Sushi Lounge will be offering Happy Hour drink prices during the Clydesdales event, along with \$5 and \$6 appetizers in the bar and sushi dining room.✽

PETS OF THE WEEK

Haven on Earth Animal League

Bam Bam And Luci

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



Bam Bam
photos provided

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. 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 havenonearthanimalleague@yahoo.com.✱



Luci

Lee County Domestic Animal Services

Maximus And Norman Love

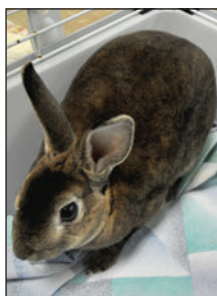
Hello, my name is Maximus. I am a 6-month-old male shorthaired rabbit who is a beautiful mink-colored, pocket-sized bunny that will capture your heart. I am a low-maintenance kind of guy that knows how to take care of himself. Just give me some hay and a carrot, and I am good to go.

My adoption fee is \$5.

Hi, I'm Norman Love.

My name says it all. I am a 3-year-old male chihuahua who is loveable and sweet. I also have the cutest underbite to go with my stellar personality. My deer-like legs make it easy for me to jump up and sit next to you whenever I want.

My adoption fee is \$50.



Maximus ID# A727593
photos provided

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.✱



Norman Love
ID# A727409

PAWS Of Sanibel

Samson And Nutmeg

Samson was found on February 9 in West Rocks. He is approximately 3 months old, and weighs 3.5 pounds. He has no microchip or other identification. He has been combo-tested for FIV/FelV and has had Rabies and FVRCP immunizations. If you know anything about this little guy or his people, call Pam at PAWS at 472-4823.

Nutmeg was trapped at Cip's Place just over two weeks ago. She is about the same age as Samson, but only weighs 2.5 pounds. She has been at Coral Vet Clinic in Fort Myers for the past two weeks in isolation due to a skin-and-eye ailment but is now doing quite well. She



Samson
photos provided



Nutmeg

will be available for adoption very soon, and there will be a new picture of her for next week's story. If you want to know more about little Nutmeg, call Pam at PAWS 472-4823.✱

PAWS Of Sanibel

BellaDonna

BellaDonna has been adopted by a loving Sanibel family and has a wonderful forever home. Many thanks go out to Edie Ethridge and Heidi Gross of Sanibel for fostering Miss BellaDonna for the past several weeks.

A special thank you to Heidi for training her to be such a wonderful young lady with excellent manners and introducing her to many people around town and numerous doggie friends too. Her new family is very fortunate she was taught by such a wonderful and loving trainer.

PAWS officials do not see many lost and abandoned dogs. Since we don't have a facility, and with a houseful of cats, we must count on the community to foster, or board, any dogs that we rescue. Thank you so very much Edie and Heidi!✱



BellaDonna



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 Coral 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

WE INTERRUPT THIS PROGRAM

- ACROSS
- 1 Of the liver

8 "Hello" singer of 2015

13 The Cowboys, on scoreboards

16 "That feels ni-i-ice!"

19 Variety of coffee

20 Of the kidneys

21 Book like Titus or Jude

23 * Futile endeavor

25 Restricting factor

26 "What — state of affairs"

27 Go away

28 * Non-earthlings

30 Cowboys or Raiders

32 Money matters

34 * Freight vessels

40 * Saw beyond

45 Sirens, say

46 Rearrange

48 Safe, asea

49 Arm parts

50 Imam's God

52 Twisted fiber used in textiles

56 Tony-winning Schreiber

57 Bitter beer

58 * Feral horses of the West

61 Bending body part

62 Diner cousin

64 Samovars, e.g.

65 Unwelcome grade

66 Sci-fi captain Jean- — Picard

68 Their names are divided in the answers to the starred clues

70 Muscles to crunch

72 Absorb

75 Ring arbiter

77 Hood's blade

79 Not sickly

83 * People trying to get mates

86 Suffix with 121-Down

87 Distinctive periods

88 Heating device

89 Piñata topper?

91 Slips on sleet

92 Seed casing

93 Crumpet alternative

95 "Remington —"

96 * It often adjoins a big bedroom

101 * Folk hero of Vermont

104 — riche

106 British prep school

107 * Result of income inequality

111 Prefix with surgeon

114 Genesis twin

118 Dreadful

119 * Their members love drawing blanks

123 Zero

124 Bar garnish

125 French explorer who named Louisiana

126 "Goodness!"

