



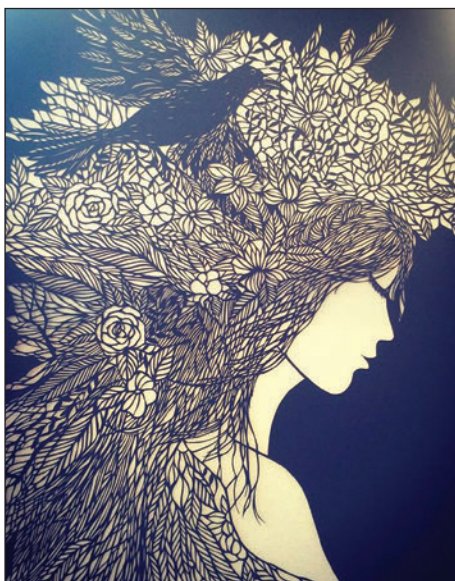
Meet The Artists During Art Walk

Arts for ACT Gallery will host an opening reception and meet-the-artists session during Art Walk on Friday, March 2 from 6 to 10 p.m. Fine art artist Jan Ellen Atkielski will show original oil paintings from her Island Dreaming series in the main gallery, while local artist Rachel Moorman will display a Japanese paper cutting exhibit in the white gallery. Co-op artists will also show new works.

Atkielski has been working as a professional artist since graduating with a bachelor's degree in art from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point in 1976. She has an extensive list of collectors, both private and commercial. Some her most noteworthy corporate commissions include NFL Alumni, Ameritech, Fort Myers Beach Town Hall, Northwestern Mutual Insurance and Sears.

Atkielski resides in Cape Coral and has been privileged to paint across the United States, Norway, Austria, England, France, Italy, Germany and Mexico. Most recently, she has been focusing on the tropics, including scenes from Southwest Florida, Sint Maarten and the Cayman Islands.

Atkielski is a published author, work-



A Japanese paper cutting by Rachel Moorman images provided

shop instructor, art show judge/juror and popular lecturer. She was nominated as an Angel of the Arts for Best Visual Artist in 2006 by Alliance for the Arts.

Moorman is an artist native of Chicago, Illinois who has called Southwest Florida her home since 1999. She specializes in several different mediums, but is known for her storytelling acrylic



Pine Island Path by Jan Ellen Atkielski

paintings, custom painted shoes and her unique Japanese paper cuttings.

Moorman has won numerous awards in shows around the Chicago area. She worked with designers in the area doing

mural work.

Arts for ACT Gallery is located at 2265 First Street in downtown Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.artsforactgallery.com.✧



Halo by Katy Danca Galli

photo provided

Alliance Hosting Artist Studio Tours

To celebrate Women's History Month, the Alliance for the Arts opens doors to seven local female artists' studios on Saturday, March 3. Through a self-guided tour that begins at 10 a.m., visitors from near and far will have the rare opportunity

of experiencing the sanctuaries where art is created while getting acquainted with the makers and gaining a close-up view of the materials each artist employs.

The female artists are Annette Brown, Stacey Brown, Donna Chase, Katy Danca Galli, Julie Dean Griffin, Mariapia Malerba and Mimi Stirn.

"Southwest Florida is home to an
continued on page 26

Must-See Musical At Broadway Palm



From left, Drew Stairs as Sam Carmichael, Lauren Mary Moore as Sophie, Bobby Becher as Bill Austin and Connor Simpson as Harry Bright

photo provided

by Di Saggau

If you're an ABBA fan, *Mamma Mia!* is a must-see. Whatever your age, you can't help but have the time of your life watching this smash-hit musical. It's playing through April 7 at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre and the show bounds along with endless energy and enthusiasm with all the ABBA songs, dance routines, platform

boots and colorful costumes, and a romantic comedy script that creates a delightful evening of sheer fun and pleasure. Over 60 million people around the world have fallen in love with the charming story, the delightful characters and the timeless ABBA music.

Set on a Greek island paradise, the musical tells a story of love, friendship and
continued on page 32

Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

In Praise Of The Earnhardt



by Gerri Reaves, PhD

Fort Myers has lost many historic structures to deterioration, demolition, disinterest, neglect – or some combination of the four – but thank goodness the Earnhardt Building isn't one of them.

That imposing cream-colored brick building is pictured (on the right) on the mid-20th century postcard – all 193 feet of it dominating the appropriately name Earnhardt Block.

Builder and owner Harvie Earnhardt Heitman gave the two-story structure his mother's maiden name, which was also his middle name.

Built for \$85,000, the structure's clean lines, spiral scrolls and green-tile borders endow it with an under-stated elegance unlike any other downtown commercial building.

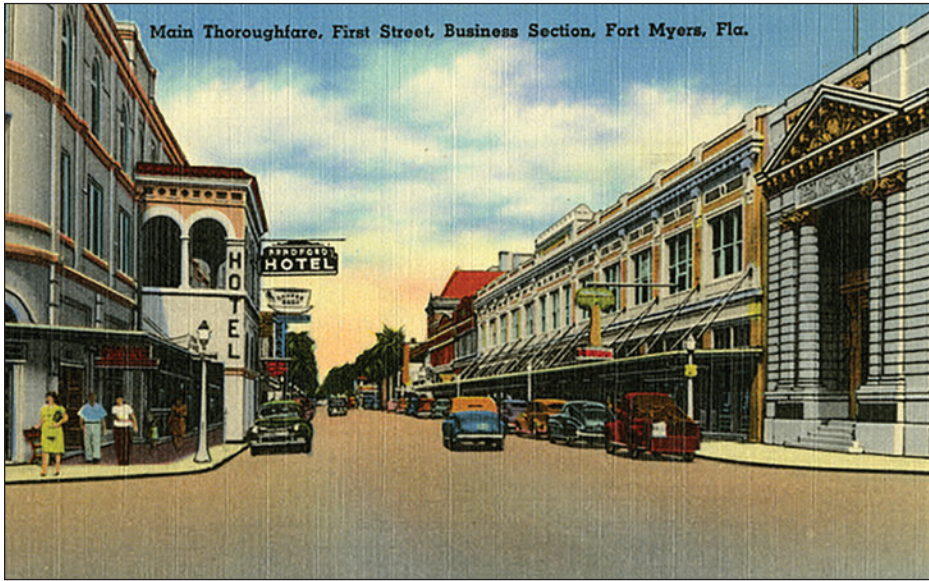
Heitman had kicked-off the modernization of the block with the Bank of Fort Myers Building at the Jackson Street corner in 1910. Taff O. Langford built the Langford Building next door the following year.

Then, almost simultaneously, Walter G. Langford began construction of the granite First National Bank on the corner at Hendry, and Heitman started building the Earnhardt.

The bank opened in August 1914 and the eight-storefront Earnhardt in February 1915, the last building on the block to be completed.

Gone were the wood-frame buildings of pioneer Fort Myers – among them saloons, a billiard parlor and livery stable – all within a mere four years.

From the start, the two-story Earnhardt was a desirable location. A wide range of stores, businesses and offices have kept it occupied over the years -- although, understandably, there were a good many vacancies during the years of the Great Depression and the "downtown drain" a few decades ago, when businesses moved to malls and the suburbs.



This mid-20th century postcard image shows the Bradford (left) and Earnhardt Blocks (right). The cream-colored brick Earnhardt Building bears Harvie E. Heitman's mother's maiden name, which was also his middle name.

photo courtesy Florida State Archives



Today, the 1915 Earnhardt Building is notable for its history, architecture and role in downtown commercial life
photos by Gerri Reaves

In fact, the year the Earnhardt opened, McCrory's Five and Dime moved in and remained until the early 1990s – talk about a long run. Also, that nationally known business eventually bought the historic building and owned it for many years.

Another long-lived and well-remembered store was Royal Palm Pharmacy, whose palm-tree sign makes it easy to find in the postcard image.

Other early occupants included Pavese's Hotel Barber Shop and Parker's Books and Stationery,

A variety of medical, law, engineering, and realty offices, as
continued on page 8



Details such as the green tiles and spiral scrolls distinguish the structure

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*Praeter Naturam*

photos by London Amara

*Fragile Light*

photography and an assemblage of both hand-made, silver gelatin prints created from film negatives.

This technology was developed during the birth of photography in the mid-1800s. It employs a large format camera to record images on glass and metal plates. A hand-mixed combination of cotton cellulose, iodide, bromide, alcohol and ether are poured onto the plate in the darkroom before sensitization in a silver nitrate bath. The plate is exposed in the camera, then brought back to the darkroom to be developed. Each plate must be cleaned, colloidal poured, sensitized in silver bath, exposed, developed, washed, fixed,

*Slow Medicine*

three additional washes, allowed to dry overnight and then varnished. The end result is a virtually grainless image, and because this type of photography requires 75 to 80 percent UV light, it "sees" things our human optic coverage does not.

Various factors (humidity, temperature, wind) change the way the colloidal chemistry behaves in a single moment of time, never again to be experienced

or reproduced. It's an extremely contrasted recipe of rapid back-to-back steps that require slow movement, including a naturally occurring film speed of .5-2, so low that light exposures can easily be 10 minutes or longer. That is an eternity of time in photography for the shutter to remain open, and that is when it gets phenomenal. This is evident in Amara's 12-minute exposure

continued on page 26

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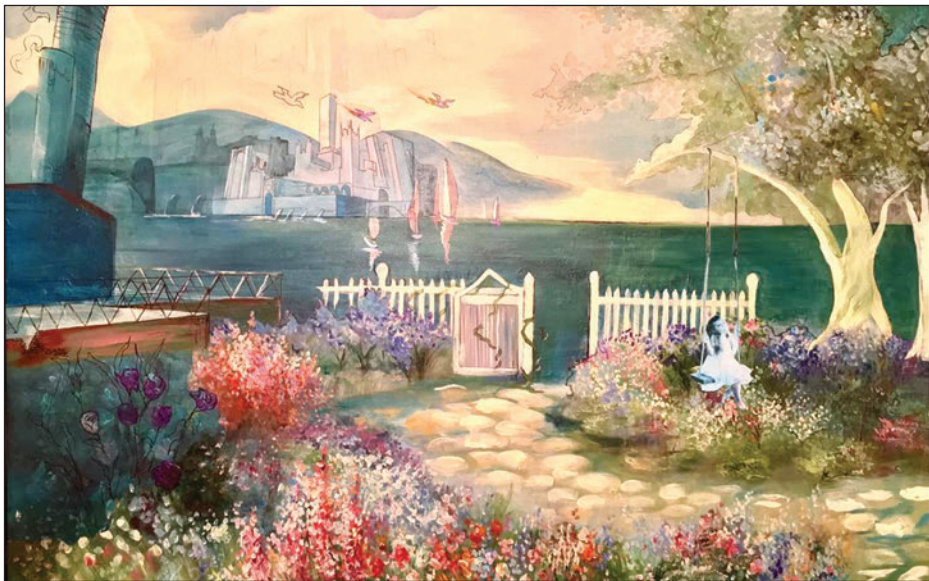
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Winning artwork from Ashley Boff at the 2017 festival

photo provided

24-Hour Festival Prompts Artists To Get Creative

Ghostbird Theatre Company will presents the 11th annual 24-Hour Festival at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center on Saturday and Sunday, March 3 and 4. Visual artists, filmmakers, theatre artists, dancers, musicians, and poets race against a 24-hour clock to create unique works based on prompts given by Barry Cavin, artistic director of Ghostbird Theatre Company. Doors will open for the free event at 6:30 p.m. on

Sunday, March 4, and the performances begin at 7 p.m.

Artists of all types and ages are invited to participate in the festival. Cash awards of \$500 will be given to best visual artwork, best video, best live performance and best musical performance.

For guidelines or to register, visit www.ghostbird.ticketleap.com. Slots are limited, so register soon.

This event is supported by grants from the City of Fort Myers and the Lee County Tourist Development Council.

The Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center is located at 2301 First Street in downtown Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.ghostbirdtheatrecompany.org.✧

Alliance To Receive \$50,000 Grant

The National Endowment for the Arts Chairman Jane Chu has approved more than \$25 million in grants as part of the NEA's first major funding announcement for fiscal year 2018. Included in this announcement is an Art Works grant of \$50,000 to the Alliance for the Arts for a public art project as part of the redevelopment of 2.2 acres along McGregor Boulevard slated to begin later this year. The Art Works category is the NEA's largest funding category and supports projects that focus on the creation of art that meets the highest standards of excellence, public engagement with diverse and excellent art, lifelong learning in the arts, and/or the strengthening of communities through the arts.

"It is energizing to see the impact that the arts are making throughout the United States. These NEA-supported projects, such as this one to the Alliance for the Arts, are good examples of how the arts build stronger and more vibrant communities, improve well-being, prepare our children to succeed and increase the quality of our lives," said NEA Chairman Jane Chu. "At the National Endowment for the Arts, we believe that all people should have access to the joy, opportunities and connections the arts bring."

The Alliance for the Arts has engaged Michael Singer Studio to lead a collaborative design team to reimagine the western edge of its 10-acre campus as part of a multiphase campus

expansion. This phase of the project seeks to enhance the urban landscape through naturalization and expansion of an existing retention pond, regenerating the land and establishing a beautiful thriving pocket of Florida flora. The focal point of this project is the Caloosahatchee Water Wall designed by Michael Singer Studios. In addition to this key component a new sidewalk and lighting is being installed by the Florida Department of Transportation and new connector sidewalks will welcome guests arriving by foot or bike into the City of Fort Myers and the Alliance campus.

"We're excited to begin the transformation of our campus along the McGregor Corridor to create a pedestrian-friendly, artistic space for our community to gather," said CEO/ Executive Director Lydia Black "It has been pleasure dreaming up this collaborative place-making project with an artist-driven team committed to artistic excellence, environmental sensitivity and a commitment to grow community through the arts. It is a true honor to have received the National Endowment of the Arts recommendation to help make this project a reality."

Additional funding for this project has been made possible through a matching grant by the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation, and by the Price Foundation, L.A.T. Foundation and through the generosity of individual donors.

For more information on projects included in the NEA grant announcement, visit www.arts.gov/news. For more information about the Alliance, visit www.ArtInLee.org or call 939-2787.✧

Roaring '20s Cancer Benefit On March 3

Bid on two rare items and dress for a return to the Roaring '20s on Saturday, March 3 when The Comrie Cancer Foundation presents A Night at the Cotton Club fundraiser at the Crowne Plaza Fort Myers at Bell Tower Shops.

The swanky affair, which benefits Comrie's money-raising efforts for cancer patients, begins with a speakeasy outside complete with poker and blackjack, plus giggle water (aka cocktails) from a prohibition-style bar and live entertainment from 5:30 to 7 p.m. That will be followed by a plated dinner and a chance to take part in the silent and live auctions while listening to music from LaTraia Savage and the All Starz Band as well as dancing and much more.

The man in charge of the event was once a cancer patients. Doctors gave Scott Sekerak three days to live when he was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia in 2006, and after he beat the odds to recover, he faced a financial prognosis that was almost as bleak until Comrie Cancer Foundation founders Doug and Carolyn Comrie got involved.

"I want to make sure that no one is alone in going through what they're going through," said Sekerak, who now serves as event coordinator for the foundation.

An autographed Tom Petty guitar and an autographed *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* full-cast poster featuring Carrie Fisher are two of the many items that will be up for grabs during the auction. "The goal is to bring people out and have a good time for a very small price, which is in the long run going for a very great cause," Sekerak said.


Single tickets are available for \$125 and a package of two tickets plus a hotel room can be had for \$350. Sponsorships are available on three levels. A Whoopie! sponsor gets a VIP table of 10, recognition on all media, and mentions in the program and signage at the event for \$1,500. A Hotsy-Totsy! sponsor gets those benefits plus a room and complimentary bottles of wine for the table for \$3,000. A Heavy Sugar! sponsor gets all that plus an extra room for \$5,000.

"Whatever we raise in Southwest Florida stays in Southwest Florida," Sekerak said. "Doing these events is a way for me to make sure that people who go through what I went through have the same kind of opportunities I did."

Seating and sponsorships are limited. To learn more, email Sekerak at Scotts@comriefoundation.org or call him at 216-408-0078.✧

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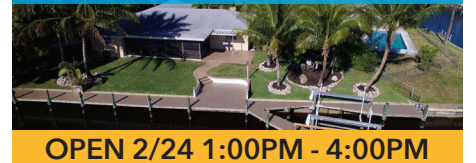
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Fort Myers Art:

Koreshan Historical Site Play Is A Happening



by Tom Hall

Ghostbird Theatre Company's *ORBS!* is more than merely a play. It's a happening in the tradition first established by Allan Kaprow way back in 1957 following a picnic at Pop Art painter/sculptor George Segal's New Jersey chicken farm. The venue for *ORBS!* has far greater cachet than that. It takes place after dark at the Koreshan Historical

Site in Estero, and walking the dimly lighted footpaths denoted solely by flameless votive candles is an exercise in the exploration of negative space in much the same way that Kaprow's mentor, John Cage, explored silence.

To truly appreciate what Ghostbird is doing at Koreshan, it's preferable for individual audience members to give themselves over to the atmosphere the theatre company meticulously crafts. They pay the same attention to detail as Disney's Imagineers devoted to the planning and installation of their Haunted Mansion. To be sure, you'll get chills and thrills in the lead-up to the actual performance even if you're busy chatting with your friends or texting with someone off-site. But tune out real world distractions, and you begin to sense the spirits of the long-dead Calusa and Koreshans who still inhabit this swath of old earth.

The buildings and landscaping out there emit an otherworldly energy that's palpable if you just take the time to absorb it (kind of the way you can sense a person's energy cloud or aura by tuning up your peripheral vision). In Kaprow's formulation, a happening emphasizes the interaction between the performers and the audience. Ghostbird does Kaprow and progeny (think Robert Whitman, Claes Oldenburg and Robert Rauschenberg) one better. The site-specific company employs actors to prompt a deep and meaningful interaction between the audience and the site.

In their effort to deftly dial up the electricity and magnetism of the Koreshan compound, they leave



Actors play out a scene in the Koreshan Historical Site play called *ORBS!* photo courtesy www.artswfl.com

nothing to chance. Masked actors loom from the gloom along the pathway from the parking lot to the front steps of Koreshan Art Hall, where another has stationed herself on a rocker outside the main door. On stage, three actors (Teed, Angel and Achi) sit expectantly, listening intently to Victor Ballo play the piano with the skill and emotion of a Maurizio Pollini. Each note exudes unmistakable anticipation, tension and, more, foreboding.

And all this before the performance even starts!

But the site remains a character in *ORBS!* until the play's climatic denouement, with the audience parading down shell paths, under sausage trees and alongside a Monkey Puzzle Tree illuminated by the light pulsing from French Ultramarine Blue orbs held aloft like fluorescent

torches. In spite of the action unfolding at various stops and points of interest along the way, the site never loses its mystique or innate fecundity.

Superficially, *ORBS!* postulates Cyrus Reed Teed's final fevered vision of a clean electric world for a new Adam and Eve – one to replace the utopia he'd hoped to establish at and through the Koreshan Unity Community.

Dig deeper, and the story of Angel's affection for Teed emerges. She calls him "Crazy Old Man," and psychotic he truly is. Portrayed brilliantly by Jim Brock, the Teed – who traipses across the Art Hall stage and through the grounds – is the epitome of megalomania. He doesn't just possess an inflated sense of self-esteem, delusions of grandeur and denial of his own mortality. He is determined to remake the world in accordance with his own wishes and fantasies – a clean electric world devoid of, and insulated from, the filth of both human and animal procreation.

But for all his apparent faults, Angel clearly cares for this man. This character is tenderly portrayed by Katelyn Gravel, whose thespian talent expands exponentially with each successive production in which she appears. Angel is a study in contradiction. She has an unflappable soft spot for her "Crazy Old Man," but her devotion is not without limitation or clarity. More a caregiver than lover, she seems more devoted to the memory of the omnipotent leader he once was than to the deranged potentate he has clearly become.

