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Monday,
January 21

THE RIVER WEEKLY NEWS

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Vol. 18, No. 3

From the Beaches to the River District downtown Fort Myers

JANUARY 18, 2019

A Touching Drama At New Phoenix Theatre

by Di Saggau

There's a new theater in town, and that's exciting news for all thespians. New Phoenix Theatre opened its doors January 10 with *Marvin's Room* by Scott McPherson. You may remember the 1996 movie with Meryl Streep, Leonardo DiCaprio, Diane Keaton and others. The play is based on McPherson's experiences with older relatives who lived in Florida. He actually wrote the play while watching his partner battle AIDS.

It's a tender story about two long-estranged sisters who reunite after one is diagnosed with leukemia. Bessie (Stacy Stauffer) cares for her dying father Marvin who we do not see, but sometimes hear. She also looks after her elderly Aunt Ruth (Nancy Antonio). When learning that she needs a bone marrow transplant, Bessie reaches out to her sister Lee (Robin Murray) who lives in Ohio, a single mother with two sons, one of whom recently set fire to their home and is in a



From left, Stacy Stauffer, Robin Murray and Cindi Heimberg

photo provided

mental institution.

The play opens with Bessie receiving the bad news from her bumbling doctor Wally (Kenneth Cosmo Ruisi). He can't remember anyone's name. He refers to Bessie as June, which is his dog's name.

match for a bone marrow transplant.

In spite of the seriousness of the play, it also has a great deal of smart humor. When Bessie passes out on a trip to Disney World, she's taken to a nearby bed by someone dressed up as Goofy. Aunt Ruth wears an electronic medical device around her waist that triggers the automatic garage door whenever someone hugs her. All the actors do a good job of balancing comic touches with realistic ones.

Bessie is the soul of *Marvin's Room*. She's selfless and efficient, and thankful that she has been caring for her father and her aunt. She says, "I've had such love in my life." That line really makes one think. Others with smaller roles in the play are Patricia Clopton as Dr. Charlotte, Cindi Heimberg, a nursing home administrator, and William Allenfort as Marvin.

The play is directed by James Robinson, who keeps his actors on task. *Marvin's Room* plays through January 27 at New Phoenix Theatre, located at 13211 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. Tickets are available online at www.newphoenixtheatrefortmyers.org or by calling 284-5214. Next up is *La Cage aux Folles*, opening March 7.*



Sultans of String

photo provided

Outdoor Concert At The Estates

Edison and Ford Winter Estates, partnering with the Gulf Coast Symphony, will host the Sultans of String during a Rhythm on the River concert in the River Pavilion on

Thursday, January 31 at 6 p.m.

The Juno Award-winning ensemble with music that tops the billboard charts thrills audiences with their genre-hopping passport of Celtic reels, flamenco, gypsy jazz, Arabic, Cuban and South Asian rhythms.

The outdoor pavilion sits along the
continued on page 23

Collaboratory Is Site For New Play Opening Friday



Ghostbird Theatre Company rehearsal at the ACL Railroad Depot

photo provided

A mother and daughter fleeing the Chechen War, a Manhattan commuter worrying about losing his job and a circus act traveling through Indiana will come together in Ghostbird Theatre Company's production of *Everyone on this Train* at the Southwest Florida Community Foundation's Collaboratory on January 18, 19, 25

and 26. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. and the play begins at 8 p.m. The play takes place outdoors, so audience members should dress for the weather.

The play is written by local playwright James Brock. Ghostbird Theatre, which holds site-specific performances, will be mounting this play at the newly restored
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Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

Fort Myers Coconuts Go To Pittsburgh



by Gerri Reaves, PhD

One thing about the Fort Myers Lions Club – it sure had its share of imaginative ideas over the decades, whether it was to raise funds for good causes or promote Fort Myers.

Few could top the coconut public-relations stunt of August and September 1954. Some people aptly called it just plain “nutty.”

The goal was to collect 10,000 – yes, 10,000! – coconuts and deliver them to Forbes Field in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. They would be distributed to fans at the team’s opening game against the Brooklyn Dodgers on September 19, Fort Myers Coconut Day.

Why the crazy stunt? Ostensibly, it showed of appreciation and kinship with the Major League baseball team, the Pittsburgh Pirates, who were to start their first spring-training season in Fort Myers at Terry Park early in 1955. (They would continue there through 1968.)

By extension, the Lions would reach the citizens of Pittsburgh, who were potential tourists.