127 St. crossers

128 Niamey site

129 Scoundrel

DOWN

1 "Very funny"

2 Lustful god

3 Daddy

4 Tucked in

5 Up to, in brief

6 Drink cooler

7 Algiers area

8 Western gas brand

9 Unheeding

10 "Tuff —" (1986 hit)

11 Vegas intro?

12 Powell of film

13 Break the connection of

14 For each

15 Described

16 "— girl!"

17 Baldwin of Hollywood

18 "Take it"

22 Knight's title

24 Huge hauler

29 Vietnamese neighbor

30 Little kids

31 Double curve

33 Spot in la mer

34 Waterproof sealant

35 Dog-tired

36 Zellweger or O'Connor

37 Fishtank bed

38 Comrade

39 Picnic side

41 — visit (call)

42 "... from — down under" (1981 hit song lyric)

43 Coat fabric

44 Not relaxed

47 Until then

50 "Carte" start

51 Body part cut by van Gogh

52 Compacted, informally

53 Big water filter brand

54 Seabees' mil. branch

55 Fed. crash prober

57 Agree to

59 Zodiac lion

60 Yogi Bear voicer

63 "Climb — Mountain"

67 Stellar bear

69 Espy

71 Israeli coin

72 "Beat it!"

73 Butler's Scarlett

74 Toenail treatments, for short

76 Waitress at Mel's Diner

78 State of fury

80 Disney mermaid name

81 Gravy spoon

82 German steel city

84 River deposit

85 Trig function

90 Tennis call

91 Kenton of jazz

93 Squelches

94 Dance move, when tripled

95 — Balls (snack brand)

97 Infatuate

98 Tennis' Stadium

99 Elk sounds

100 Gardner of old movies

102 Spice's kin

103 Coral rings

105 Strip of gear, nautically

107 Did vocals

108 English horn relative

109 Cell: Suffix

110 "This — recording"

112 Gutter site

113 On-demand taxi service

114 Vivacity

115 Mope

116 Adept

117 PC sort?

120 Roman 151

121 Have dinner

122 "Cyber" CBS series

1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12		13	14	15		16	17	18		
19								20						21				22				
23								24						25								
26							27						28	29								
					30	31					32	33										
34	35	36	37					38	39		40							41	42	43	44	
45								46		47								48				
49							50	51						52	53	54	55					
56							57				58		59	60								
61							62			63		64							65			
					66	67			68		69						70		71			
72	73	74			75		76						77		78				79	80	81	82
83					84								85		86				87			
88											89		90					91				
92										93	94						95					
96						97	98	99	100				101		102	103						
						104							105		106							
107	108	109	110									111	112	113					114	115	116	117
118										119	120							121	122			
123										124							125					
126										128							129					

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Greek consonant

4 Cold War weapon

8 2000 election scrap

12 Fool

13 Law office worker, for short

14 "Les Miserables" author

15 Accelerator

17 Quite excited

18 Tidy (up)

19 Altar affirmative

21 Vanna's cohort

22 Flame from a burner

26 Impersonator

29 Whatever amount

30 Timetable abbr.

31 "American —"

32 Golfer Ernie

33 Bivouac structure

34 Fresh

35 Individual

36 Emanations

37 Big talker

39 Morsel

40 Playwright

41 Strong points

45 Not up and about

48 1944 Boyer/Bergman film

50 Burden

51 Otherwise

52 Exist

53 Wrong

54 God, in Guadalajara

55 Doo-wop syllable

58 West Point newbie

6 Top supporter

7 Slanders

8 Utter disorder

9 Embrace

10 Past

11 Pooch

16 Student

20 Rotation duration

23 Scoff

24 Sicilian spouter

25 Makes lace

26 Chinese dynasty

27 Notion

28 Neatens the lawn

29 Microbrewery product

32 Betrothed

33 Rwandan tribe

35 Scull tool

36 Grocery areas

38 Hen

39 — profundo

42 "Zounds!"