Dig even deeper, and what evolves is a scathing indictment – not just of Teed, but of the inflexible dichotomy espoused by virtually every organized religion between our pure, clean spiritual nature and our dirty, filthy (read, sexual) animal nature. In *ORBS!*, Teed wants to expunge all traces of animal filth (procreation) from the world. The metaphor has application to a wide variety of religious and political contexts. Your own particular takeaway will be influenced by your unique upbringing and experiences. And this is precisely what Cavin and Ghostbird want each audience member to realize and contemplate – as is wont of happenings furthering the Kaprow-Oldenburg-Rauschenberg legacy.

The most powerful character in *ORBS!* is played by Stella Ruiz. Her name in Mo'a, which begs a reference to Sheikah Monk Mo'a Keet from *The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild* video game. There, Mo'a Keet confers a Spirit Orb on those who accept and complete

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Symphony To Perform Classical Mashup

The Southwest Florida Symphony will perform an innovative program combining the work of German Romantic era composer Johannes Brahms with the music of Radiohead, one of indie rock's most iconic bands, at Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall on Sunday, March 4 at 7:30 p.m.

Lee County's only professional orchestra and one of the oldest on Florida's Gulf Coast, will perform Brahms' *Symphony No. 1* combined with Radiohead's smash hit album, *OK Computer*. It will be conducted by composer/arranger Steve Hackman, whose popularity has soared on YouTube with a multitude of classical/contemporary mashups.

Tickets are \$29 to \$92 per person and may be purchased online at www.swfso.org, by visiting the Southwest Florida Symphony Box Office located at 8290 College Parkway, Suite 103 in Fort Myers, by calling the Symphony Box Office at 418-1500 or at the door, one



Steve Hackman photo provided

and a half hours prior to the concert.

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

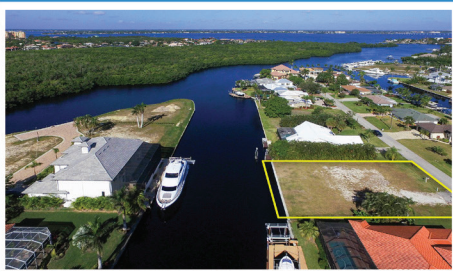
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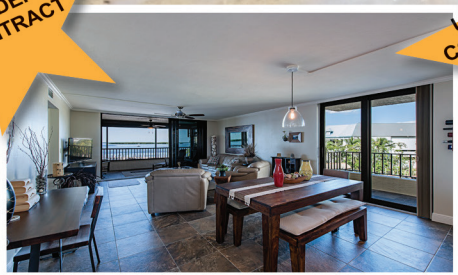


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Along The River

Major League Baseball Spring Training is under way with our local favorites playing in Fort Myers this weekend.

The Boston Red Sox and Minnesota Twins open up their regular spring training campaign by playing against each other at JetBlue Park this Friday, February 23 at 1:05 p.m. On Sunday, February 25, the Tampa Bay Rays visit Hammond Stadium to take on the Twins at 1:05 p.m., while the Baltimore Orioles visit JetBlue Park to take on the Red Sox at 1:05 p.m.

To check out the complete schedules, visit www.mlb.com/spring-training/grapefruit-league.

The BIG ARTS 2018 Benefit on Sanibel will take place this Friday, February 23. Entitled You Gotta Have Love, the show will features Darlene Love, who has been praised as one of the greatest voices of all time.

Love starred in the documentary *20 Feet From Stardom* that won an Oscar in 2013. She has also performed with Elvis Presley and recorded with "The King" in the 1960s.

The benefit begins with hors d'oeuvres and drinks at 6:30 p.m. in Boler Garden and at 8 p.m., the Darlene Love concert will take place in Schein Hall. The evening ends with dessert and dancing in Boler Garden.

BIG ARTS is located at 900 Dunlop Road on Sanibel. Tickets are now on sale and can be purchased by calling 395-0900.

Storyteller Bil Lepp will return to the Alliance for the Arts to perform this Saturday, February 24 at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 for Alliance members



Darlene Love

photo courtesy www.bigarts.org

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 16 audio collections.

An exclusive workshop, *Storytelling: Expanding the Idea* (ages 16 and older), will take place this Friday, 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 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.

The Mersey Beatles, the only complete Liverpool-based Beatles tribute band, will return to the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center this 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 showtime. 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.

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

FSW Humanities Professor Dr. Elijah Pritchett, FSW Psychology Professor Terri Housley, FSW students Christine Orlando and Fletcher Dunham, and Arlene Goldberg, founder of the Southwest Florida Harmony Chamber of Commerce, will serve as panelists. The discussion will be moderated by Dr. Russell Swanson.

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

Mound House and Newton Beach Park are offering weekly events. They include Beach Walk, a free exploration of the shoreline with a Mound House naturalist at Newton Beach Park on Tuesdays at 9 a.m.; Tools of the Calusa demonstrations, a hands-on demonstration at Mound House on Tuesdays at 10 a.m.; Kayak Eco-tour, a paddling trip guided by Dexter Norris, biologist, naturalist and Mound House environmental educator; and Calusa Indian Pottery, a hands-on program that explores the ceramics of Southwest Florida and the Calusa Indians on Wednesdays at 10 a.m.

This Thursday, March 1, Mound House will hold four events. Cool Calusa Tools will be held at 10 a.m.; cost is \$5 for nonmembers. Shell Mound Tour will be held at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.; cost for adults is \$15 and includes museum admission. Guided Tour will be held at 1 p.m.; cost for adults is \$15, ages 6 to 12 is \$10 and both include museum admission. Full Moon Kayak Tour will be held at 5:30 p.m.; cost is \$50 (Mound House members \$25); reservations are required.

Newton Beach Park is located at 4650 Estero Boulevard on Fort Myers Beach. Mound House is located at 451 Connecticut Street on Fort Myers Beach. Visit www.moundhouse.org or call 765-0865 for more information.✱

Kickball Tournament Benefit In March

The 5th annual East Lee County High School Criminal Justice and Fire Academies Kickball Tournament will be held at East Lee County High School on Monday, March 12. Teams are asked to check in at 8:30 a.m. and games will start at 9 a.m.

Registration is open to the first 20 teams to sign up or until March 2. All proceeds will benefit the Criminal

Justice and Fire Academies at East Lee County High.

Cost to register a team is \$10 per player, with a 10-player minimum per team. Players must be age 16 or older. For fans wishing to attend the tournament, general admission tickets will cost \$2.

East Lee County High School is located at 715 Thomas Sherwin Avenue South in Lehigh Acres. For more information and/or to obtain a registration form, contact Instructor Green at TianaNG@leeschools.net or Instructor Jones at TimothyMJ@leeschools.net.✱

From page 2

Historic Downtown

well as government agencies, occupied the upper floor through the years.

Today, the Earnhardt is still thriving. A diverse mix resides at street level -- restaurants and hair and nail salons, ice-cream shop, a law office, and more.

The second floor has been converted into condominiums, with careful attention to the building's history and architectural integrity.

Walk down First Street and take an appreciate look at the Earnhardt Building, which is so much a part of the architectural and commercial life of historic downtown.

Then visit the following two research centers to learn more about the history of downtown's commercial life.

The Southwest Florida Historical

Society is an all-volunteer non-profit organization open Wednesday and Saturday between 9 a.m. and noon and Wednesday 4 to 7 p.m.

It is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard on the campus of the Lee County Alliance for the Arts. Call 939-4044 or visit swflhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

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

Hours for the all-volunteer non-profit organization are Wednesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday by appointment only.

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

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



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Symphony To Perform At Shell Point



Maestro Nir Kabaretti

photo provided

Southwest Florida Symphony will perform a Copland to the Classics concert at the Village Church at Shell Point on Thursday, March 8 beginning at 7:30 p.m. The performance, which is open to the public, is part of Shell Point Retirement Community's 2017-18 Concert Series. Conducted by Maestro Nir Kabaretti, the Southwest Florida Symphony will perform one of Mozart's better-known early symphonies, *No. 29 in A Major*. This classical masterpiece is personal

in tone and stands alone by combining an intimate chamber music style with a fiery and impulsive delivery. The program will also showcase the symphony's principal trumpet, Kris Marshall, on Copland's *Quiet City*, as well as 2016 Prescott Award Winner Cassie Drake, who will perform *Viola Concerto No. 1* by Carl Stamitz. Shell Point is located at 15100 Shell Point Boulevard in Fort Myers. Tickets are available for \$25 at www.shellpoint.org/concerts or by phone at 454-2067.*



Tween Waters by Michele Barron Buelow

image provided

Beach Art Group Spring Juried Show

The Fort Myers Beach Art Association (FMBAA) will hold its Spring Juried Art Show entitled Permission to Play from February 19 to March 22 in its gallery. The award winners of this show will be announced at the reception on Sunday, February 25, which will begin at 1 p.m. with a gallery talk by artist Maggie Rapp. Refreshments will be provided by event sponsor Matanzas on the Bay.

All artwork in this exhibit will be available for public viewing and sale until March 22. The show's judge, Artist Marie Natale, will offer a demonstration at the gallery on Sunday, February 18 from 4 to 6 p.m. Cost is \$10. For more information, call 463-3909, e-mail fmbaapublicity@gmail.com or stop by the Fort Myers Beach Arts Association Gallery, located at 3030 Shell Mound Boulevard on Fort Myers Beach. The gallery is open daily Monday to Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.*

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Ron and Shari Schmitt, Owners of Cougar, Pictured with their sons Brandon and Andrew



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The Dixie Melody Boys Visit Church

One of Gospel music's most popular quartets, The Dixie Melody Boys, will be featured at the Fort Myers First Nazarene Church on Sunday, March 4. The quartet will share their unique, four-part harmony during the 6 p.m. music event.

Since organizing over five decades ago, The Dixie Melody Boys have a Grammy nomination and numerous Fan Award nominations from *The Singing News Magazine*, Southern Gospel Music's leading fan and trade publication. Hit releases have flowed their way in bunches, including recent releases such as *I'll Be Living That Way*, *I Won't Compromise*, *Welcome Home*, *Antioch Church Choir* and *I'm One Of Them*. Their goal of delivering a first-class performance filled with excitement, energy and lots of great traditional, Southern Gospel Music are traits which have been instilled in each member by group leader Ed O'Neal, a 50-year Gospel Music veteran, who was inducted into the Southern Gospel



Ed O'Neal photo provided
Music Association Hall of Fame in 2004.

First Nazarene Church is located at 13545 American Colony Boulevard in Fort Myers. For more information, call 936-2511 or 315-232-4158 or visit www.dixiemelodyboys.com.✪

Christian Music Singer-Songwriter Returns To Sanibel

Sanibel Community Church will host Fernando Ortega and his band as they lead gatherers in a night of powerful worship on Sunday, March 4. Doors open for general seating at 5:30 p.m. The concert will be held at 6 p.m.

Ortega is a contemporary Christian music singer-songwriter who is noted for his interpretations of many traditional hymns and songs, such as *Give Me Jesus* and *Be Thou My Vision*, and for writing clearly understood songs like *This Good Day*. He has written dozens of contemporary hymns as well as produced numerous albums. His unique style of presenting both contemporary and traditional song has won him acclaim around the world.

Due to limited seating, the concert is a ticketed event with a suggested donation of \$15. Tickets are available at The Carpenter's Bookstore at Sanibel Community Church. Attendees are also encouraged to bring a canned good for the Harry Chapin Food Bank to help



Fernando Ortega photo provided
Lee County neighbors in need.

Sanibel Community Church is an evangelical, non-denominational congregation with the church campus located at 1740 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel. For more information, call 472-2684 or visit www.sanibelchurch.com.✪

Churches/Temples

ALL FAITHS UNITARIAN CONGREGATION

Sunday 10:30 a.m., 2756 McGregor Boulevard, allfaiths-uc.org, 226-0900.

ALL SAINTS BYZANTINE RITE CATHOLIC

Sunday 10:30 a.m. 10291 Bayshore Road, 305-651-0991.

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX

Sunday 9 and 10 a.m. 8210 Cypress Lake Drive, annunciation.fl.goarch.org, 481-2099.

BETH SHILOH MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE

Friday 8 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. 15675 McGregor Boulevard, 437-3171.

BIBLESHARE

10 a.m. Sunday and 7 p.m. Tuesday, 7050 Winkler Rd, Suite 121, www.simplysimpleworship.com, 437-8835.

BREAD OF LIFE MINISTRIES

Sunday 10:30 a.m. 16581 McGregor Boulevard, 267-3166.

CHABAD LUBAVITCH ORTHODOX

Friday 6:30 p.m. 5620 Winkler Road, chabadswf.org, 433-7708.

CHAPEL OF CYPRESS COVE

Sunday 10 a.m. 10200 Cypress Cove Circle, revtedalhouse@aol.com, 850-3943.

CHURCH OF THE CROSS

Sunday 9:15 and 10:45 a.m. 13500 Freshman Lane, 768-2188.

CONGREGATIONAL

Sunday 10:30 a.m. 1619 Llewellyn Drive, taecc.com, 334-4978.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN

Sunday 10 a.m. 2439 McGregor Boulevard, 334-8937.

CYPRESS LAKE BAPTIST

Sunday 9:45 and 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; Wednesday 6:30 p.m. 8400 Cypress Lake Drive, 481-5442.

CYPRESS LAKE PRESBYTERIAN

Sunday 8, 9, 10 and 11 a.m. 8260 Cypress Lake Drive, www.clpc.us, 481-3233.

CYPRESS LAKE UNITED METHODIST

Sunday 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. 8570 Cypress Lake Drive, 482-1250.

FAITH FELLOWSHIP WORLD OUTREACH

Sunday 10:30 a.m., Thursday 7:30 p.m., Friday 7:30 p.m. 6111 South Pointe Boulevard, 278-3638.

FAITH UNITED METHODIST

Sunday 8:45 and 10:30 a.m. 15690 McGregor Boulevard, 482-2030.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

Wednesday 12 noon Testimony Service, Sunday 10:30 a.m. 2390 West First Street, christiansciencefortmyers.net, christianscience.com.

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. 13545 American Colony Boulevard, 936-2511.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. 2466 First Street, www.fumcftmyers.org, 332-1152.

FORT MYERS CHRISTIAN

Sunday 10:30 a.m., 5916 Winkler Road, 437-4330.

FORT MYERS CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST;

Sunday 10 a.m., 8210 College Parkway, 482-3133.

IONA-HOPE EPISCOPAL CONGREGATION

Saturday 5 p.m.; Sunday 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.; Tuesday 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday 9:30 a.m. 9650 Gladiolus Drive, 454-4778.

JESUS THE WORKER CATHOLIC

Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday 8, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m. 881 Nuna Avenue, 481-1143.

KINGDOM LIFE

Sunday 10:30 a.m. 2154 McGregor Boulevard, 218-8343.

LAMB OF GOD

Sunday 7:45 and 10 a.m. 19691 Cypress View Drive, lambogodchurch.net, 267-3525.

NEW BEGINNINGS CENTER

Friday 6:30 and 7 p.m. 8505 Jenny Cae Lane, nbcministry@embarqmail.com, facebook.com/nbcministry, 656-0416.

NEW COVENANT EYES

Monthly 9 a.m. 1900 Park Meadows Drive, newcovenanteyes.com, 220-8519.

NEW HOPE BAPTIST

Sunday 11 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m. 16120 San Carlos Boulevard, Unit 10, 985-8503.

NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN

Sunday 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. 10051 Plantation Road, www.newhopefortmyers.org, 274-1230.

PEACE COMMUNITY

Sunday 10:30 a.m. www.17671PineRidgeRoad.com, 267-7400.

PEACE LUTHERAN

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

Monday through Saturday 8 a.m.; Saturday 3 and 5 p.m.; Sunday 7, 9 and 11 a.m., 5:30 p.m. 12171 Iona Road, 489-3973.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC

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

SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE METROPOLITAN

Sunday 10 a.m. 3049 McGregor Boulevard, 344-0012.

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN

Saturday 5:30 p.m.; Sunday 8 and 10:45 a.m. 3595 Broadway, 939-1218.

SAINT NICHOLAS MONASTERY

Sunday 9:30 a.m. 111 Evergreen Road, saintnicholasmonastery.org, 997-2847.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC

Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.; Saturday 4 p.m.; Sunday 9 and 11 a.m. 13031 Palm Beach Boulevard, 693-0818.

SOUTHWEST BAPTIST

Sunday 11 a.m.; Wednesday 6 p.m. 16940 McGregor Boulevard, 454-3336.

TEMPLE BETHEL SYNAGOGUE

Friday Shabbat 7:30 p.m.; Torah Saturday 9 a.m.; Religious School Wednesday 5:30 p.m. and Sunday 9:30 a.m. 16225 Winkler Road, templebethel.com, 433-0018.

TEMPLE JUDEA (CONSERVATIVE)

Friday 6:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. tjswfl.org, 14486 A&W Bulb Road, 433-0201.

THE NEW CHURCH

Sunday 11 a.m. 10811 Sunset Plaza Circle #401, newchurchflorida.com, 481-5535.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

Sunday 10:30 a.m. 13411 Shire Lane, uucfm.org, 561-2700.

UNITY OF FORT MYERS

Sunday 10 a.m. 11120 Ranchette Road, unityoffortmyers.org, 278-1511.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. 9065 Ligon Court, 481-2125.

WORD OF LIFE

Sunday 10 a.m., Wednesday 7 p.m. 2120 Collier Avenue, 274-8881.

ZION LUTHERAN

Sunday 8, 9:30 and 10:45 a.m. 7401 Winkler Road, zionfm.org, 481-4040.✪

Beat The Heat Fundraiser On March 4

Zach Polsenberg's Heat Severity Charity is holding a Beat the Heat fundraiser at Dixie Roadhouse on Sunday, March 4 at noon. The benefit will continue to tell the story of Zach Polsenberg, who was an offensive lineman for the Riverdale Raiders football team that died from heat stroke on July 10, 2017.

This second fundraiser provides another opportunity to educate on the prevention of heat-induced illnesses.

Zach's parents, James and Claudine Polsenberg, recently stated, "We are extremely thankful to Dixie Roadhouse for allowing us to use their venue for another fundraiser to not only honor Zach, but continue to communicate our message that heat-induced illnesses need to be taken seriously. Our charity is here to educate athletic communities and provide them with the tools to prevent them."

The Beat the Heat fundraiser will feature live entertainment from Jack Michael Band, Buckin Wild and Whiskey Bent as well as raffles, food trucks, silent auctions and much more. There is a \$5 admission charge, which will be donated directly to the charity. Charity officials are currently collecting donations from businesses around the area.✱

Florida Premiere At Lab Theater Until February 25

The Laboratory Theater of Florida presents the Florida premiere of *Every Brilliant Thing* by Duncan MacMillan and Jonny Donahue, a limited release show that runs from February 22 to 25.

Local actor Rob Green masterfully narrates the story of a boy whose mother attempts suicide, and how he creates a list of everything that is brilliant about the world in order to help heal her. This tender, heartwarming, incredibly funny story powerfully recounts the everyday reality of growing up with someone who has depression, and the long-term effects it has on their loved ones.

"This charming play ingeniously brings the whole audience into the narrator's life story, a life that was saved by the very list he wrote to help his mother. It changes his outlook on life, training him to look for the good, the hopeful, the exquisite details of life," said the show's director, Annette Trossbach. "We are all thrilled to be having the very first Florida production of this show at Lab Theater."

Lab Theater is proud to be partnering with SalusCare in the production of this new show, which is sponsored by CARES, suicide prevention. There will be post-performance discussion opportunities

after each performance.

Performance dates are as follows:

February 22, 23, 24 at 8 p.m.

February 24, 25 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are available to purchase on www.brownpapertickets.com or by calling the box office at 218-0481.✱

Students To Learn About Space Science

Fifty-two eighth graders at Gulf Middle School in Cape Coral will learn about astronomy, outer space and the challenges and excitement of the space program from experienced scientists of the Scientists Society of Southwest Florida on March 5. The students of Kristy Lavis, advanced science teacher at the school, will present questions in advance so that they will be answered during the session.

The three participating members of the Scientists Society of Southwest Florida are Col. James L. Passauer (USAF ret.), who was a candidate for the Scientist as Astronaut program for the Lunar Landing missions; Charles Fuechsel, retired NASA engineer who worked on the Hubble Telescope program; and John Tallman, a former member of the Cape Coral Engineers Society and science fair coordinator for the Scientist Society of Southwest Florida.

The Scientists Society of Southwest Florida is an organization of men and women from all scientific fields, including chemistry, physics, medicine, engineering, and more.

For more information about the Scientists Society and its upcoming meetings, visit www.science-swfl.org.✱

Symphony To Perform Concert On March 8

Southwest Florida Symphony will perform a Copland to the Classics concert at the Village Church at Shell Point on Thursday, March 8 beginning at 7:30 p.m. The performance, which is open to the public, is part of Shell Point Retirement Community's 2017-2018 Concert Series.

Conducted by Maestro Nir Kabaretti, the Southwest Florida Symphony will perform one of Mozart's better-known early symphonies, No. 29 in A Major. This classical masterpiece is personal in tone and stands alone by combining an intimate chamber music style with a fiery and impulsive delivery.

The program will also showcase the Symphony's principal trumpet, Kris Marshall, on Copland's *Quiet City*, as well as 2016 Prescott Award Winner Cassie Drake, who will perform *Viola Concerto No. 1* by Carl Stamitz.

Shell Point is located at 15100 Shell Point Boulevard in Fort Myers. Tickets are available for \$25 at www.shellpoint.org/concerts or by phone at 454-2067.✱

Peace Lutheran Lent Services



Charlie L. Johnson



Aman Singh Nemitz

Peace Lutheran Church will be holding Wednesday evening events during Lent in the Good Samaritan Hall at 5:30 p.m. There will be a light soup supper, a special speaker presentation and a Holden Prayer to end the evening.

On Wednesday, February 28, Aman Singh Nemitz, BS, MSW, who works in both individual and group counseling settings with clients experiencing addiction, dual diagnosis, homelessness or poverty, will address her personal journey through grief, alcohol addiction, recovery and the increase of alcohol abuse within our communities.

On Wednesday, March 7, Dr. Thomas P. Felke, PhD, MSW, who serves as the interim chair and associate professor of social work at FGCU, will address homelessness, needs of seniors, affordable housing and food in security in the five county area. Jessica Goodall, MSW, founder of Eva's Closet, will share the story

of Eva's Closet and the grace, honor and respect given to the homeless, transients and the services Eva's Closet provides.

On Wednesday, March 14, Charlie Johnson, BS, MSW, who has years of experience in crises intervention, will address the importance of ER crisis intervention, particularly working with seniors, juveniles and "all parts in between."

On Wednesday, March 21, Rae Ann Wessel, natural resources policy director with Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation, will discuss how the gift of water in the Gulf, Lake Okeechobee and the everglades are key to our lives and environment. Water is an earthly element used by Christ in Baptism. Wessel will share the history of water in Southwest Florida as well as contemporary policy issues.✱

Church To Host Classic Car Show

On Saturday, March 10, the First Congregational Church will hold its 7th annual Classic Car Show from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch items will be for sale.

The show will feature approximately 70 classic cars, trophies, door prizes, and 50/50 raffles. Registration will be day of the show, with car owners getting a free lunch.

The First Congregational Church is located at 312 Santa Barbara Boulevard in Cape Coral. For more information, call Rich at 652-0720.✱

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2 miles before the Sanibel Causeway.

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Dr. Tererai Trent

photo provided

Habitat To Hold Women Build Kickoff Party

Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties will hold the 8th annual Women Build Kickoff Party at title sponsor Chico's FAS, Inc. corporate headquarters on Thursday, March 1 from 6 to 8 p.m. The evening will mark the beginning of fundraising and volunteer recruitment for Habitat's Women Build initiative.

During the party, Habitat homebuyers will tell their inspirational stories of how homeownership has impacted their lives. Special guest Dr. Tererai Trent, Oprah's all-time favorite guest, will share her transformational story as well.

For tickets, visit www.2018womenbuild.eventbrite.com. For sponsorship information, email womenbuild@habitat4humanity.org

Women Build engages women (and men) in the effort to provide safe and decent homes for families in need of affordable housing. By recruiting, educating and inspiring women to build, they can transform lives in their communities.

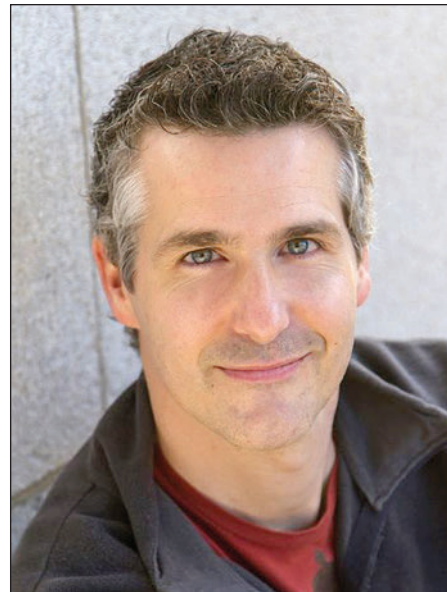
Since 2011, Women Build in Lee and Hendry Counties has partnered with 15 families to build strength and stability for 34 children and their parents through local fundraising and volunteer efforts.

Dr. Trent is one of today's most internationally recognized voices for women's empowerment. She is a scholar, humanitarian, motivational speaker, educator, author and founder of Tererai Trent International.

Her message has inspired millions around the globe. A renowned Ted Talk and university commencement presenter, Tererai has also shared the platform with world leaders, as a keynote speaker at the United Nations World Leadership Summit.

Chico's FAS corporate headquarters is located at 11215 Metro Parkway in Fort Myers.✱

Alliance Theater Presents Feminist Drama Classic



Brendan Powers

photos provided

Theatre Conspiracy at the Alliance for the Arts presents *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen from Thursday, March 1 to Sunday, March 11. Performances run March 1 to 3 and March 8 to 10 at 8 p.m. and March 4 and March 11 at 2 p.m.

The production is directed by Anne Dodd, stars professional Equity Actor Brendan Powers and is sponsored by Bruce and Janet Bunch. The 1879 classic play about love gone awry has come to be considered a contemporary feminist drama.

A look behind the façade of an ideal marriage: Nora and Torvald Helmer are living their dream life, happily married with children and security. Their nine-year, three-child marriage stays fresh because Nora happily embodies the childlike role defined by her husband, while he relishes his idealistic view of



Dena Galyean

marriage as a sacred trust in which the man rules benevolently. "To lie in a family home," he lectures, "diseases it, contaminates it." When Nora risks her reputation to save her husband's life, the consequences test the limits of their love.

The cast includes Brendan Powers as Torvald Helmer, Dena Galyean as Nora Helmer, Patrick Day as Nils Krogstad, Karen Goldberg as Kristine Linde, James Robinson as Dr. Rank, Eren Sisk as Helene, and Paula Sisk as Anna.

Individual tickets to each show are \$25, \$11 for students or \$22 for Alliance members.

The Alliance for the Arts is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. To purchase tickets or for more information, call the box office at 939-2787 or visit www.artinlee.org/theatre.✱

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Fashion Show At Davis Art Center

The 7th annual Art Walks the Runway fashion show will offer three dazzling nights of fashion, art, music and performances at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center from March 8 to 10. Each evening, cocktail hour begins at 7 p.m. followed by the show at 8 p.m.

The show will feature runway styles from international designers. On Thursday, *Vivre Couture*, one of Palm Beach's trend setters, will showcase designs. On Friday, *Forema Boutique*, *Saratoga Sundress*, and *Hollie's Boutique* will highlight the best in local fashion. Plus, be there for a musical performance by Frankie Colt alongside the debut of her personal line. At the finale on Saturday, three exquisite Couture designers – Usama Ishtay, Marmar Halim and Diana Couture – will be presented. The three-evening event will also feature performances from contortionist Katarina Danks, body art from Elements of Body, and



Vivre fashion

photo provided

music from Emma Arnold featuring John Davis.

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



Pilot Club members Maryann Schmidt (kneeling) and Fran D'Alessandro fitted a bicycle helmet on Galen Papkov as father Kyler Papkov looks on photos provided

Club Distributes Helmets For Bicyclists

Eighty children and adults were the recipients of bicycle helmets during the inaugural FDLE Child Safety Fair held at Page Field in Fort Myers on February 10. More than 25 non-profit organizations participated in the inaugural event. The Pilot Club of Fort



Griffin and Nico Terolla are shown receiving bicycle helmets from Pilot Club member Maryann Schmidt as their mother Lauren Terolla observes the fitting procedure

Myers donated the bicycle helmets as part of their on-going community service. Each helmet must be fitted to the specific individual.

The focus of the Pilot Club of Fort Myers is helping organizations seeking to improve the quality of life for individuals with brain-related disorders through volunteer activities, education, and financial support.

For more information, contact Fran D'Alessandro, club president, at 322-1140.*

Ostego Bay Tea And Fashion Show Fundraiser

The Ostego Bay Foundation annual Tea by the Sea and Fashion Show fundraiser will take place at Bonita Bills Waterfront Café on Saturday, March 3 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The vintage high tea menu includes tea, buffet lunch, savory dishes and pastries complimented by fashions of the season. Cost is \$25 per person. There is limited seating. Make your reservations by calling 765-8101. Don't forget to wear your favorite vintage hat.

Proceeds benefit the Ostego Bay Foundation, Inc., which was founded in 1991. The self-funded 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization promotes the understanding, preservation and enhancement of the unique marine environment through education, research and community involvement. The foundation provides interactive educational experiences to encourage stewardship of our natural resources.

Joanne Semmer, president of the foundation said, "We appreciate the support from the local community and participants to help keep our educational programs funded and on track."

The Ostego Bay Foundation Inc. returns the investment back to the community in the form of educating and informing community leaders, hosting marine science internships, and inspiring young people in marine sciences."

Bonita Bills Waterfront Café is located at 700 Fisherman's Wharf on San Carlos Island.

Ostego Bay Marine Science Center is located at 718 Fisherman's Wharf on Fort Myers Beach. For more information, visit www.ostegobay.org or call 765-8101.*



Participants at a past tea and fashion show fundraiser photo provided

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In good conditions, native scorpionstail produces dense foliage and lots of flowers
photos by Gerri Reaves

Plant Smart
Scorpionstail
by Gerri Reaves

Scorpionstail (*Heliotropium angiospermum*) is a native perennial shrub found in the southern half of Florida. The common name is inspired by a one- to three-inch coiled flower spike that is reminiscent of a scorpion's tail. This plant grows in disturbed areas, hammocks, shell mounds, or along roadsides, mainly in coastal areas. It is a member of the borage, or forget-me-not, family, which includes

several species endangered in the state, such as sea rosemary (*Argusia gnaphalodes*), Curacao bush (*Varronia globosa*) and three strongbark (*Bouqueria*) species. Pairs of five-lobed flowers only one to two millimeters across line one side of the under-curving spike. The flowers are white with pale yellow centers. They open first at the base of the unfurling spike and move upward. The plant blooms throughout the year, and the nectar attracts a host of small butterflies. The hairy stalks have alternate dark-green leaves with hairy undersides.



Two rows of tiny flowers line one side of the curving spike

Lance-shaped and prominently veined with a crinkly texture, they can be up to about six inches long. This fast-growing species is hardy, drought tolerant and moderately salt tolerant. It can be erect or sprawling, sometimes wider than it is tall, and grows to a height of 1 to 5 feet. In favorable conditions, it develops full foliage and produces abundant flowers. Scorpionstail prefers full sun and well-drained alkaline soil. It can be propagated with seeds and cuttings and readily self-propagates, so

you might find a volunteer in your yard. Sources: *Everglades Wildflowers* by Roger L. Hammer, *Florida Wildflowers and Roadside Plants* by C. Ritchie Bell and Bryan J. Taylor, *Gardening for Florida's Butterflies* by Pamela F. Traas, *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants* by Rufino Osorio, *The Guide to Florida Wildflowers* by Walter Kingsley Taylor, *National Audubon Society Field Guide to Florida* by Peter Alden et al., and *Wildflowers of Florida Field Guide* by Jaret C. Daniels and Stan Tekiela. *Plant Smart* explores the diverse flora of South Florida.✧

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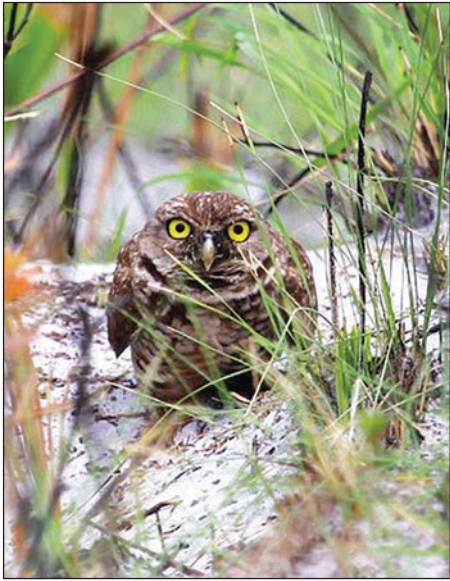
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- difethialone.

Or consider not using any rat poisons at all. Instead, seal all entry points to your home.

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Guidelines For Conserving Imperiled Species

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) recently approved species conservation measures and permitting guidelines for eight state-threatened species that are among the 57 species in the agency's Imperiled Species Management Plan. Each of the eight species – Barbour's map turtle, Big Cypress fox squirrel, Black Creek crayfish, blackmouth shiner, Florida burrowing owl, Florida pine snake, salt-marsh topminnow and Santa Fe crayfish – now has its own species conservation measures and permitting guidelines. The species guidelines are designed to be a tool for landowners, consultants, agency partners and other interested parties on how to conserve these eight imperiled species. "Landowners will have predictability, can avoid pitfalls and can avoid the taking of wildlife," said Chairman Bo Rivard. "These guidelines will really help." The guidelines offer options for avoidance, minimization and mitigation of take of the species. They provide species-specific information on key issues relevant to real-world conservation, including: Essential behavioral patterns; Survey methods; Recommended conservation practices; Exemptions or authorizations for take; Coordination with other regulatory programs; and



Florida burrowing owl photo courtesy FWC

Permitting options for achieving conservation or scientific benefit. During 2017, the FWC reached out to stakeholders on multiple occasions, through meetings, workshops and webinars, to discuss and get input on the development of the species guidelines. "Our goal is to keep all of these species around for current and future generations," said Brad Gruver, who leads the FWC's Species Conservation Planning Section. "These guidelines will greatly benefit our efforts in doing so." For an overview of how Florida conserves imperiled species, go to www.myfwc.com/imperiled.✧

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CROW Case Of The Week:

Herring Gull



by Bob Petcher

Herring gulls (*Larus argentatus*) are coastal birds that you have undoubtedly heard or seen if you are snacking while overlooking a water view. They are the white-headed, gray-backed, yellow-beaked squawkers with black wingtips that are known to be loud and competitive when it comes to scavenging. If you place your food down and they are close enough, that food may not be yours for long.

These pink-legged “seagulls” are the most familiar of the gulls in the United States. Reports say they may be displacing the more southern laughing gull from southern regions.

While herring gulls prefer freshwater to quench their thirst, they can drink seawater if needed thanks to special glands located over their eyes that allow them to excrete the salt. Most animals do not have this feature and would become dehydrated with saltwater intake.

At CROW, a herring gull was admitted to the clinic after being picked up by a volunteer from a drop-off location. Upon initial examination, medical staff noted the gull to have generalized weakness and a reduced palpebral (eyelid) reflex on its right side. Veterinarians suspect the bird is yet another patient to be affected by brevetoxin, or red tide.

“We have had a little over 30 suspected brevetoxicosis cases, approximately 10 percent of our caseload, so far in 2018. Typically each year, brevetoxicosis represents about 10 percent of our annual caseload,” said Dr. Robin Bast, CROW veterinary intern. “Delayed or absent palpebral reflex – the bird is unable to blink its third eyelid – is a common



Patient #18-0235 remains in intensive care after what appears to be a severe case of brevetoxicosis

photo by Brian Bohlman

symptom of brevetoxicosis, since the toxin affects both the central and peripheral nervous systems. Because of this, these birds may present with secondary corneal ulcers.”

Apparently, the patient was not attempting to stand and had no vent tone leading to stained feathers on its underside. An IV catheter was placed in the bird to provide fluids, and it was placed in an oxygen chamber for 24 hours before stabilizing.

“This bird was so neurologically compromised that it had no cloacal tone -- meaning the opening to the urogenital tract had no sphincter control,” said Dr. Bast. “Combined with the patient being too weak to stand, this leads to the bird’s feathers becoming stained with feces and urates since it cannot control elimination.”

Recent reports by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission have shown lower concentration of red tide in area waters. The herring gull’s system appears to have been exposed to toxins for some time.

“Even though levels are low in waters tested recently, the toxin can remain in the food chain – both aquatic plants and fish – for months. This allows for wildlife to continue to be exposed and accumulate toxin in their systems even after levels in local waters have waned. The time it takes to process the toxin depends in part on the bird’s health prior to toxin exposure – are liver and kidneys compromised or fully functional,” said Dr. Bast. “Birds that do not receive treatment often die from severe anemia, liver and kidney failure, or injuries sustained secondary to their neurologic status (like being) more susceptible to predation, self-trauma, etc. With treatment, cormorants typically recover within two weeks whereas gulls and other shorebirds tend to take longer to recover.”

As of February 20, it is still unsure how the patient will fare with its illness.

“As mentioned previously, gulls take several weeks to recover from brevetoxicosis. After a little over a week, the gull was attempting to stand on its own but still remains in the ICU,” added Dr. Bast. “Prognosis remains guarded.”

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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The 1st Annual LaMotta's Italian Fest will be held March 1-4. On Friday and Saturday, there will be an outside tent with a buffet and Italian singers from New York and Italy beginning at 5 p.m. Details in next week's ad. Call 239-482-5505.

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Spring Action In February



by Capt.
Matt Mitchell

Every day out on the water this past few weeks has felt more and more like springtime. Daytime high temperatures have been in the mid 80s and our water

temperatures have pushed into the high 70s. Our fish don't have a calendar to know its only mid-February and have begun to show up in many places we usually don't catch them until April. Catch-and-release snook action has kicked into high gear as the sound has come to life with baitfish and birds over the past few weeks. Spanish mackerel, ladyfish and jacks have invaded our waters and can be caught throughout all our inland waterways.

Over the past few weeks, I've been catching shiners in the early morning again as they have been the most productive bait choice for almost all species I target. As water temperatures continue to warm up, these magic baits called shiners have become more plentiful and have begun to move out to the shallow grass flats from near the beaches and bridges that they are usually caught from during our winter months. Feeding birds including gulls and diving pelicans are a great way to locate bait

in open water. With the water being so clear, it's been really easy to locate bait schools in shallow water. Then it's just a matter of making a few throws of the cast net to fill the live well.

Morning minus low tides have been a great setup for catching some of the larger trout I have seen so far this winter. Many of the deeper channels and cuts through shallow water grass flats are a great place to get started. Free-lined live shiners have caught lots of trout but these fish are also quick to take either a sub-surface swim bait or jig that looks like a shiner. Find these natural channels with the best tide flow, and you will be on some of the best trout fishing of the year. Depths in the 3- to 5-foot range have produced lots of limits of trout this week. As long as the tide is moving, the fish will feed. Once it stops moving, this bite will completely shut off.