43 From one end to t'other

44 Branch

45 Carte lead-in

46 Acknowledge applause

47 Listener

49 Foreman foe

DOWN

- 1 Labels

2 Pronto

3 Beatles' "Back in the —"

4 Poison antidote, maybe

MAGIC MAZE ● FOUND IN A RIVER

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

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

- Alligators

Boats

Dams

Ducks
- Fish

Geese

Heron

Hippos
- Locks

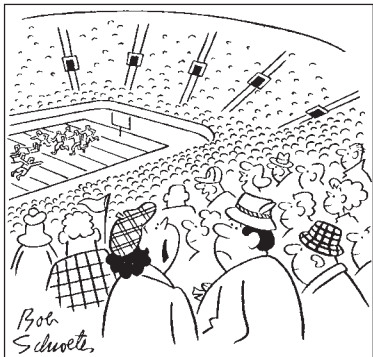
Minnows

Otter

Silt
- Snakes

Trash

Turtles



"I'm not complaining about the seats —
I just said we'd better duck when the
_____ goes by."
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!

Expand
DRAPES

Blend
MELIGN

Traipse
MARBLE

Stupid
NANIE

TODAY'S WORD

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

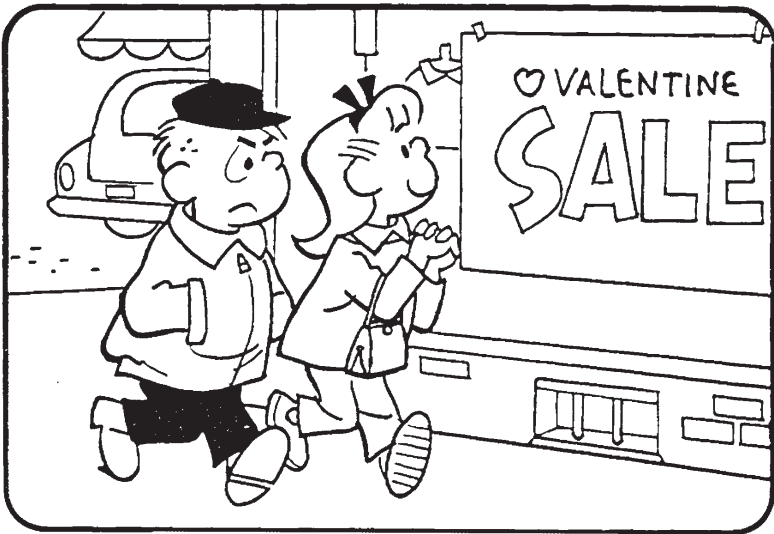
SUDOKU

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.

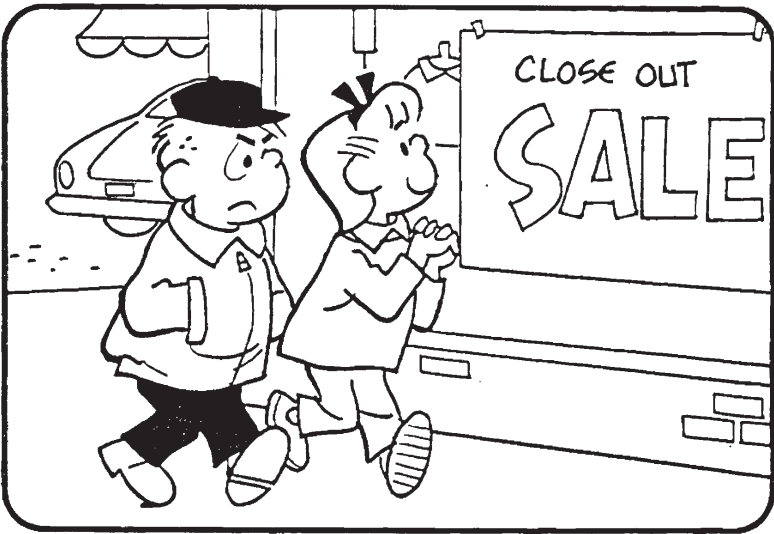
answer on page 37

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



FIND AT LEAST SIX DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS



Differences: 1. Car is different. 2. Leg is moved. 3. Hair is different. 4. Pocketbook is missing. 5. Sign is different. 6. Basement window is missing.



Pan Grilled Red Snapper with Avocado-Strawberry Salsa

- 1 jalapeño pepper, finely chopped
- 1 ripe avocado, diced
- 2 cups strawberries, finely chopped
- ¼ cup red onion, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons cilantro, finely chopped
- 1 teaspoon fresh lime juice
- ¼ teaspoon sugar
- Sea salt, to taste
- 4 six-ounce red snapper fillets
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1½ tablespoons fresh lime zest
- Salt and pepper to taste

Stir jalapeño, avocado, strawberries, onion, cilantro, lime juice, sugar and sea salt together in a bowl. Cover and set aside. Salsa may be made several hours ahead and chilled. When making ahead, add the sugar, salt and avocado when ready to serve.