Snook are getting more and more spread out as they have begun to push out of the sheltered warm water creeks of winter. Many deeper creek mouths have been great action either on the end of a falling tide or on the first hour of the low incoming tide. Although I have not been catching any real giant snook, we have been staying busy with lots of fish in the mid-20-inch range along with a few pushing the 30-inch mark. Many of these same creek mouths have also been producing some hard fighting gag grouper along with some larger jack crevalle.

With our fishing action just getting better as our water temperatures rise along with a 10-day weather forecast showing no cold fronts in sight, I don't think it will be much longer before we



Lots of trout have been getting caught in the warm clear waters of Pine Island Sound

photo provided

are hearing a few reports of anglers catching tarpon. February tarpon are not unheard of, though what's crazy to me is after such a cold January we are having such early spring-like weather. If you get a chance to get out on the water, it's a great place to escape the congestion of season and enjoy some outstanding spring-like fishing by catching species

that usually don't show up for a few more months.

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. ✨

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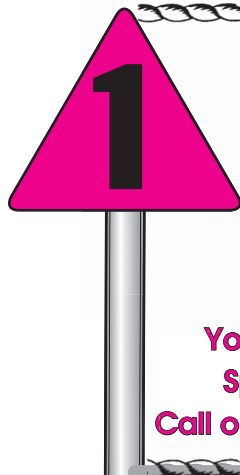
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Dave Doane



The 2017 display of Scientific Division entries inside The Community House

photo by Jose H. Leal

Time For Seashells: The 81st Sanibel Shell Festival

The 81st Sanibel Shell Festival is only days away, and The Community House and its surrounding grounds are where everything happens. Sanibel Island is known for the seashells that wash up on its beaches, and these shells and shells from around the world are the focus of the Shell Festival. They can be seen in fascinating exhibits and exquisite works of art.

The Sanibel-Captiva Shell

Club-sponsored Shell Show is an integral part of the Sanibel Shell Festival and provides visitors an opportunity to view shells from around the world, as well as breathtaking artistic creations made entirely from shells and sea life. This judged Shell Show is the longest running and most prestigious Shell Show in North America. The competition is open to all shell collectors and artisans. Award winners have come from as far away as New Zealand, India, Japan and the Caribbean. The Shell Show is held inside The Community House.

The Authors Table features local authors who will be on hand throughout

the festival for book signings and to talk about their books with visitors. This year, four Sanibel Shell Club members – Pam Boynton, Richard Batt, Jennifer Schiff and Anne Joffe – will be among the 15 authors who will be signing their books during the festival. Look for them inside The Community House.

The Live Tank area is where the Sanibel School sixth graders shine. For two months prior to the Sanibel Shell Festival, the students study about shells and mollusks, the animals that create the shells. If they pass the course test, they have the opportunity to share their knowledge with the festival visitors while they view multiple aquariums containing live mollusks.

Throughout the winter, volunteers meet at The Community House to sort donated seashells. If you love shells but you don't have the time to look for them on the beach or clean them, head for the Shell Tent. Literally, thousands of shells are for sale, and prices start at 25 cents. Large, impressive shells and fossils are also for sale.

Next door to the Shell Tent, the Sanibel Shell Crafters can be found selling shell jewelry, mirrors, flower arrangements and "shell critters." The crafters meet every Monday at The

Community House throughout the year to make the objects that are sold at the festival.

While there is no entrance fee to the Shell Festival grounds, a \$5 donation is requested to attend the inside Shell Show. Anyone who gives the requested donation will also be granted free admission to the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum during the Shell Festival, a \$15 value.

All the funds raised by the Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club are given in the form of grants to several local marine education and conservation organizations and for scholarship funds at the University of South Florida and Florida Gulf Coast University Departments of Marine & Ecological Science. All the funds raised by the outdoor activities go to the maintenance of The Community House.

The Shell Festival will be held on March 1, 2 and 3 at The Community House, located at 2173 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel. Hours for the festival grounds are from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. except Saturday, which will be open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call 472-2155 or go to <https://sites.google.com/site/sanibelshellfestival/>.



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Visitors checking out the display of artistic shell bouquets for sale at last year's show

photo provided

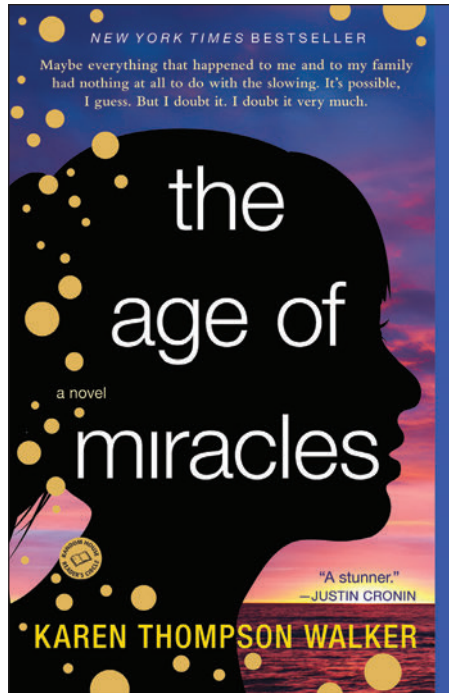


Karen Thompson Walker photo provided

Famous Novelists Featured At Author Lecture

On Monday, March 19, the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center will hold the Famous Author Lecture Series with a lecture, lunch and book signing opportunity from noon to 2 p.m.

The program features a forward by Casey Walker, author of *Last Days in Shanghai*, and lecture from Karen Thompson Walker, author of *New York Times* bestselling novel *The Age of*



The Age of Miracles book cover

Tickets are \$35, and a table of eight is \$280.

The Famous Author Lecture Series invites audiences to take part in a lunch and lecture with an acclaimed writer. G3 Catering will provide the lunch. There will be a question-and-answer portion that offers insights on the author and the stories they write. A book signing opportunity will also be available.

The Age of Miracles was a finalist

for the Barnes & Noble Discover Award, an Indies Choice Award and a Goodreads Choice Award. Translated into 27 languages, it was named one of the best books of the year by the *Financial Times*, *Publishers Weekly*, *People*, *O. The Oprah Magazine*, *Kirkus*, and *Amazon*. It was recently optioned for television by AMC and has been selected as a community read by several cities and universities. Karen Thompson Walker's TED Talk about fear and the imagination has been viewed more than a million times. She is a graduate of UCLA and Columbia, and previously worked as a book editor at Simon & Schuster. In September

2017, she will join the creative writing faculty at the University of Oregon. She is at work on her second novel.

Her husband, Casey Walker, is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and received a PhD in English Literature from Princeton University. His writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, *El País*, *The Believer*, *Vice* and *The Los Angeles Review of Books* among other places. He lives in Portland, Oregon.

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.

Visioning Workshop For Bayshore Area

Lee County is holding a visioning workshop for residents and businesses of Bayshore at Bayshore Fire Department Station 131 on Tuesday, March 6 at 7 p.m. Bayshore is a community located within unincorporated North Fort Myers, east of Interstate 75 and west of Alva.

The public visioning workshop is to define and update the community planning goals for Bayshore within the Lee Plan, as the county looks to the year 2040. Lee County Community Development staff will begin by providing an overview of basic background information relevant to the Lee Plan, the community plans and the visioning event. After the short informational segment, guided group discussions will help to identify future opportunities and constraints for the Bayshore community.

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

The Lee Plan requires certain day-to-day public and private activities to be consistent with the goals, objectives and policies in the adopted plan. It is a source of authority for the local government's land development regulations and for an array of official discretionary actions, including but not limited to, the capital improvement program. The Lee Plan represents the community's vision of what it will or should look like by the end of the planning horizon.

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

Bayshore Fire Department Station 131 is located at 17350 Nalle Road. For more information visit www.leegov.com/dcd/planning/cp/bayshore or contact PODPlanning@leegov.com.

New Website Design Launched

Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida has launched a redesigned website at www.JASWFL.org. The improved online experience further supports the organization's efforts to provide educational programs on work-readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy to students throughout Southwest Florida.

The redesigned website offers a fresh look, improved functionality and user-friendly navigation to create an overall enhanced experience. With easy access to the organization's background and purpose, programs, events, recent news and ways to get involved, the new website encourages volunteers, donors and other Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida supporters to engage.

"The new website design enables the community to learn more about our organization and our work to inspire and prepare young people to succeed in a global economy," said Angela Fisher, president and CEO of Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida. "We are thrilled to offer an improved website experience and look forward to sharing more about our efforts to provide positive, enriching learning experiences for students across Collier, Lee and Charlotte counties."

Ward 5 Meeting

Fort Myers City Councilman Fred Burson has announced that the next Ward 5 community meeting will take place at Alliance for the Arts on Tuesday, March 6 at 6 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Councilman Burson encourages citizens to bring concerns and comments to the meetings.

The Alliance for the Arts is located at 11900 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. For more information, contact Councilman Burson at fburson@cityftmyers.com or 321-7005.

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Marketing Firm Promotion

Connie Ramos-Williams, president of CONRIC PR & Marketing recently announced the promotion of Josh Milton to vice president of media relations. For the past three years, Milton has managed editorial and advertising media relations for CONRIC's diverse portfolio of clientele in his role as marketing and media coordinator. He has more than 15 years of experience in the media industry.

"I have enjoyed a long career in the media industry, working in various roles throughout the years, but nothing has felt more gratifying than the work I do everyday for our clients at CONRIC PR & Marketing," Milton says. "For clients it's business as usual, but internally I'll be stepping up to take on more of a leadership role as our company continues to expand its staff and clientele."

As vice president, Milton will continue to work directly with clients and the CONRIC team to develop, implement and manage editorial and advertising projects. He'll keep building relationships with media throughout Southwest Florida, including online, print, radio and television outlets. Milton will connect with reporters and editors to share news and stories and with advertising representatives to negotiate pricing and placement of media buys.

Milton has vast media experience in Southwest Florida and up and down the East Coast of the United States,



Josh Milton

photo provided

previously serving as a production assistant at WINK-TV and producer at ABC-7, respectively. He also worked as a production assistant at WFTS-TV in Tampa, and as a producer at both WRIC-TV in Richmond, Virginia, and Capital News 9 in Albany, New York.

Milton is an active Rotarian, serving as public relations chair of the Rotary Club of Fort Myers and public image chair of Rotary International District 6960. He also serves on the leadership team of the Florida Public Relations Association (FPRA) and previously served on the media relations team for that organization. He's the current FPRA

education chairman and works with the FPRA student chapter at Florida Gulf Coast University.

"As CONRIC PR & Marketing continues to expand its staff and services in 2018, it will recognize and promote key staff to its executive team who will lead our company and clients to continued success in our second decade of service to the community," says Ramos-Williams, CONRIC's founder. "Josh Milton is being recognized for his dedication to excellence, service above self, positive attitude and leadership skills."*

Business Climate Survey

Lee County's business climate is heating up according to the results of the Executive Business Climate Survey published by the Horizon Council and Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU).

The survey of Lee County business executives and owners computed a quarterly business climate index of 73 for the first quarter of 2018. That's a five-point increase over the fourth quarter 2017 index.

"It was the second-highest measure ever recorded for this survey since its inception in 2012," said Christopher Westley, director of FGCU's Regional Economic Research Institute in the Lutgert College of Business. "The largest measure, a 74, was recorded

in 2014, a year when Lee County experienced GDP growth of 5.7 percent."

Whether that level of economic growth occurs again in Lee County in 2018 remains to be seen. But the current index measure represents a break from several quarters of historically low measures in 2016 and a slight improvement in 2017.

In 2016, an election year marked with uncertainty, the index averaged 63.8. In 2017, it rose to 67.5. "We'll have to see if this first measure for 2018 proves to be sustainable," Westley said.

The index results from calculations made to survey responses of Lee County business executives and is measured on a scale of 0 to 100.

Business executives also were asked about the effects of housing attainability on their industry. While 43 percent of the survey respondents agreed with the statement that housing attainability and cost have affected their firms' ability to recruit and retain workers, 41 percent neither agreed or disagreed, and 16 percent disagreed.

"The results suggest that while housing attainability is an important issue for Lee County, executives do not consider the situation dire either," Westley said. "I'd say their answer to this question would depend on the wages scales associated with their industries."

The full report is available online at www2.fgcu.edu/CoB/Reri/files/bcs2018q1.pdf.*

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Brews Under The Big Top Benefits Greater Fort Myers Chamber And Its Foundation

The Crowne Plaza Hotel with the Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce hosted more than 80 guests for its first Brews under the Big Top Beer Dinner, which took place Wednesday, January 31 at 5:30 p.m.

Proceeds from the event supported both the Chamber and its Foundation.

Presented by Pool Pros and sponsored by Big Top Brewing Company, Crowne Plaza and Suncoast Beverage Sales, the beer dinner included all different style beer from Big Top Brewing Company, a welcome reception and four-course meal.

Big Top Brewing's brew master was on site to provide a guided tour of the company's beers and ales paired with each course, as well as a seasonal four-course menu prepared by Crowne Plaza's executive chef. The meal consisted of shrimp and corn chowder for the first course; Boston Lettuce Salad with local vegetables for the second course; a 14-ounce tomahawk ribeye steak for the third course; and a chocolate truffle mousse cake for the fourth course.

Big Top Brewing Company is located on Porter Way in Sarasota. The company compliments the history of The Ringling Circus and the town in their craft beers



Colleen DePasquale and Joe Mitchell
photos provided



From left in back row, Jay Dempsey, Fritz Pohler, Jim Larkin and Brian Carney; from left in front row, Jovita Perez, Sarah Heusing and Angie Millican

such as Circus City IPA, Trapeze Monk Belgian Wit, Ashley Gang Outlaw Imperial IPA, White Sands Wheat and more.

The Crowne Plaza Hotel is located at 13051 Bell Tower Drive in Fort Myers. The Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce represents 750 businesses, professionals and individuals in Lee County. Their members are located in Cape Coral, Bonita Springs, Sanibel and Captiva Islands, Fort Myers Beach, Lehigh Acres, Estero, Naples and many other areas.*



Allison Gruber and Angie Millican



Antoine LaChapelle and Jennifer Nelson



From left, Melissa Cofta, Joel Mitchell and Way Too Tall Torrie



From left, Audre Mahle, Colleen DePasquale, Stephanie Davis, Laurie Stanley and Way Too Tall Torrie



From left, Kelly Johnson with Steven and Tamara Pigott



From left, Dave Bennett, Carl Shultz and Roberta Stephenson

Hurricane Heroes

Lee County Electric Cooperative (LCEC) and Florida Power & Light (FPL) officials will be among the hurricane heroes honored in the 80th annual Edison Festival of Light Grand Parade.

LCEC's own International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 1933 President and Lead Lineman Greg Krumm will ride alongside FPL Senior Line Specialist Shawn Collins as the Grand Parade marshals. These linemen represent the thousands of utility workers who worked countless hours in unforgiving, dangerous environments to restore power after Hurricane Irma. Linemen, just like first responders, spent weeks away from family and their own damaged homes to ensure that life went back to normal for all those affected by the storm. These heroes went largely unnoticed. They worked swiftly, safely and strategically to help those in need.✱

LARC Officers

The Board of Directors of LARC, Inc., (Lee Association for Remarkable Citizens) announced its new elected officers for 2018. They are: Linda Rand, president; Blake Hampton, vice-president; Gordon Davis, treasurer; secretary, Charlotte Santiago; and Pete D'Alessandro, past president. At-large board members include: Lorriane Barker, Ron Campbell, Martha Clemons, Austin Clinton, Ty Cobb, Ian Keith, Steve McBane, Dave Plonski, Ross Webb and Rob Wilson.

LARC board members represent the community, oversee operations and assist LARC Executive Director Kevin Lewis to carry out the work needed to help individuals and families with intellectual and development disabilities to achieve their highest level of independence and life satisfaction through community-based services and work opportunities.

LARC has been providing a range of services to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities and their families since 1954. It receives support from Lee County and the United Way in addition to state and federal funding.✱

Firm Ranks No. 5

Financial services firm Edward Jones received a No. 5 ranking on the 2018 Fortune 100 Best Companies to Work For list in its 19th appearance on the prestigious list, according to global research and consulting firm Great Place to Work and *Fortune* magazine. The firm is the highest-ranking financial services firm on the list.

"As a growing firm, we are proud to have created a rewarding career destination that sets us apart within our industry and underscores our opportunity," Weddle said. "Building personal relationships with our clients is fulfilling, and we take pride in knowing that we make a significant, positive difference to our clients and to the communities where we live and work."

For more information, visit the firm's website at www.edwardjones.com and its recruiting website at www.careers.edwardjones.com.✱

Port Authority Names New Director

Scott C. Sheets has been named the director of general aviation at Page Field (FMY) in Fort Myers. He will be responsible for managing a staff of 34 professionals and planning, directing and coordinating the day-to-day operations of the airport, including base operations at Page Field. Sheets will also have oversight on all construction and planning projects, lease and contract administration and represent Page Field with governmental agencies, private enterprise and the community.

Sheets joined the Lee County Port Authority in April 1999 as a line service agent at Page Field and soon after became a line service supervisor, where he provided ground handling support, customer care and aircraft fueling services. In February 2006, he was promoted to manager of general aviation and in 2011 to senior manager of general aviation, directing the general aviation operations and day-to-day business activities at Page Field, as well as managing the airfield and maintenance department. In February 2013, Sheets became the senior manager of maintenance and operations at Page Field and was responsible for all airport operations and maintenance activities, overseeing building and airfield construction



Scott Sheets

photo provided

projects and maintaining the operating and capital expenditures budgets.

Sheets is an Airport Certified Employee (ACE) in airport operations from the American Association of Airport Executives (AAAE) and is a member of the Southeast Chapter of AAAE. He is also a member of the Florida Airports Council (FAC) and serves on its general aviation, facilities and operations committee. In addition, he has served as the vice-chair and chair of the FAC General Aviation Committee. For more information on Page Field, visit www.flyfmy.com.✱

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Sam Galloway Jr. and Tracey Galloway
photos provided

Hymn Sing Yields 5,000 Pounds In Food Donations

On February 6, more than 1,500 people attended the 29th annual Mrs. Edison's Hymn Sing and donated nearly 5,000 pounds of food to help feed the hungry.

The event was presented by First Presbyterian Church and sponsored by the Galloway Family of Dealerships to honor the work of Mrs. Mina Edison, wife of inventor Thomas Edison.

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

"We are so thankful to the people of our community who stepped up in this time of great need. It truly shows the impact that a few people can make in the lives of many," said Organizer Sam Galloway, Jr., who added the food will be distributed immediately to those in need in Lee County.

Attendees sang hymns with the 60-member Sanctuary Choir of First Presbyterian Church and friends, listened to soloists and heard a song called *Edison's Phonograph Polka*



Rev. Dr. Paul deJong at podium
about Thomas Edison's famous invention. The song was played by Pianist Barbara Peterson and Organist Eddygrace Bernhard.

In addition to Mrs. Edison's Hymn Sing, the Galloway Family of Dealerships also sponsors the very popular Christmas Carol Sing, which is set for December 11. Both events benefit The Soup Kitchen of Community Cooperative.*



From left, Kay Henry, Larry Henry and Betty Campbell



Rev. Roger and Barbara Peterson



Beth Filiowich and Lenny Mlejnek



Members of the Gulf Coast Harmonizers



Bonnie and Richard Chappelle collect canned goods



Sheryl deJong and Larry Mendenhall



Pat and Jena Mann



Alice Bowen and Vonceil Franklin

Life Insurance

Slick Competition

J. Brendan Ryan,
CLU, ChFC, MSFS

Question: I recently received an offer for traditional Universal Life Insurance (UL) from an agent. Then, trying to be a smart shopper, I called another agent and

showed him the quote that I had received from the first agent. He gave me a quote for the same amount of insurance, using the same policy with the same insurance company. But the premium that he quoted was a fair bit lower. Did the first agent try to cheat me?

Answer: Maybe, but maybe not. And maybe the second agent was the scoundrel.

Recall that UL has a flexible premium. Within limits, how much you pay is up to you. The minimum that you must pay is the amount needed to get the policy up and running. The maximum is dictated by tax law. (There are so many tax benefits to life insurance that Congress saw fit to limit the ability to take too much advantage.) Anywhere in between the minimum and maximum, the owner is free to decide how much to pay at any given time. Because of this flexibility, one must be cautious not to accidentally underfund the policy.

Recall also that there is other flexibility in UL. Part of the premiums paid goes toward building up the cash value. The interest credited to the cash value of traditional UL is not fixed but rather varies with prevailing interest rates, though not in lockstep. And the internal monthly charge against the cash value (the cost of insurance [COI] charge) can vary and depends on the cost of the insurer's overhead, including the amount

of death benefit they have to pay out over time.

So, when I quote a new policy for someone who wants UL, I set the premium for the proposal at a level that will allow the policy to stay in force with enough of a cash-value cushion to absorb minor changes in interest credited and COI charges without harming the future of the policy. For this calculation, I assume that interest rates and COI charges remain the same.

We know, of course, that conditions will change in the future. Positive change will allow the policyowner to lower his or her out-of-pocket cost while negative changes will require them to increase.

As for the possibility of having to increase payments, these increases can be managed easily to keep them small. One simply has to pay attention to the annual report that is sent each year. If the cash value goes down from one year to the next, it is a sign to start paying attention. If it happens for two or three years in a row, the policyowner should call the agent or insurer and ask what premium increase, if any, is warranted. It will be modest. Paying attention to such minor changes will keep any premium increase modest. Ignoring it for a long time could be expensive.

The second agent whom you called and to whom you showed the first set of numbers could just be "low-balling" his quote just to get your business. As explained above, UL has that sort of premium flexibility. But, if the premium is not set at a reasonable level and causes dangerously low cash value in the future, that tactic will come back to hurt you.

How can you avoid this problem? Read the printed illustration that is required to be delivered to you by the time you receive the policy. It will be accurate though possibly hard to understand. Even more important is to deal only with an agent whom you know you can trust.

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

Unclaimed Money At Clerk Of Court's Office

More than \$97,000 worth of checks is unclaimed at the Lee County Clerk of Courts office waiting to be collected.

Checks with amounts ranging from \$1 to \$20,000 are considered unclaimed and will be sent to the Florida Department of Financial Services at the end of April.

What exactly is a state-dated unclaimed check? These are outstanding checks with a payment date that is more than six months old and have not yet cleared the bank. The checks originate from different offices within the county, department of transportation (DOT) and clerk of court. The checks are for various reasons and include, but are not limited to, jury

duty services, payment for goods or services, refunds of veterinary services, utility deposits and credit balances, tax deed and foreclosure sales and bidder refunds, and recording services and more.

Criminal Cash bonds are also included in the unclaimed funds. These are payments that have been made to the courts as a monetary assurance that a detained suspect can be released and will return for their court appearance. When the court has decided that the cash bond should be returned to the defendant, then a check is issued by the clerk. Cash bond funds will be remitted to the state at the end of August.

Check the current unclaimed monies lists at www.leefclerk.govoffice3.com and click on unclaimed funds. Once funds are remitted to the State of Florida Department of Revenue's Unclaimed Property division, you will need to make your request through www.fltreasurehunt.org.✴

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With Spring Training Upon Us, More Than 250,000 Fans Expected To Attend Red Sox, Twins Games



by Ed Frank

As American as apple pie, the rites of spring blossoms this week as more than 250,000 baseball fans will flock to JetBlue Park and Hammond Stadium in the weeks ahead as the Boston Red Sox and the Minnesota Twins prepare for the 2018 Major League season.

Spring Training in Florida, as it is in Arizona, is a booming economic factor. The 15 teams comprising Florida's Grapefruit League drew 1,577,914 fans a year ago, the 15th year in the last 18 when more than 1.5 million baseball enthusiasts attended Spring Training.

Locally, the Red Sox led the Grapefruit League in attendance, drawing 167,799 fans in their 17-game home schedule, an average of 9,871 per game. Only the Chicago Cubs, who train in Arizona, attracted more.

The remodeled Hammond Stadium in the sprawling CenturyLink Sports Complex has been the Spring Training home for the Minnesota Twins since 1991. In 2017, the Twins home attendance was 108,365 for the 15-game home schedule, averaging 7,224 per game.

Lee County has invested heavily in the past decade in the facilities for the Red Sox and Twins. Approximately \$75 million was spent six year ago in construction of the magnificent JetBlue Park. And about \$40 million was expended three years ago to remodel Hammond Stadium and upgrade the facilities of the CenturyLink Sports Complex.

Economic studies show these were wise investments as approximately 60 percent of the fans attending Spring Training games are non-residents who spend big bucks at local hotels and restaurants.

Several years ago, the Florida Sports Foundation estimated Spring Training in Florida was a \$752-million-a year business – a figure likely near a billion dollars now.

Pitchers and catchers for both teams reported last week and position players checked in Monday of this week. Grapefruit League play gets underway this weekend.

In the weeks ahead, we will review the outlook for both teams along with interviews with key personnel.

The Red Sox enter the 2018 season as the defending American League Eastern Division champion while the Twins, in an amazing turnaround 2017 season, reached postseason play after losing more than 100 games the year before.

Yuengling Open This Weekend

Professional and amateur golfers alike will compete in the Yuengling Open at the Fort Myers Country Club on Saturday and Sunday, February 24 through 25. Admission and parking are free for spectators.

The Yuengling Open is in its 56th year and is the longest running golf event in the region. Defending champion Derek Lamely, FGCU graduate, will be among the players vying for the Yuengling Open title. Other players include past winners Tommy Tolles and George McNeill, both

natives to the Fort Myers area.

Rich Lamb, director of golf for the City of Fort Myers, says the tournament provides a unique opportunity for spectators. "We're so excited to host world class players in a setting where tournament attendees can get up close and personal with the game," said Lamb. "Attendees can walk along with players, which is a very special experience you can't get many places."

The Fort Myers Country Club is located at 3591 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. Pairings and tee times for the Yuengling Open will be available at www.cityftmyers.com/234/Yuengling-Open. For more information, contact Lamb at 321-7488.

Listed below are the home schedules for the first week of Spring Training:

Boston Red Sox – JetBlue Park

Thursday, February 22 – Exhibition doubleheader: Northeastern University and Boston College; 1:05 p.m.
Friday, February 23 – Minnesota Twins; 1:05 p.m.
Saturday, February 24 – Tampa Bay; 1:05 p.m.
Sunday, February 25, Baltimore; 1:05 p.m.
Tuesday, February 27, St. Louis (split squad); 1:05 p.m.
Wednesday, February 28, Pittsburgh; 1:05 p.m.

Minnesota Twins – Hammond Stadium

Thursday, February 22 – Exhibition: University of Minnesota; 6:05 p.m.
Sunday, February 25 – Tampa Bay; 1:05 p.m.
Monday, February 26 – St. Louis; 1:05 p.m.
Tuesday, February 27 – Boston; 6:05 p.m.
Wednesday, February 28 –Tampa Bay; 1:05 p.m.*

Permit Spawning Season Closure Extended

At its February meeting in Tallahassee, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) approved a measure to extend the spawning season closure for permit inside the Special Permit Zone in south Florida.

The change, effective April 1, will add April to the existing May-through-July season closure for the harvest of permit inside the Special Permit Zone, which includes all state and federal

waters south of Cape Sable on the Gulf coast, and south of Cape Florida on the Atlantic coast including all of the Florida Keys and Biscayne Bay.

Recent research confirms spawning-size permit are visiting known south Florida multi-species aggregation sites from April through July.

For more information or to view the presentations given at the Commission meeting, visit myfwc.com/commission and select Commission Meetings then click on the link below Next Meeting.

For information on permit, visit www.myfwc.com/fishing and click on Saltwater Fishing, Recreational Regulations and Permit, Florida pompano, African pompano.*

SPORTS QUIZ

1. When was the last time before 2015-16 that the New York Mets made the playoffs in two consecutive years?
2. Name the last reliever before Travis Wood of the Chicago Cubs in 2016 to hit a home run in a playoff game.
3. In 2016, Derek Carr set an Oakland Raiders record for most passing yards in a game (513). Who had held the franchise mark?
4. When was the last time before 2017 that Rhode Island's men's basketball team won a game in the NCAA Tournament?
5. Name the Toronto Maple Leafs' only No. 1 overall NHL draft pick before Auston Matthews in 2016.
6. In 1985, Russian Garry Kasparov became the youngest winner in the history of the world chess championship. How old was he?
7. Who gave boxer Sugar Ray Robinson his first pro defeat, in 1943?

ANSWERS

1. It was 1999-2000. 2. Rosy Ryan of the New York Giants in the 1924 World Series. 3. Cotton Davidson threw for 427 yards against Denver in 1964. 4. It was 1998, when LaMotta. 5. Wendel Clark, in 1985. 6. He was 22. 7. Jake

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Sail and Power Squadron Graduates 46 Sailors



Recent graduates of the Peace River Sail and Power Squadron

photo provided

Forty-six sailors recently completed the America's Boating Course at the Peace River Sail and Power Squadron in Punta Gorda. The graduates attended three sessions covering boating law, safety equipment,

safe boating practices, navigation, boating emergencies, personal watercraft, charts, GPS, trailering and much more. Attendees received the America's Boating Course manual, companion CD and a completion

certificate. The class is approved by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission for the Florida Boater Safety Education ID Card, required for anyone born after January 1, 1988 who operates a motorboat with 10

horsepower or more in Florida waters. The course is also approved by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators and the U.S. Coast Guard.*

Beach Walk With Bird Patrol Guide

On Saturday, March 3, 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.*

America's Boating Course

America's Boating Club and the San Carlos Bay Sail & Power Squadron, a boating organization that serves South Fort Myers, Fort Myers Beach, Bonita Springs and Estero, will be offering America's Boating Course at the squadron as a two-part class beginning on Saturday, March 3 from 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

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

The course consists of two sessions

on consecutive Saturdays. The second session will be held on Saturday, March 10 from 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Topics covered include hull design, docking, anchoring, handling boating emergencies, reading channel markers and many other topics to make each boating experience safer and more enjoyable. Successful completion of this course entitles the boater to six months free membership in the United States Power Squadrons with the purchase of a 12-month membership. In addition, students who join the squadron will also be eligible for a free three-hour On The Water training session.

The cost of the course is \$60 with a \$30 fee for a second person sharing the instruction materials. The cost includes lunch after the second Saturday class.

The San Carlos Bay Sail & Power Squadron Classroom is located at 16048 San Carlos Boulevard. Students can register online at www.scbps.com or call 466-4040 and leave a message.*

Morning Walk At County Park

Lakes Regional Park will be the site of a nature walk with a Lee County Bird Patrol Guide on Saturday, March 3 at 8 a.m. It is free with paid parking.

Provided in cooperation with Lee County Parks and Recreation, the stroll is along clear paths that offer an opportunity to see birds in native vegetation with experienced guides pointing out the many species in the park, a Lee County birding hot spot and crucial nesting area for many birds.

Those interested are asked to wear comfortable shoes and dress to be outside. Bring water, sunscreen and binoculars.

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

For more information, call 533-7580 or 533-7576 or visit www.birdpatrol.org.*

Chart Reading Class

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

how to take bearings.

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

The San Carlos Bay Sail & Power Squadron is located at 16048 San Carlos Boulevard in Fort Myers. Students can register at www.scbps.com or call 466-4040 and leave a message.*

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From left, Pam Stewart, Ken Savage and Herschel Lyons photo provided

Florida Principal Of The Year

Ken Savage, the principal at James Stephens International Academy in Fort Myers, is Florida's Principal of the Year. Commissioner of Education Pam Stewart made the announcement at the Commissioner's Summit for Principals in Orlando recently.

Savage was appointed as a turnaround principal for James Stephens International Academy in June of 2016. In one year, he helped improve the school grade from an F to a B. He is commended for being a self-starter and critical thinker, and he is known as a diligent data user who always focuses on the ultimate goal – student achievement. He is a member of Principal Leads in Lee County and mentors other administrators.

Savage says hearing his name called came as a total surprise. "This award is actually a recognition of our wonderful students and incredibly talented staff. I am just privileged to advocate on their behalf and for our deserving families."

"I am so thrilled for Ken," said Superintendent Dr. Greg Adkins. "The Florida Department of Education could not have made a better choice. Ken's passion and commitment to our students is second to none, and we are blessed and honored to have him as part of this amazing district."

Dr. Adkins nominated Savage for the award, and he was named one of three finalists in January. As the 2018 Principal of the Year, Savage receives a \$5,000 cash prize.

Commissioner Stewart said, "Strong leadership in our schools is essential to ensure teachers and students have the support and resources necessary to succeed. Kenneth Savage and Jackie Ramsey have made a tremendous impact on their students, colleagues and community."

Ramsey, from Carver Middle School in Orange County, was honored recently as Assistant Principal of the Year. Just one year ago, it was the Assistant Principal at James Stephens International Academy, Kelly Stedman, being honored as Florida's Assistant Principal of the year.✽

Financial Focus Is A Managed Account Right For You?



As an investor, you'll face many decisions over the years. How much should you invest? Where should you put your money? When is it time to sell some investments and use the proceeds to buy others? Some people enjoy making these choices themselves – but not everyone. Consequently, the type of investor you are will influence your thinking about whether to open a managed account.

As its name suggests, a managed account – sometimes known as an "advisory" account – essentially is a portfolio of stocks, bonds and other investments chosen by a professional investment manager who makes the buy and sell decisions. Typically, each managed account has an investment objective based on your goals, and you may have some voice in investment choices – for example, you may be able to request that the manager avoid certain investments. Or, you might still work with a personal financial advisor who can help you identify and quantify your goals, define your risk tolerance and track changes in your family situation – and who can then use this information to help guide the investment manager's choices.

Beyond this basic structure, managed accounts can vary greatly in terms of administration, reporting, fees and minimum balance.

So, assuming you meet the requirements for a managed account, should you consider one? There's really no one right answer for everyone. But three

factors to consider are cost, control and confidence.

Cost – Different managed accounts may have different payment arrangements. However, it's common for a money manager to be paid based on a percentage of assets under management. So, if your manager's fee is 1 percent and your portfolio contains \$100,000, the manager earns \$1,000 per year, but if the value of your portfolio rises to \$200,000, the manager earns \$2,000. Because the manager has a personal stake in the portfolio's success, this arrangement could work to your advantage. Be aware, though, that other fees may be associated with your account.

Control – With any managed account, you will give up some, or perhaps all, of your power to make buy-and-sell decisions. If you have built a large portfolio, and you're busy with work and family, you may like the idea of delegating these decisions. And, as mentioned above, you can still oversee the "big picture" by either working through a financial advisor or, at the least, having your goals, risk tolerance and investment preferences dictate a money manager's decisions. But you will have to decide for yourself how comfortable you are in ceding control of your portfolio's day-to-day transactions.

Confidence – It's essential that you feel confident in a managed account's ability to help you meet your goals. And the various elements of a managed account may well give you that assurance. For example, some managed accounts include automatic rebalancing of assets, which, among other things, can help you achieve tax efficiency. Other features of a managed account – such as the experience and track record of the manager – also may bolster your confidence.

Ultimately, you'll need to weigh all factors before deciding whether a managed account is right for you. In any case, it's an option worth considering.

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.✽



Enchanted by Mimi Stirm images provided

Studio Tours

From page 1

abundantly diverse collection of visual artists," says exhibitions coordinator Krista Johnson. "By illuminating the talent of females, we celebrate each woman's creative contribution to our community."



Various Works by Annette Brown

Tickets for Alliance members are \$25 or \$35 for non-members. Ticket holders will receive a program and map to the studios and visit on-site art studios featuring working artists. A closing reception will be

held at DAAS Co-Op at 4 p.m.

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

Photography

From page 3

of a Pacific fern frond titled *Praeter Naturam*, meaning beyond what is natural or normal. This image visually describes the air-filled, fluid space of spirit and spontaneity where our extra sensory perception is required.

Amara is a sculptor, painter, photographer and writer who was raised in the remote forests of Ohio, and credits her indigenous environment as the primary influence in her work today. She recently embarked on a two-year project, documenting the land she was raised on and is creating a book set to be published in 2020. Amara works as a full time, professional artist in Bonita Springs and Columbus, Ohio.

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

Book Review

A Shell Of A Problem



by Di Saggau

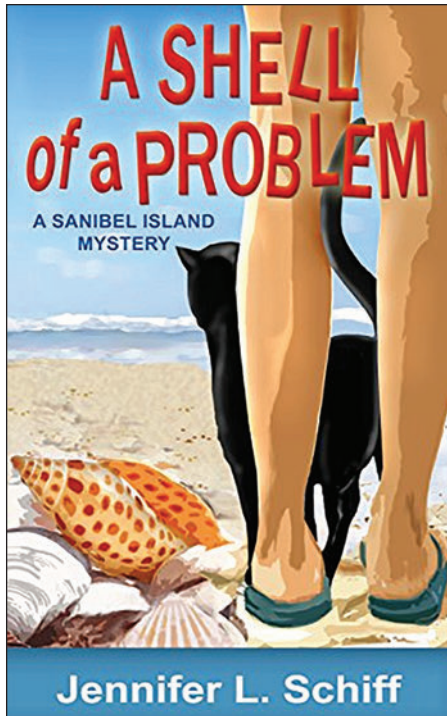
Jennifer L. Schiff's new book *A Shell of a Problem* is the first in her Sanibel Island mystery series. We follow investigative reporter Guinivere Jones as she tries to solve the theft

of a rare golden junonia and the murder of a man considered the chief suspect, until his body is found a few days later. Guinivere was out of a job, her husband left her for their hairdresser, so she and her two cats Flora and Fauna left New England and moved to Sanibel, the seashell capital of the United States.

While she's doing a story for the local paper about the golden junonia, which is the main attraction of the 80th annual Sanibel Shell Show, it suddenly disappears. This is the largest junonia ever found and its value, at least to one Captiva real estate king, has climbed to \$1 million. As Guin searches for the missing mollusk, she comes across the dead body of the chief suspect and she becomes determined to get to the bottom of things.

What fun it is to follow along with her as she visits the restaurants we all know so well, along with many other popular haunts on Sanibel, Fort Myers Beach, Marco Island and other locales. The characters in the book are very real and quite memorable. A drop-dead gorgeous marine biologist, becomes a romantic interest. A snarky detective becomes her nemesis, at least for awhile. And her best friend Shelly keeps her on her toes.

Guin is pretty, she's smart, and she talks to her cats. Nothing wrong with that. Schiff keeps you guessing as to who stole the golden junonia and who committed the murder. It's an



interesting journey to the conclusion, and it leaves you waiting for the next mystery involving Guinivere Jones.

Schiff told me that Sanibel was her inspiration, and the book is her love letter to Sanibel. She said, "Sanibel is my happy place. It's the place that inspires me and makes me feel at peace. My husband and I have been coming here since 2012, we bought a place in 2016 and are hoping to move here permanently." The second book in the Sanibel Island Mystery series *Something Fishy*, is scheduled to be released around Memorial Day. *In The Market For Murder*, which will take place at the Sanibel Island Farmers Market, is scheduled for release just after Thanksgiving.