Preheat stovetop grill pan over high heat. Pat fillets dry then brush both sides with the oil; sprinkle with the lime zest, salt and pepper. Lay fillets on grill pan skin side down and cook 4-5 minutes on each side, turning once, until cooked through.

Transfer fillets skin side up to individual serving plates. Carefully remove skin; top with avocado-strawberry salsa. ☆



Pan Grilled Red Snapper with Avocado-Strawberry Salsa

photo courtesy Fresh From Florida

 FRIDAY Sunny High: 75 Low: 68	 SATURDAY Sunny High: 78 Low: 71	 SUNDAY Mostly Cloudy High: 75 Low: 68	 MONDAY Sunny High: 76 Low: 69	 TUESDAY Sunny High: 78 Low: 71	 WEDNESDAY Sunny High: 77 Low: 70	 THURSDAY Sunny High: 76 Low: 69
---	--	--	--	---	---	--

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	12:38 am	7:32 am	2:14 pm	6:54 pm	Fri	1:19 pm	7:34 am	None	6:56 pm	Fri	12:27 am	7:41 am	1:48 pm	7:28 pm	Fri	2:48 am	10:48 am	4:24 pm	10:10 pm
Sat	1:16 am	7:57 am	2:30 pm	7:35 pm	Sat	12:21 am	7:59 am	1:35 pm	7:37 pm	Sat	12:53 am	8:11 am	2:19 pm	8:09 pm	Sat	3:26 am	11:13 am	4:40 pm	10:51 pm
Sun	1:56 am	8:24 am	2:51 pm	8:21 pm	Sun	1:01 am	8:26 am	1:56 pm	8:23 pm	Sun	1:25 am	8:39 am	2:47 pm	8:50 pm	Sun	4:06 am	11:40 am	5:01 pm	11:37 pm
Mon	2:41 am	8:51 am	3:17 pm	9:13 pm	Mon	1:46 am	8:53 am	2:22 pm	9:15 pm	Mon	2:10 am	9:06 am	3:07 pm	9:33 pm	Mon	4:51 am	12:07 pm	5:27 pm	None
Tue	3:33 am	9:21 am	3:48 pm	10:13 pm	Tue	2:38 am	9:23 am	2:53 pm	10:15 pm	Tue	3:12 am	9:30 am	3:23 pm	10:21 pm	Tue	5:43 am	12:29 am	5:58 pm	12:37 pm
Wed	4:36 am	9:51 am	4:24 pm	11:25 pm	Wed	3:41 am	9:53 am	3:29 pm	11:27 pm	Wed	4:26 am	9:54 am	3:51 pm	11:28 pm	Wed	6:46 am	1:29 am	6:34 pm	1:07 pm
Thu	6:03 am	10:22 am	5:08 pm	None	Thu	5:08 am	10:24 am	4:13 pm	None	Thu	5:53 am	10:18 am	4:31 pm	None	Thu	8:13 am	2:41 am	7:18 pm	1:38 pm

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THE RIVER
WEEKLY NEWS
FROM THE BEACHES TO DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS


Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

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

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2/16 ★ 2/16

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2/16 ★ 2/16

Conservancy Waterworks Luncheon



John and Donna Hall

The Conservancy of Southwest Florida recently hosted its fourth annual WaterWorks Luncheon on January 18 at the Conservancy Nature Center.

Advocating for Southwest Florida’s most valuable natural resource – water, the fundraising event included lunch, a meet-and-greet with conservancy staff



Rosemary Trigony and Loralee Lebeouf and featured speakers Alex and Tyler Mifflin of The Water Brothers eco-adventure documentary series.



From left, Judy Bricker, Cherry Smith, Carol Boyd, Alex Mifflin, Tyler Mifflin, Christine and Terry Flynn, David Port, Joy and Robert Neubert photos provided

Proceeds will support the Conservancy of Southwest Florida’s efforts to protect water quality, fisheries and estuaries in Southwest Florida.✱