Jennifer Schiff will be signing copies of *A Shell of a Problem* at the 81st annual Sanibel Shell Show on Saturday, March 3 from 9 a.m. to noon. The books are also for sale at Macintosh Books and Paper, the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum, Bailey's General Store and online at Amazon.✱

School Smart



by Shelley M. Greggs, NCSP

Dear Shelley,
I want to send my child to a preschool that will teach her to be a good student when she moves on. So many preschools say that they will

provide ample playtime. I want my child to be learning so she can be better prepared when he gets to Kindergarten. Am I missing something with this talk of play?

Mary Ellen P, Fort Myers Beach
Mary Ellen,
John Santrock, author of many

human development textbooks states, "Play has many functions. It increases peer relationships, releases tensions, advances intellectual development, increases exploration and increases chances of children speaking and interacting with each other." Research supports this statement and provides the foundation for the need for children to play. The evidence on play is extensive and difficult to summarize in this type of article so I am providing you with a brief outline that discusses the functions of play for a child's early years.

Infant Play – Birth to 2 years of age
Sensorimotor play is typical play behavior for children up to age 2.

Children begin by selecting objects that give them a response, such as toys that make noise or bounce. These toys typically produce smiles and giggles from infants. In turn, adults must make

sure the child's toy selection includes ones that stimulate their senses and enhance their motor skill development.

Between the first and second year, children begin to understand the meaning of objects. And begin to incorporate this new knowledge into play. Children will also pretend objects are used for other purposes such as using a banana for a phone. This is the beginning of dramatic play.

Toddler Play – Ages 2 to 4

Children begin making the transition to toddlerhood around the age of two. By this age, they realize one thing can stand for another and toddlers are able to imitate or imagine events in ways that do not exist. Through this fantasy or pretend play, children can examine events and relationships that are different from the original intent and begin to transform objects and actions symbolically. For example, 3- and 4-year-olds understand a sponge is really a sponge. They also can pretend it is a boat skiing across the lake or a basketball sliding through the net.

Early School Age – 4 to 6 years of age

Children in preschool and early elementary grades continue to use pretend play. At this age pretend play increases receptive and expressive language. Many higher-level behaviors can be seen in this pretend play as well because children must use interactive social dialogue, negotiation, role taking, script knowledge and improvisation as they play and develop their story

together. A great example of this can be seen in the "housekeeping or kitchen center" in any preschool. Just watch and you can see a drama, which matches that of any soap opera.

Children also begin to show interest in group play in this stage. Group play like Hide and Seek or Ring Around the Rosie is more structured and is based more on reality than fantasy. Group play usually involves a few rules. The rules allow the child to begin developing independence yet cooperation with partners. Often early school-age games allow the children to change roles frequently so they begin to experience many perspectives. This less-structured group play provides a transition between pretend play and more structured team sports which begin in elementary grades.

Clearly, play has a vital role in young children's lives, and that its importance extends through the primary school years as well. For young children, playing is learning.

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

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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*



Dr. Greg Adkins (right) shakes Kevin Nobles' hand photo provided

Support Employee Of The Year For School District

Veterans Park Academy for the Arts (VPPA) Helping Teacher Kevin Nobles was recognized as the Lee County School District's School Related Employee of the 2017-18 school year. Superintendent Dr. Greg Adkins presented him with a plaque and board members and district personnel presented him with gifts donated by local businesses. "We are really proud of what you do," Dr. Adkins told Nobles. "We are thankful you have been such an invaluable part of our team at Veterans Park Academy for the Arts and the school district."

A large crowd of staff and students filled the school's media room to surprise Nobles. "I am overwhelmed," he said. "I am truly, truly blessed and truly humbled by this." VPPA Principal Laura Stanford told him she is "proud to work alongside such an amazing professional."

Kevin has been at VPPA for six years and his primary role is to help with the Social Communication Classroom, but he is known around school as the first person to respond when someone needs help. He also leads the Agriculture Club where he teaches the students gardening skills and spruces up the school's landscaping. Kevin and his wife, Beverly, a teacher at VPPA, run the school's Ignite program. They inspire the students to live their lives in a positive and spiritual manner so they can grow up to be positive influences.✱

From page 8

Fort Myers Art

the trial he offers. In *ORBS!*, Mo'a is the spirit of truth, authenticity and correlation. In *ORBS!*, it is Mo'a's place to set and keep the record straight; to untangle for the audience the web of deceit and delusion that Teed spins like a lower order arachnid; to ensure in the best tradition of happenings that the audience develops a close relationship with the actors and the site. It's another role tailor-made for Ruiz, who has a penchant for breathing life into volatile and seemingly incomprehensible characters few others could successfully pull off. (Just witness what she did with the intertwined roles of medium Pearl Curran and Patience Worth, the 17th century Puritan woman she channeled in Barry Cavin's last offering, *Writing Shadows*, which Ghostbird performed in the Langford-Kingston Home earlier this season.)

As Mo'a, Ruiz's sinews convulse and contort with disquieting disembodiment. Her voice quivers and quakes as she delivers her ethereal messages. The combination is astonishingly effective to underscore Mo'a's true nature. A supernatural being, she is discarnate, spectral, but very much real.

Kudos are also in order for Kaleena Rivera, Dan Cancio, Kate Dirrigl, Hanny Zuniga and Linda Farmer. They make

wonderful panthers, bears, deer, alligators and owls. Artist Linda Hall is to be complimented and commended for the puppets and masks she has contributed to the production. And not only did Victor Ballo make a statement with his pre-play piano recital, he preserves the mood from the play's beginning to its very end through the minstrel music he contributes along the professional and with the overpoweringly eerie Teed movie he's created for projection against the side of one of the Koreshan site old clapboard buildings.

ORBS! is a smart, sophisticated piece of theater all the way through. It's a happening concerned with fantasies, archetypal symbolic associations and audience involvement. But Ghostbird doesn't just break down the normally-sacrosanct wall between performers and audience. It pulverizes it into jagged little shards of crumbled rock by immersing the audience in the action and the historic site. Yes, *ORBS!* is participatory art media at its finest.

Southwest Florida is lucky to have a Ghostbird among our midst. If you're not taking in their productions, what are you waiting for?

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.✱

Superior Interiors The Right Light

by Marcia Feeney

It's more than an overhead light fixture. Or a table lamp set next to your favorite chair. A well-lit room includes four major types of lighting – ambient, task, accent and mood – all which create a dramatic effect in your room.

Ambient or general lighting is indirect, and literally bounces off the walls and ceiling to provide comfortable background illumination. It's important that it be distributed evenly in your rooms, so that no areas are overly bright or hidden in the shadows. Recessed and track lighting are considered two of the best general sources of light.

Task lighting does exactly as its name infers – it provides necessary light for specific duties such as reading, writing or cooking. Again, it's important that task lighting be shadow free. Because of its "localized" nature, two great examples are reading lamps and under-counter lighting.

Accent lighting is purely decorative and includes everything from up-lights and torchieres to sconces and spot-lights. If you want to accent a work or art, or draw attention to an architectural element in your home, then accent lighting would be your best choice.

Mood lighting generally comes from flexible light sources. For example, if you want to change the mood in your dining room, simply add a dimmer switch to your chandelier, and you've instantly changed your room's ambiance.

Marcia Feeney is an interior designer on Sanibel/Captiva Islands. She can be reached at marcia@coindceden.com.✱

Seminars Focus On Tax Reform, First Amendment

Two Above Board Chamber of Florida seminars will cover the rules regarding 2018 federal tax reform and the First Amendment, respectively.

The first luncheon will take place at the Pelican Preserve Town Center on Thursday, March 8 at 11:30 a.m. in Fort Myers. Master of ceremonies Tom Hayden, senior engagement editor for *The News-Press*, will direct a panel with Bill Barker, publisher for *The News-Press* and the *Naples Daily News*; NBC-2 anchor Kellie Burns; Julie Glenn, host of *Gulf Coast Live* for WGPU-FM; and attorney Henry Lee Paul, a former member of the Florida Supreme Court Commission on Professionalism, on a fuller understanding of what the First Amendment means to them.

Another set of experts will delve into the latest tax law changes during a luncheon at the Hilton Naples March

12 luncheon at 11:30 a.m. Amy Oshier, *Behind the Headlines* anchor for the *Naples Daily News*, will serve as master of ceremonies for a discussion with tax attorney Cathrine A. Hunter of Woodward, Pires & Lombardo, PA; Marc Whitfield, tax manager for the accounting firm of Stroemer & Company LLC; and Nace Cohen, president and founder of 1031 Exchange, a real estate and personal property consulting firm.

For both lunches, register at www.aboveboardchamber.com or call 910-7426. For the Fort Myers lunch, the cost on or before March 1 is \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members. After March 1, it's \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members. For the Naples lunch, the cost on or before March 7 is \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members. After March 7, it's \$30 for members and \$35 for non-members.

Non-members are encouraged to attend two meetings and consider joining. To become a member, call Jeanne Sweeney at 910-7426.

The Pelican Preserve Town Center is located at 10561 Veneto Drive in Fort Myers. The Hilton Naples is located at 5111 Tamiami Trail North in Naples.✱

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

President's List

Kelly Harder of Fort Myers was named to the fall 2017 President's List at Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi.✱

Master's Degree

Hannah Troast of Fort Myers earned a master's degree from Georgia State University during the Fall 2017 semester.✱

Dean's List

Fort Myers natives Hannah Boyan and Thandiwe Kangwa were named to the Dean's List at Seton

Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey.

Fort Myers native Whitman Wiggins was named to the Dean's List for the fall 2017 semester at Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts.✱

Admissions

Two area secondary school students have been admitted into the fall 2018 incoming class at Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Missouri.

Braxton Baker is a student at Southwest Florida Christian Academy in Fort Myers. He has earned a Hilltop academic scholarship.

Austin Smith is a student at South Fort Myers High School. He has earned a Hilltop academic scholarship.✱

Collaboration At Facial Plastic Surgery Center



Dr. James L. Newlon and Dr. Stephen Prendiville

photo provided

Facial plastic surgeons Dr. Stephen Prendiville and Dr. James L. Newlon have formed a collaboration at the Facial Plastic Surgery Center, effective March 1.

The two surgeons will share space at Dr. Prendiville's offices at 9407 Cypress Lake Drive in Fort Myers.

Dr. Newlon has more than 12 years of experience as a facial plastic surgeon and is the current chairman of otolaryngology for the Lee Health system. He is board-certified by both the American Board of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and the American Board of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery.

Dr. Prendiville is the only Fellowship-trained facial plastic surgeon in Fort Myers who is certified by both the American Board of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive

Surgery and the American Board of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery.

"Dr. Newlon and I have similar approaches to cosmetic surgery and helping patients feel and look their best. Our collaboration will provide Lee, Collier, and Charlotte counties with a center with two accomplished, experienced facial plastic surgeons who achieve natural results. Why take your face anywhere else?" Dr. Prendiville said.

Dr. Newlon will be introduced at the March 23 facial plastic surgery seminar hosted by Dr. Prendiville at Bonita Bay Country Club, located 26660 Country Club Drive. The seminar includes a light lunch and starts at 11:30 a.m. The seminar is free, but reservations are required by calling 437-3900. Space is limited.✧

Child Services To Be Discussed

Dr. Bethany Quisenberry will hold a presentation on children's services in Lee County at The Lodge at Heritage Palms Golf and Country Club on Saturday, March 3 from 9 to 11 a.m. She will discuss her ongoing efforts to meet the needs of Lee County children as Franklin Park Elementary School Principal, as an educator, as a vocal advocate for expanding early learning centers, implementing wrap around services into all schools, mentoring programs and working for a Lee County Children's Services Council through Pennies for Community Progress (P4CP).

The League of Women Voters of Lee County Florida (LWVLCF) supports adequate funding of programs that enhance the quality of life and the well being of children and their families. A Lee County Children's Services Council would generate resources and provide coordination and accountability for critical services for children and their families. Seven of the nine Florida counties with the largest numbers of children have established Children's Services Council (CSC),

local government entities (under Florida Statute 125).

While Lee County, as a whole, grows and prospers, many are being left behind. A recent United Way report showed eight of 28 Lee County communities had more than half of their households struggling to afford basic needs. Less than a third of Lee County children are ready for kindergarten. In Lee County, funding for essential human services has not kept pace with the growth of population and needs.

Evidence-based research shows that wise investments in programs for children have a return of \$7 for every \$1 spent. Effective prevention and intervention are proven to strengthen families and communities, to improve school performance and graduation rates, to increase future earnings, to reduce costs for law enforcement, and to ensure children are healthy, safe, prepared to learn and to have viable life choices.

The Lodge at Heritage Palms Golf and Country Club is located at 11070 Seminole Palm Way in Fort Myers. For reservations, call 278-1032 or e-mail reservations@lwvlee.org prior to March 1. For more information, call 278-1032.✧

BEFORE

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

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Child Care Of Southwest Florida Teamed Up With Gartner For The United Winter Olympics



Laurie Getz and Joshua Serrano
photos provided



Ahmaud Taylor and Brent Bodick



Jon Cleveland and Sarai Hanson



Jenn Myers and Xianna Thomas

Child Care of Southwest Florida partnered with Gartner to host the United Winter Olympics on Wednesday, February 7 at the Community Children's Center in Lehigh Acres. Dozens of children from the center along with students from the PA Geraci Child Development Center in Dunbar participated in a Winter Olympics-style field day.

The students were joined by more than 40 Gartner employees that volunteered to "coach" the students in their events. Gartner, an international research and advisory company, brought employees from across the globe to participate in the afternoon of fun and education.

The program came together with the help of United Way, a partner agency of both Child Care of Southwest Florida and Gartner. The United Winter Olympics was part of United Way's Day of Caring, a year-round program that connects groups with agencies in need of assistance.✪



Flavio Carnaval and Khiyon Kinchen



Katrina Wilson and Margaret Hamilton



Steve Thompson and Austin Bonilla



Myella Dorval and Adam Wardell



Frandol Reyes and Rich Forzani

Beautifulife:

Parenting



by Kay Casperson

I am passionate about this subject for many reasons. Of course, one of the reasons is because I am a parent, but I also pay close attention to the results of parenting, both good and bad in

the attitudes, behavior and outlook of children everywhere, both young and old.

I believe that everything starts at home. Your attitude, outlook, behavior and beliefs all start with the example set before you and determine who you ultimately become. I also believe that we can change things along the way and make good choices for ourselves if we have not been given the right foundation. The point is that it is extremely important as a parent to create that solid foundation at home, from the first chance you get, all the way to when your kids are adults. After all, adult children still need parents that believe in them, are proud of them and appreciate them.

If parents made it a top priority to make each stage of their child's life a smooth transition, they would see thriving kids become thriving teens that become adults making great decisions and finding true happiness in their lives. Below are in my opinion the important stages of each child's life.

Stage One – From the time your child enters this world or becomes a part of your life, you need to create an environment of peace, happiness, comfort and consistency. Whether your life is running smoothly or your world is turning upside down, your most important job is to keep your child or children focused on all the good and to create a foundation of love. These little human beings don't need to feel chaos but instead need to feel peace and comfort in order to thrive.

Stage Two – When your children are going through their school years, they

should get constant encouragement, support, quality time as well as rest from the longer days and information overload. Encourage them to be creative and to think through problems. Support them when they need you to be there for them in sports and presentations since you are the most important person they are wanting to seek approval from. Give them your time and attention when they tell you about their day and encourage them to rest in order to stay well and strong.

Stage Three – Becoming an adult doesn't mean you don't need the support and encouragement from your parents, it just means you need it in a different way. At this time in life, your children need you to tell them how proud you are of them, especially if you have not done this much. It is also a time that you can cherish the individuals that they have become and to share in some of the most precious times together as adults. Now is the time you may just get to see your kids become parents and to experience the joy with them and through them. This is a time that should be embraced, celebrated and appreciated.

All the stages of parenting can be rewarding and challenging at the same time, but no matter what you are going through in life, where you live, what you do or how old you are, the one thing I know for sure is that being a parent is the most important job you will ever have and you should take it very seriously. You are creating the foundation for a beautiful life for this little individual from the time they step into this world until the time they step out of it.

My affirmation for you this week is:

"I am making parenting a top priority in my life and know that the things I do today will make a difference in the future of my child and the person they ultimately become."

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.✱

home when sick.

Lee Health maintains the restriction of children age 12 and younger from visiting the hospitals across the system, and urges everyone to avoid visiting the hospital unless absolutely necessary, especially if you are sick with a cough.

If you experience signs and symptoms of flu, which can include fever or feeling feverish/chills, cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, muscle or body aches, headache and fatigue, avoid the hospital emergency departments. Call your primary care doctor, or visit a Lee Health Convenient Care, walk-in or urgent care center if you need medical attention.✱

Doctor To Address Medical Breakthroughs

Shell Point continues its third annual 2018 Medical Breakthroughs & Discoveries Series with a presentation by Dr. J. Eric Ahlskog of Mayo Clinic in The Village Church auditorium on Friday, March 2 at 10 a.m. This educational health care presentation, entitled Debunking 10 Myths That May Sabotage Treatment of Parkinson's Disease is free and open to the public. To learn more or to register, call 433-7936.

During this presentation, Ahlskog will address 10 myths that may sabotage treatment of Parkinson's disease. His informational lecture will track the progression of the disease, define dyskinesias, examine its effects, uncover the best medications for Parkinson's and discuss the rationale for symptomatic treatment.

Ahlskog is a full-time clinician with more than 30 years of experience, and currently serves as a professor of neurology at the Mayo Medical School. Since 2002, Ahlskog has served as chair for the Mayo Section of Movement Disorders. He has been a member of the American Academy of Neurology since 1987.



Dr. J. Eric Ahlskog

photo provided

This presentation is part of Shell Point's annual community health care speaker program that serves as a resource for residents in the greater Fort Myers area. All Medical Breakthroughs & Discoveries events are free to the public.

The Village Church Auditorium at Shell Point is located at 15100 Shell Point Boulevard in Fort Myers. To learn more, visit www.shellpoint.org/legacy.html.✱

Lee Health Ranks Among Best For Diversity

Lee Health's diversity is recognized among some of the largest and most recognizable companies, including Coca-Cola, Apple, Amazon.com, Walt Disney and Starbucks, as part of *Forbes* magazine's America's Best Employers for Diversity 2018 list. Lee Health ranked 58 out of 250 companies and is the ninth highest ranked health care provider and the second highest ranked organization in Florida.

According to the magazine, the rankings are the results of an independent survey from a sample of 30,000 American employees who work for organizations with 1,000 or more employees from 25 different industry sectors. The evaluation criteria include:

Direct recommendations, meaning employees were asked to give their opinion on statements surrounding topics concerning their employer age, gender equality, ethnicity, disability, LGBTQ+ and general diversity.

Indirect recommendations, which allowed participants the chance to evaluate other employers in their respective industries that stand out either positively or negatively regarding diversity.

Diversity among top executives/board

Diversity key performance indicators, including but not limited to the existence of a department/position responsible for diversity, proactive communication of diverse company culture, etc.

"Lee Health is made up of different ages, ethnicities, religious and cultural backgrounds, which makes our team of nurses, physicians, staff and volunteers very diverse," said Larry Antonucci, MD, MBA, president & CEO of Lee Health. "That diversity is one of our greatest strengths and enables us to live our mission, vision and values, and deliver compassionate care every day and night."

Jon Cecil, Lee Health chief human resources officer, agrees that diversity is key to success. "By employing a diverse staff, we open ourselves up to new ideas, opinions and innovations, and we learn to work together," he said. "We are very proud to have our diversity and inclusion celebrated and to be included among such prestigious, world-renowned companies."

Diversity is not only found among Lee Health's workforce, but also with their patients, which makes having a diverse staff even more important. "Diversity is important in health care," explained Yemisi Oloruntola-Coates, Lee Health system director of diversity and patient care civil rights. "Diversity is the mix, and inclusion is making the mix work. Studies show that when we are culturally responsive to our patients and team members, it enhances the work and the experience. Having a diverse staff and one that models dignity, respect and inclusive behavior certainly help improve the patient experience and patient care. We are DiverseLee – a community putting diversity and inclusion into practice."

To see the full list of America's Best Employers for Diversity, visit www.forbes.com/best-employers-diversity/list.✱

Incidences Of Flu Decrease For Second Week

For the second week in a row, Lee Health has seen decreases in incidences of flu. While it appears the flu has peaked in Southwest Florida, seasonal visitors continue to arrive daily, so Lee Health reminds everyone to remain vigilant with flu prevention strategies, including getting the flu vaccine, practicing good hand hygiene, covering coughs and staying

dearRPharmacist

Biotin, Probiotics Can Increase Thyroid Hormone



by Suzy Cohen, RPH

Dear Readers: There was a medical conference held in San Diego, California recently, and a physician presented a case study about a woman who took a large amount of B

vitamin called biotin. I'm sure you've heard of it, it's the B vitamin that everyone takes to try to get thick hair and strong nails. Anyway, the 55-year-old woman's level of thyroid hormone spiked so high she experienced thyrotoxicosis (extremely high levels of thyroid hormone), yet she had no history of Graves' disease, Hashimoto's thyroiditis or thyroid disease of any sort.

The problem arose from the woman taking a high dose of biotin which she was using for multiple sclerosis (MS). Biotin is found naturally in meats, fish, beans, egg yolks and nuts. If you're deficient, you might look older than you should, your cuts don't heal as fast, your heart rhythm might be irregular, your hair might be falling out and you're probably exhausted.

She was diagnosed with pseudohyperthyroidism because her thyroid levels went up, but she did not exhibit classic symptoms of elevated thyroid. She was on other medications as well. Her doctors stopped the high-dose biotin supplements for three days and retested her thyroid levels and they got closer to normal. Could this be a coincidence? Doctors wondered

that too, so they re-challenged her with high-dose biotin and sure enough, the TSH and Free T4 levels changed, but then normalized again (after stopping biotin).

Biotin would not increase utilization of thyroid hormone, or cellular entry. It would only crank up levels of T4 hormone (which is inactive), it would not increase levels of T3 (the active form), nor would it drive the thyroid hormone into the cell, which explains why she had high levels in her blood, but did not have associated hyperthyroid symptoms, hence pseudohyperthyroidism, as opposed to hyperthyroidism. If this doesn't make sense, refer to my book *Thyroid Healthy: Lose Weight, Look Beautiful and Live the Life You Imagine*.

One more reason biotin causes apparent 'hyperthyroidism' activity may be due to interference with lab assays. Regardless of how or why... physicians should be informed that it can happen so they can distinguish between this phenomenon versus a true endocrine thyroid disorder. Patients should be aware as well. After all, you want to be diagnosed properly and not pinned with a disorder you don't really have. You also don't want your medication altered unnecessarily.

If you take a biotin supplement in high doses, stop it 3 to 5 days before you go in for your test so that it doesn't throw off your test results and make it look like you have high levels of thyroid (when you are clinically hypothyroid or normal). If you would like to read more details, I've written a more comprehensive version of this article, and it can be emailed to you after you sign up for my free newsletter at www.suzycohen.com.

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

Cutting Boards



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

Eating raw or undercooked foods have led many folks to fall ill from food-related illnesses. Microorganisms can be introduced to foods during handling and preparation. Various food handling practices may encourage bacterial growth and contribute to foodborne diseases. Staphylococcus aureas, Esherichia coli and Salmonella microorganisms can survive on hands and surfaces for hours, and even days, after contact with them. Contamination may cause symptoms like vomiting, diarrhea, fever and abdominal pain. Improper food preparation right in our own homes, including slicing and dicing on cutting boards, is one food preparation practice that can play a role in food-related illnesses.

Good handwashing techniques using

soap and warm water, and the cleaning of cutting boards and all surfaces are basic food safety rules that, when properly followed, greatly decrease the chance of cross-contamination and food poisoning. Washing fruit and vegetables, as well as keeping and cutting them separately from raw meat and fish products, are other important rules. Consider using separate, color-coded cutting boards. This practice helps keep the boards for cutting raw meat from contaminating the other boards. And remember to clean or change knives after cutting raw meat before preparing other ingredients. Cook foods thoroughly, as insufficient cooking of meat is another large contributor to foodborne illnesses.

Have you seen scores on the surface of cutting boards after the first few times of use? Once bacteria get into those tiny grooves and begin to grow, getting rid of them can be difficult. Cutting boards with non-porous surfaces like glass or ceramic can reduce the colonization of bacteria, and are easier to clean. Sanitize them in a dishwasher. Dry with paper towels, avoiding dishtowels since they are often a vehicle for spreading bacteria. Take an inventory – it may be time to replace old, worn cutting boards with new ones.

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.✽

Skilled Nursing Quality Collaborative

Selecting a skilled nursing facility after a hospital stay can be confusing and challenging for the patient and family. Lee Health has formed a Skilled Nursing Quality Collaborative to help patients make an informed choice about their care before discharge from the hospital, to improve transitions of care for better patient outcomes and to prevent readmissions following a hospital stay. Twelve Lee County skilled nursing facilities that demonstrate high quality of care standards, based on Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) quality data, have joined the collaborative to date, including Lee Health's HealthPark Care and Rehabilitation Center in Fort Myers.

The choice of a facility for skilled nursing care is made by the patient and/or family. Prior to discharge, patients are provided electronic tablets to review CMS quality data and ratings on all local skilled nursing facilities; Lee Health staff can also send facility profiles to family members to assist them in the choice of facilities for their loved one. Facilities in the collaborative are identified as members. The most important consideration for the family is where their loved one will get the best care to get them safely home as quickly as possible.

"The collaborative was designed to promote optimal healing, share best practice strategies and offer targeted

educational opportunities," said Barbara Kenney, Lee Health system director for care management, who spearheaded the formation of the collaborative. "The goals of the collaborative are to increase accountability and expectations for local skilled nursing facilities, and increase collaboration to share clinical best practices. Facilities in the collaborative are actively engaged in process improvement projects that assist in maintaining the highest quality of care."

Greg Anderson, Gulf Coast Village care center administrator, which is part of the collaborative, says there are two major advantages for facilities in the collaborative: "Skilled nursing facilities involved will benefit from a large knowledge base, especially for staff development and clinical pathways, and sharing best practices will help raise the ratings of all facilities within the collaborative."

To become part of the collaborative, facilities must meet the following criteria:

Overall CMS star rating of 3 stars or more

Registered nurse on-site (not on-call) at all times

Therapy available six days a week and evaluations occur within 24 hours of admission

Accept at least 75 percent of admission requests from Lee Health, without regard to payer or acuity status

Provide IV-capable medication administration and have all medications available within three hours of transfer

Kenney anticipates more facilities will join the collaborative in the coming months. For more information, email media@leehealth.org.✽

From page 1

Broadway Palm

identity through the songs of ABBA. Young Sophie (Lauren Mary Moore) lives on the island with her mother Donna (Erin Fish) and is about to be married to Sky (Chase McCall). She wants her father to walk her down the aisle, however, she doesn't know who is her father. Sophie reads her mother's diary and comes up with three names who could be her dad. She secretly invites them all to the wedding. The fun starts when the three men arrive on the island and discover why they have been invited.

Fans of ABBA will be taken on a nostalgic trip down memory lane with their favorite ABBA songs. This includes *Dancing Queen*, *Take a Chance on Me*, *SOS*, *Mamma Mia!*, *The Winner Takes It All* and *I Do, I Do, I Do*. The cast is incredible and includes Drew Stairs as Sam, Bobby Becher as Bill and Connor Simpson as Harry, the three possible dads. Then there is Shannon Connolly as Rosie

and Kathleen Carter as Tanya, Donna's old friends. All three gals have strong singing voices, and they create a great comic trio and completely dominate the show. The men have their moments too, with equally strong voices and presentation. I was enamored with Drew Stairs' version of *Knowing Me, Knowing You*, and also enjoyed songs by the other men.

The show is directed and choreographed by Amy McCleary, who is a major talent in Southwest Florida. Her choreography perfectly compliments over 20 of ABBA's songs. This is pop music set to pop culture that makes for a great evening's entertainment. The show ends with an encore of three of the best songs and it has the audience standing and applauding and moving to the music. The cast gives a truly outstanding performance.

Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre is located at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers. Tickets are available at www.BroadwayPalm.com, at the box office, or by calling 278-4422.✽

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

PAWS Of Sanibel

Samson And Nutmeg



Samson photos provided

Hi, my name is Samson. I was found on February 9 in West Rocks. I am approximately 3 months old and weigh 3.5 pounds. I have no microchip or other identification. I have been combo-tested for FIV/FelV and have had rabies and FVRCP immunizations. If you know anything about me or my people, call Pam at PAWS at 472-4823.

Hello, I'm Nutmeg. I used to live out back and under the porch at CIPs on Sanibel, and the chef there called me Stir Fry. It was a great place to live because the nice people that work there fed me all kinds of wonderful food. I even had shrimp. However, I had a sore eye and a bad skin condition, and it was also very dangerous living in the wild here on the island. The lady from PAWS captured me and took me to the vet. I had to stay a long time, but now I'm all better and I look beautiful. All little girls like to look beautiful. I'm about 3 pounds and 3 to 4 months old. I will sit in someone's lap, as long as they will rub my head. I really like my head scratched and rubbed. Please call the PAWS lady, Pam, at 472-4823 if you can give me a



Nutmeg



Nutmeg

forever home where I'll be much safer. I wouldn't mind a bit of shrimp now and then, but they tell me it's better for me if most of my food is made especially for cats like me. ✨



Emergency.....	911
Lee County Sheriff's Office.....	477-1200
Florida Marine Patrol.....	332-6966
Florida Highway Patrol.....	278-7100
Poison Control.....	1-800-282-3171
HealthPark Medical Center.....	1-800-936-5321
Ft. Myers Chamber of Commerce.....	332-3624
Foundation for Quality Childcare.....	425-2685
Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce.....	454-7500
Fort Myers Beach Library.....	463-9691
Lakes Regional Library.....	533-4000
Lee County Chamber of Commerce.....	931-0931
Post Office.....	1-800-275-8777
Visitor & Convention Bureau.....	338-3500

ARTS	
Alliance for the Arts.....	939-2787
Arts For ACT Gallery & Studio.....	337-5050
Art League Of Fort Myers.....	275-3970
Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall.....	481-4849
BIG ARTS.....	395-0900
Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre.....	278-4422
Cultural Park Theatre.....	772-5862
Edison Festival of Light.....	334-2999
Florida Repertory Theatre at the Arcade.....	332-4488
Florida West Arts.....	948-4427
Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers.....	288-2535
Gulf Coast Symphony.....	489-1800
Harmony Chorus, Charles Sutter, Pres.....	481-8059
Naples Philharmonic.....	239-597-1111
The Schoolhouse Theater.....	472-6862
SW Florida Symphony.....	418-0996
Theatre Conspiracy.....	936-3239
Young Artists Awards.....	574-9321

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS	
American Legion Post #38.....	239-332-1853
Angel Flight.....	1-877-4AN-ANGEL
Animal Refuge Center.....	731-3535
American Business Women Association.....	357-6755
Audubon of SWFL.....	339-8046
Audubon Society.....	472-3156
Caloosahatchee Chapter DAR.....	482-1366
Caloosahatchee Folk Society.....	321-4620
Cape Chorale Barbershop Chorus.....	1-855-425-3631
Cape Coral Stamp Club.....	542-9153
duPont Company Retirees.....	454-1083
Edison Porcelain Artists.....	415-2484
Embroiderers Guild of America - Sea Grape Chapter.....	239-267-1990
FM UDC Chapter 2614 - United Daughters of the Confederacy.....	728-3743
Friendship Force Of SW FL.....	561-9164
Garden Club of Cape Coral.....	239-257-2654
Horticulture and Tea Society.....	472-8334
Horticultural Society.....	472-6940
Lee County Genealogical Society.....	549-9625
Lee Trust for Historic Preservation.....	939-7278
NARFE(National Active & Retired Federal Employees.....	482-6713
Navy Seabees Veterans of America.....	731-1901
Paradise Iowa Club of SWFL.....	667-1354
Sons of Confederate Veterans.....	332-2408
Southwest Florida Fencing Academy.....	939-1338
Southwest Florida Music Association.....	561-2118
Kiwanis 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

HEARTFELT WISH

ACROSS

1

Birmingham locale

8

Holy See leaders

13

Largest living bird

20

One villifying in print

21

Spitz relative

22

City WSW of Albany

23

Aroma source

24

Former NBAer Odom

25

Most humble

26

Own delicately pretty baby enclosures?

29

With 32-Across, tourist's reference

30

Baseballer Hershiser

31

Rhine feeder

32

See 29-Across

35

People put aside their pride for a while?

43

Posed for a painting, e.g.

46

Mineo of film

47

Tidbits

48

Log splitter

49

Bring on

53

Turbine part

56

"Weird Al" Yankovic hit

57

Pinched a chubby shrink?

61

Pet's jingler

62

Gluck's "—ed Euridice"

63

My, in Milan

64

"Ammo" pair

67

"New Math" singer Tom

69

"The Donald"

72

Shiite, e.g.

75

Stubborn beast

76

Not at home

79

Wage hike

82

Open spot in a forest

83

"Airplane!" co-star created an online fund-transfer service?

88

Large parrot

91

Exotic juice berry

92

India or Iran

93

Park it

94

Astounds

96

"Yay, team!"

98

Geezers

100

Turn down a mawkish sea monster?

106

USN rank

107

Chip or nick

108

Large feline

109

See 85-Down

113

What this puzzle's long answers are anagrams of

120

Enchant

123

PC character format

124

Some suede

125

In pieces

126

Diadem's kin

127

Prayer rug user, say

128

Hot springs

129

Lucifer

130

50- — (some long field goals)

7

Intro class for painters

8

Trifling

9

Signed off on

10

Zits

11

List-curtailling abbr.

12

Poet Teasdale

13

Tuba sound

14

Disdain openly

15

Many a rave attendee

16

Soldiers on "M*A*S*H"

17

Salt additive?

18

Dol. parts

19

Fez or kepi

27

"Just joking!"

28

"Yahoo!"

32

Beef or ham

33

Opposing

34

"Hey, I've got a secret ..."

36

Maintain

37

Essential

38

Boise setting

39

Volcanic flow

40

Actor Ladd

41

JFK was one

42

Bog material

43

Philippines' capital

44

Lime, silica and rust

45

— of despair

50

The, to Franz

51

Roosevelt's successor

52

Higher than

54

"Rambo" staple, for short

55

Yale student

58

Duffer's goal

59

"— joking!"

60

Thanksgiving

64

Slip by

65

In-flight

66

Puts in a blast furnace

68

Singer Clark

70

Singer Aimee

71

Bread for a gyro

73

Kampala site

74

Cunning

77

Signer of SALT I and II

78

Quirky habit

80

Unit for Graf

81

Mandate

83

Ill-defined

84

Astonishes

85

With 109-Across, zilch

86

Apothecary's bottle

87

Roo's friend

88

Produced

89

Revival reply

90

Gives the boot

95

Selection of chocolates

97

Spiteful, violent sort

99

Ground, as the teeth

101

Daily news sources

102

Inquire nosily

103

TV host Meredith

104

Old Greek

105

Cookout pest

110

"Swan Lake" villainess

111

Watchdog Ralph

112

People ogling

113

Attila's bunch

114

Secretary, say

115

Giant tubs

116

Yemen locale

117

Really gross

118

Octa- + one

119

Fancy water jug

120

Luggage item

121

Dialect suffix

122

Man

King Crossword

ACROSS

1

Tiny bits

6

"I, Robot" writer

12

Catch in a net

13

Household

14

Treeless Asian plain

15

Bach piece

16

Corn recipe

17

Experts

19

Ultramodern

20

Reverberate

22

Kiwi's extinct cousin

24

— Khan

27

Get better

29

"Two and a Half Men" role

32

Arguably, best-known line from Shakespeare

35

Still

36

Peacenik

37

Performance

38

Blushing

40

Iodine source

42

Pitch

44

Spud's buds

46

Scored 100 on

50

Hard to find

52

Guarantee

54

Yearly

55

Tradition, perhaps

56

Forward a story

57

Leg parts

DOWN

1

Grooving on

2

Portent

3

Reservation residence

4

Nile slitherer

5

One often seen with a crook?

6

Bullets etc.

7

Quake

8

Hostel

9

Hawaiian volcano

10

Curved molding

11

Kill a bill

12

Sixth sense

18

Virginia city

21

Comedian Margaret

23

Feedbag tidbit

24

Noshed

25

Head of st.

26

Straying

28

Smitten, maybe unrequitedly

30

Jimmy Kimmel's

31

Lepidopter-ist's prop

33

Away from WSW

34

— Aviv

39

Sticker

41

Old hat

42

Despot

43

Dermatology subject

45

Holler

47

Adorable

48

Cupid's alias

49

Rep.'s rival

51

Regret

53

Sister

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										109	110	111	112
						113	114							115	116						
120	121	122												123				124			
125														126				127			
128														129				130			

MAGIC MAZE ● WORDS FOUND IN "PRESIDENTS DAY"

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

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

- Airspeed

Desire

Destined

Destiny
- Endear

Esprit

Ideas

Parent
- Party

Pedestrians

Pens

Persist
- Presides

Pride

Steady



"I'd like to change my order from
to go to _____ !"
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!

Tender TINYAD
Hearty TURBOS
Wait LAYED
Origin ACUSE

TODAY'S WORD

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

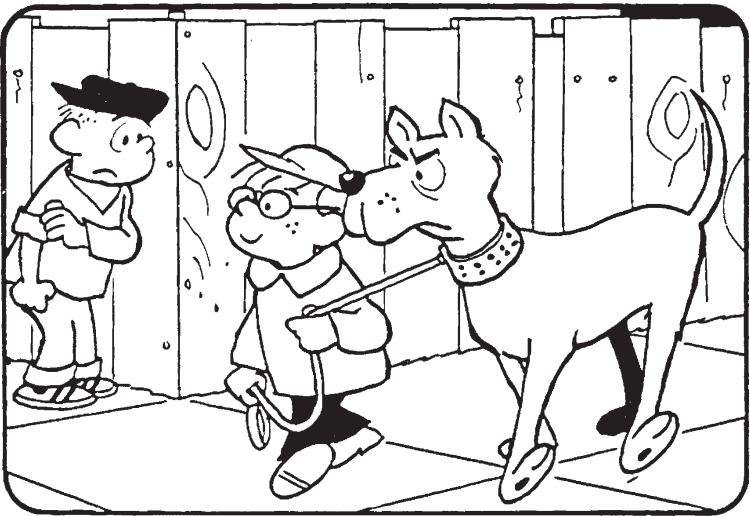
SUDOKU

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

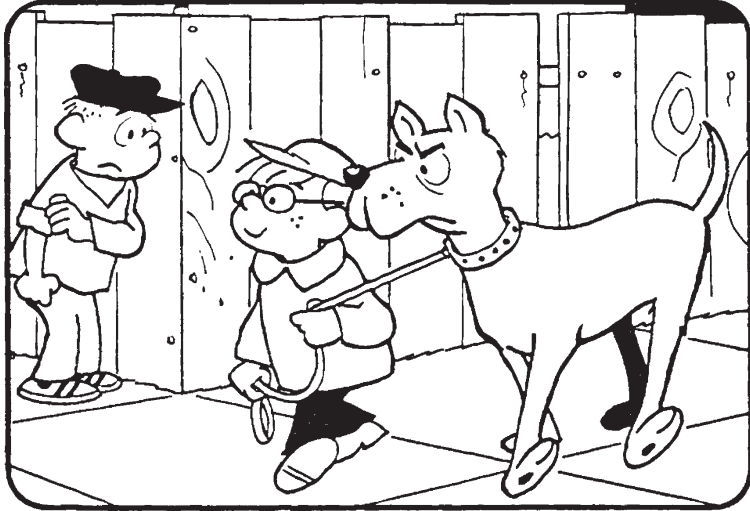
answer on page 37

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



FIND AT LEAST SIX DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS



Differences: 1. Cap is reversed. 2. Cuffs are missing. 3. Leash is shorter. 4. Collar is different. 5. Fence board is missing. 6. Tail is shorter.