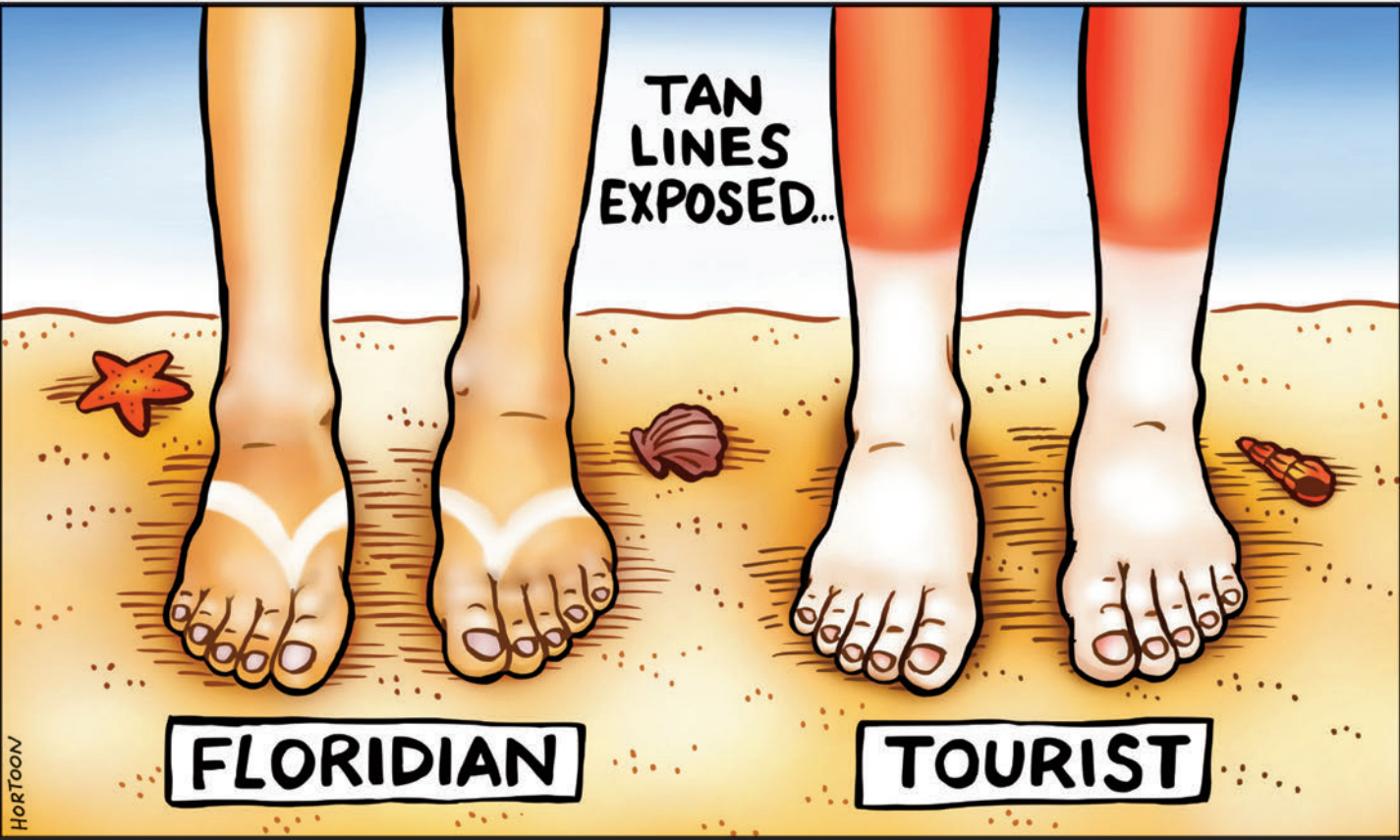


Dolph and Sharon von Arx



Lew Allyn and Van Williams

HORTOONS



Top 10 Real Estate Sales

Subdivision	City	Year Built	Square Footage	Listing Price	Selling Price	Days On Market
Bonita Beach	Bonita Springs	2018	5,000	\$6,575,000	\$6,450,000	0
Barefoot Beach	Bonita Springs	2014	6,978	\$5,495,000	\$5,275,000	307
Frowes	Captiva	1976	3,413	\$2,150,000	\$2,100,000	275
Cape Harbour	Cape Coral	2012	3,119	\$1,495,000	\$1,420,000	0
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	2003	4,126	\$1,395,000	\$1,300,000	53
Glen Lakes	Estero	2004	3,818	\$1,350,000	\$1,225,000	97
Riverwalk	Bonita Springs	1995	3,656	\$1,325,000	\$1,200,000	39
Avallone	Bonita Springs	2009	2,917	\$1,150,000	\$1,060,000	201
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	1974	2,792	\$899,900	\$895,000	17
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	1996	2,185	\$825,000	\$795,000	38



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