Red Sunset Clam Chowder

- 2 slices bacon, cut into half-inch squares
- 1/3 cup onion, chopped
- 3 tablespoons green bell pepper, diced
- 3 tablespoons celery, diced
- 2/3 cup potato, peeled and diced
- 1 8-oz bottle clam juice
- 1 cup canned, diced tomatoes, with juice
- 1 1/2 dozen littleneck clams, rinsed well
- 2 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped
- Salt and pepper to taste








Cook bacon in a three-quart heavy saucepan over medium heat until golden. Reduce heat to low. Add onion, bell pepper, and celery and cook until softened, about five minutes. Stir in potato, clam juice, and tomatoes; cover and simmer 10 minutes. Add clams; cover and simmer 8 to 10 minutes, stirring occasionally, until clams open. Discard any clams not open after 10 minutes. Move pan off heat. Remove clams with tongs reserving a few clams in the shell for garnish. Detach clam meat from remaining shells and return meat to chowder. Stir in parsley, salt and pepper to taste. Note: The chowder (without the clams and parsley) can be made one day ahead. Bring chowder to a simmer then add clams and proceed as directed.

Yield 4 servings.✱



Red Sunset Clam Chowder

photo courtesy Fresh From Florida

	FRIDAY Sunny High: 77 Low: 69		SATURDAY Sunny High: 78 Low: 70		SUNDAY Sunny High: 80 Low: 68		MONDAY Sunny High: 77 Low: 69		TUESDAY Sunny High: 79 Low: 67		WEDNESDAY Sunny High: 78 Low: 70		THURSDAY Chance Showers High: 77 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	8:19 am	12:49 am	6:04 pm	10:53 am	Fri	7:24 am	12:51 am	5:09 pm	10:55 am	Fri	7:21 am	1:01 am	5:26 pm	10:45 am	Fri	10:29 am	4:05 am	8:14 pm	2:09 pm
Sat	7:13 pm	2:17 am	None	None	Sat	6:18 pm	2:19 am	None	None	Sat	8:42 am	2:16 am	7:09 pm	1:22 pm	Sat	9:23 pm	5:33 am	None	None
Sun	8:33 pm	3:33 am	None	None	Sun	7:38 pm	3:35 am	None	None	Sun	10:13 am	3:20 am	8:48 pm	2:46 pm	Sun	10:43 pm	6:49 am	None	None
Mon	12:36 pm	4:35 am	9:49 pm	3:10 pm	Mon	11:41 am	4:37 am	8:54 pm	3:12 pm	Mon	11:13 am	4:20 am	10:07 pm	3:53 pm	Mon	2:46 pm	7:51 am	11:59 pm	6:26 pm
Tue	12:59 pm	5:27 am	10:54 pm	4:22 pm	Tue	12:04 pm	5:29 am	9:59 pm	4:24 pm	Tue	11:47 am	5:14 am	11:07 pm	4:55 pm	Tue	3:09 pm	8:43 am	None	7:38 pm
Wed	1:21 pm	6:11 am	11:51 pm	5:20 pm	Wed	12:26 pm	6:13 am	10:56 pm	5:22 pm	Wed	12:17 pm	6:02 am	11:55 pm	5:49 pm	Wed	1:04 am	9:27 am	3:31 pm	8:36 pm
Thu	1:40 pm	6:48 am	None	6:12 pm	Thu	12:45 pm	6:50 am	11:48 pm	6:14 pm	Thu	12:47 pm	6:44 am	None	6:38 pm	Thu	2:01 am	10:04 am	3:50 pm	9:28 pm

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\$1 = \$8**

That's right! The Harry Chapin Food Bank can find, rescue, transport and distribute \$8 of nutritious food for every \$1 you donate. This turns your \$20 gift into 80 meals for a family!

Thank you for your generosity!

Mail your tax-deductible donation to:
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3760 Fowler Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901
Call (239) 334-7007 or donate online at:
harrychapinfoodbank.org

THE RIVER
WEEKLY NEWS
FROM THE BEACHES TO DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

PUZZLE ANSWERS

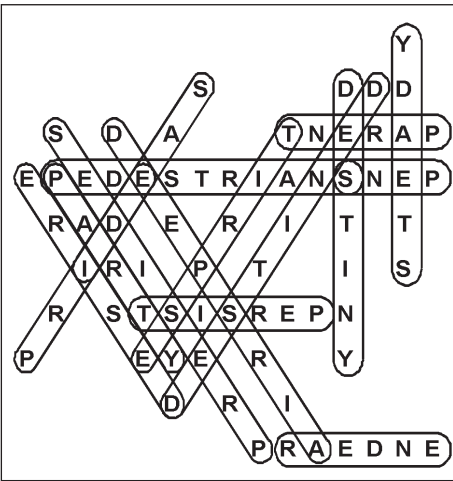
SUPER CROSSWORD

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

KING CROSSWORD

		I	O	T	A	S			A	S	I	M	O	V	
E	N	M	E	S	H				M	E	N	A	G	E	
S	T	E	P	P	E				M	I	N	U	E	T	
P	O	N	E			P	R	O	S			N	E	O	
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A	G	A			H	E	A	L			A	L	A	N	
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T	A	R			E	Y	E	S			A	C	E	D	
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MAGIC MAZE



SUDOKU

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

My Stars★★★★

FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 26, 2018

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
Congratulations, Lamb. The end of the month brings good news in the workplace, thanks to all the efforts you've made to get your projects off the ground and running.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Don't let yourself be cowed into thinking you're not up to the challenge you've taken on. Keep reinforcing your self-confidence, and no one and nothing can stop you.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Positive responses to a recent workplace move should give you added assurance that you're on the right track. Celebrate the good news with family and/or friends.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) There's still a little emotional fuzziness you have to work through before you can feel really certain about your recent decisions. But you're on the right track. Stay with it.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You're tempted by an offer that seems close to what you've been looking for. But before you pounce on it, see if you can coax out some added perks to sweeten the deal.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your efforts to settle a volatile situation should prove successful. Now could be a good time to analyze what might have created the problem in the first place.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A once-close associate re-emerges with news that could cause you to reconsider a recent decision. But don't make a move before consulting a trusted adviser.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You might feel pressured to reveal a colleague's secret. But you can rely on your strong Scorpion sense of rectitude to help you continue to do the right thing.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) That pesky situation is still creating problems. But you are moving ahead with it, and soon it should be successfully resolved in your favor.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A spate of indecision leaves you susceptible to doubt. But you'll soon regain your emotional sure-footedness and be back leading the way, as usual.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Love rules the week with new romances favored for single Aquarians looking for partners. Cupid also targets

renewed commitment for wedded Water Bearers.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
A surge of creativity keeps you happily busy through the week. But leave some quiet time to share with loved ones. Some long-awaited news finally comes through.

BORN THIS WEEK: People rely on you whenever they need someone they can trust to be caring, considerate and also discreet.

THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

• On Feb. 27, 1776, Commander Richard Caswell leads 1,000 Patriot troops in the successful Battle of Moores Creek over 1,600 British Loyalists. It was the first American victory in the first organized campaign of the Revolutionary War.

• On Feb. 28, 1784, John Wesley charts the first Methodist Church in the United States. Although he was an Anglican, Wesley saw the need to provide church structure for his followers after the Anglican Church abandoned its American believers.

• On March 3, 1863, during the Civil War, Congress passes a conscription act that produces the first wartime draft of U.S. citizens. The act called for registration of all males between the ages of 20 and 45. Exemptions from the draft could be bought for \$300.

• On March 2, 1944, a train stops for more than 30 minutes in a tunnel near Salerno, Italy, and more than 500 people on board suffocate and die. The locomotives were burning low-grade coal substitutes, which produced an excess of odorless and toxic carbon monoxide, asphyxiating the passengers.

• On March 4, 1952, Ernest Hemingway completes his short novel "The Old Man and the Sea," telling his publisher it was the best writing he'd ever done. The critics agreed: The book won the Pulitzer Prize and became one of his bestselling works.

• On March 1, 1961, President John Kennedy issues an executive order establishing the Peace Corps. Although many in Congress and the U.S. public, were skeptical about the program's costs and the effectiveness, thousands of young Americans flocked to serve in dozens of nations.

• On Feb. 26, 1993, a bomb explodes

in the parking garage beneath the World Trade Center in New York City. Six people died and 1,000 were injured by the powerful blast. The FBI discovered that the bombers were not terrorists but jewel thieves.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

• It was the multitasking Pierre Beaumarchais -- born in the 18th century, he was a revolutionary in both France and America as well as a watchmaker, diplomat, musician, spy, inventor, publisher and arms dealer -- who made the following sage observation: "It is not necessary to understand things in order to argue about them."

• Sharks burp. Yep, even underwater. Evidently, it's how they regulate the depth at which they swim.

• You've almost certainly heard people refer to the school they attended as their alma mater, but do you know where the term comes from? In Latin, "alma mater" means "bounteous mother." It was in the early 1800s that people began applying the term their beloved schools.

• The skin of the African elephant, the largest land animal alive in the world today, weighs 2,000 pounds by itself.

• You might be surprised to learn that the bagpipe did not originate in Scotland. This ancient instrument existed in Asia in the pre-Christian era. Those who study such things say that the Emperor Nero was a bagpiper, even performing publicly at Roman athletic events.

• Those who keep track of such things say that, across the globe, there are more people who have cellphones than have toilets.

• If you're like most Americans, you've probably played with a NERF ball at some point in your life. You might not realize, though, that NERF stands for Non-Expanding Recreational Foam.

• Actor Tom Cruise attended 15 different schools when he was growing up.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"A society that presumes a norm of violence and celebrates aggression, whether in the subway, on the football field or in the conduct of its business, cannot help making celebrities of the people who would destroy it." -- Lewis H. Lapham

SCRAMBLERS

1. Dainty; 2. Robust;
3. Delay; 4. Cause

Today's Word
TODAY

TRIVIA TEST

1. **Science:** What is the threadlike conductor in an incandescent lightbulb called?
2. **Movies:** Who played the lead in the 1980s movie "Moscow on the Hudson"?
3. **Geography:** What is the official language of Mozambique?
4. **Animal Kingdom:** What is a female swan called?
5. **Transportation:** What airport would you be traveling through if the three-letter designation is LGW?
6. **Television:** What is the subject matter of the drama called "Big Love"?
7. **Anatomy:** A normal set of human teeth has how many incisors?
8. **Literature:** To whom did Herman Melville dedicate the novel "Moby-Dick"?
9. **Government:** Which country's parliament is called the Althing?
10. **Ad Slogans:** What company advertised its products as "the best a man can get"?

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Filament 2. Robin Williams 3. Portuguese 4. A pen 5. Gatwick, London 6. Modern-day pornography 7. Eight 8. Nathaniel Hawthorne 9. Iceland 10. Gillette, razors

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

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*RS 4/29 CC TFN

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2/23 * 3/30

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1/26 * TFN

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2/16 * 2/23

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2/9 * 2/23

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ANNUAL RENTAL

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2/23 * 3/2

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2/16 * 2/23

Island Sun
NEWSPAPER
Sanibel & Captiva Islands

THE RIVER
WEEKLY NEWS
FROM THE BEACHES TO DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS

New FWC Rule Prohibits Feeding Of Wild Monkeys

At its December 2017 meeting, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) voted to prohibit the feeding of wild monkeys in order to promote greater public safety and decrease health concerns associated with these animals. This amendment to the General Prohibition Rule went into effect February 11. Free-roaming, non-human primates join coyotes, foxes, raccoons, bears, pelicans and sandhill cranes as species included in this rule.

“The health and safety of the public is the Commission’s number one priority. Feeding wild monkeys creates an elevated risk to human health because it brings them into closer contact with people,” said Dr. Thomas Eason, assistant executive director of the FWC. “This amended rule provides our staff the tools we need to effectively address a situation that can have serious consequences.”

As the population of wild monkeys has increased across the state, public health and safety concerns have also increased due to public contact with the animals. In an effort to reduce the risk of public contact, the FWC adopted an amendment to the General Prohibition Rule to include the prohibition of feeding these animals.

Currently, there are three established species of wild monkeys in Florida: squirrel monkeys, vervet monkeys and rhesus macaques. When these animals are fed by humans, they often develop a dependency on humans as a source of food and become territorial over the area where feeding occurs. This dependency can lead to increased aggression, which may result in injuries and spread of disease to humans.

Wild monkeys are documented carriers for various diseases. Rhesus macaques can carry herpes B, a potentially fatal disease in humans if not treated immediately. While there are no documented cases of free-roaming macaques transmitting herpes B to humans in the wild in Florida, the risk for exposure will continue to grow as public contact with these animals increases.

“The implementation of this amendment allows FWC officers to better educate, inform and encourage the public to refrain from feeding these animals,” said Col. Curtis Brown, division director of the FWC division of law enforcement. For more information, visit www.MyFWC.com/wildlifehabitats.

Trips To Two Calusa Sites

Mound House and Mound Key, two sites along Estero Bay that are historically important to the history of the Calusa people in Southwest Florida, are stops on a boat trip on Tuesday, February 27. Leaving port from Fish-Tale Marina on Fort Myers Beach at 11 a.m., the Estero Bay Express will

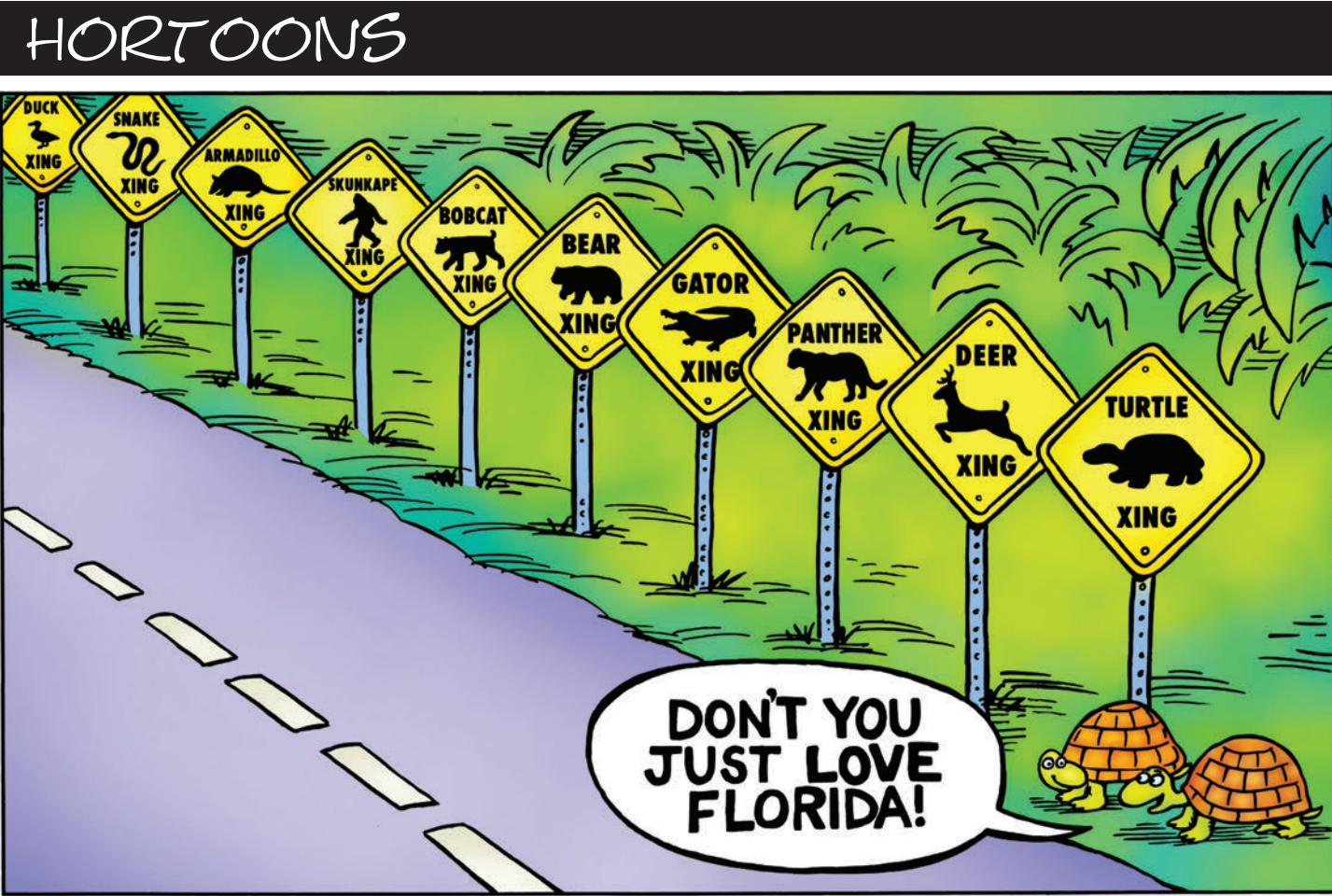
take passengers first to the Mound House, where a museum features artifacts from 2,000 years ago. An underground exhibit gives visitors a closeup look at the shell mound on which the house and the nearly three acres of landscaped grounds are situated.

Passengers will then reboard the boat to go to Mound Key, known as the capital of the Calusa and at times a working archeological site. Here, a guide will talk about the rich history of the Calusa as well as new findings scientists are discovering about this ancient society. Visitors will hike the trails of Mound Key.

The ecology of Estero Bay is also a feature of this trip, as guests look for dolphins, manatees and birds on the bay. Guests will return to Fish-Tale Marina at 3 p.m. Cost is \$55 per person. Museum admission is included.

Then on Wednesday, February 28 at 9 p.m., a kayak trip through the mangroves is a small-group tour guided by Dexter Norris, biologist, naturalist and Mound House environmental educator. Guests can experience the abundant natural beauty of the ancient realm of the Calusa. They’ll paddle through the Estero and Hell Peckney bays in a tandem kayak. Mound House kayak tours are conducted in accordance with Florida Society for Ethical Ecotourism guidelines. Cost is \$45 (or \$15 for members), and all equipment is provided.

Fish-Tale Marina is located at 7225 Estero Boulevard on Fort Myers Beach. Mound House is located at 451 Connecticut Street on Fort Myers Beach. For more information and additional trips, call 765-0865 or go to www.moundhouse.org.



Top 10 Real Estate Sales

Subdivision	City	Year Built	Square Footage	Listing Price	Selling Price	Days On Market
Metes and Bounds	Sanibel	1981	2,751	\$3,195,000	\$3,000,000	140
Salerno	Miromar Lakes	2017	3,951	\$1,995,000	\$1,925,000	121
Laguna Shores	Fort Myers Beach	1959	2,918	\$1,495,000	\$1,450,000	288
Beachview Country Club Estates	Sanibel	2004	3,026	\$1,350,000	\$1,350,000	80
Mastique	Fort Myers	2003	4,049	\$1,289,000	\$1,225,000	105
Sanibel Isles	Sanibel	1990	2,567	\$1,200,000	\$1,200,000	6
Eastwood Landings Amended	Sanibel	1996	3,176	\$1,199,000	\$1,015,000	520
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	2005	3,521	\$1,099,000	\$950,000	52
Fiddlesticks Country Club	Fort Myers	2004	4,593	\$899,900	\$775,000	137
Wildcat Run	Estero	2002	3,279	\$879,000	\$815,000	19



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