It was a bonus that the stunt was designed around a local “prop,” the coconut, which would call attention to beautiful tropical Fort Myers and cost nothing to collect, for they grew all over town and in many backyards.

Boys from way out in Tice were among the many who did their part. They formed a bicycle-and-wagon convoy down Palm Beach Boulevard and delivered 73 coconuts to Terry Park.

Mr. and Mrs. IB King of Pine Island donated 10,000 to 12,000 just because the Lions sent a truck to get them.

The young women pictured here, all students or recent graduates of Fort Myers High School, also joined in the collecting.

The State Advertising Commission took the photos as part of the publicity. The location is the U.S. Post Office on First Street (today the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center).

The 1954 photo to the right captures the fine art of collecting coconuts with the aid of a fire truck and ladder.

Others figuring prominently in the stunt, which was covered on the front page of *The News-Press* for weeks, were Lions president Harry Schooley; Herman Gluckman, chair of the Collection Committee; Edison Estate manager Bob Halgrim; and Chamber of Commerce manager Alan J. Robertson.

One practical aspect of the project was placing a label on each coconut that served as a local merchant’s personal invitation to visit Fort Myers during the winter season and stay for the spring training season.

Business owners paid 25 cents to sponsor each label, and the funds covered expenses for the trip.

Each label also had a number to be used in drawings for big prizes such as a week’s vacation in Fort Myers. As was customary, the Pirates also planned to give out major prizes, such as an automobile, to winners at the game.

As coconut collection progressed in Fort Myers, Pittsburgh was conducting its own publicity blitz, including television and newspaper coverage. Schooley estimated that

continued on page 4



Young women gather coconuts with the help of a fire-truck ladder: Pat Summey (top of ladder, Pat Batastini (left), and Joanne White (far right).



Fort Myers High School students pose to promote “Fort Myers Coconut Day” at Forbes Field in Pittsburgh in 1954. Pictured in front of the U.S. Post Office, now the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, are, from left, Doris Swank (Schneider), Pat Summey (Joyner), Joanne White Horvath, Betty Prather (Hyde) and Pat Batastini (Scott).

photos courtesy Florida State Archives



How coincidental that one of the bronze cylinders of Jim Sanborn’s sculpture Caloosahatchee Manuscripts duplicates the shape and general location of the coconut collection bin of 1954. The former post office is now the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center.

photo by Gerri Reaves

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THE RIVER

WEEKLY NEWS

FROM THE BEACHES TO DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS

Publisher
Lorin Arundel

Advertising
Bob Petcher

Graphic Arts/ Production
Ann Ziehl, Manager
Amanda Hartman
Justin Wilder

Reporters
Gerri Reaves, PhD
Jeff Lysiak

Contributing Writers
Jennifer Basey
Barbara Cacchione
Kay Casperson
Suzy Cohen
Linda Coin
Marcia Feeney
Ed Frank
Shelley Greggs
Tom Hall

Jennie Basey
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Gulfshore Opera Festival Opens On Sanibel

The Gulfshore Opera touring opera festival hits the road with *GO Cabaret* at The Community House on Sanibel on Sunday, January 20. This fun and casual evening of nostalgic hits from the 1930s to 1960s highlights the work of America's great song writers: George Gershwin, Jerome Kern, Cole Porter and Richard Rogers. The fusion of classically trained voices and professional jazz musicians creates a unique sound sensation that is sure to delight and inspire the audience to want to come back for more.

Don Pasquale follows on Sunday, February 10 at Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ on Sanibel. It is a comic opera about a stuffy old rich guy whose only heir is his rather deadbeat nephew. He threatens to disinherit his nephew for trying to marry an "unsuitable." Pasquale then decides to find a proper wife for himself and produce his own heirs.

The translations of the Italian text will be projected.

The Gulfshore Opera Professional Artists in Residence performing in these concerts include:

Returning Soprano Camille Ortiz, back from her summer European concert tour. She appeared as Gilda in *Rigoletto* and Christine in *The*



Cast members of *GO Cabaret*

Phantom Gala with Gulfshore Opera last season. Making his Florida debut, tenor Peter Lake recently performed the title role in *Faust* at the Natchez Festival of Music. New to the region, baritone Paul La Rosa has performed in many of America's top opera companies, including Lyric Opera of Chicago, Los Angeles Opera, Houston Grand Opera and San Diego Opera. Mezzo soprano Lauryn Kay recently graduated from the University of Florida with a master's in vocal performance.

The title role in *Don Pasquale* will be performed by veteran Tony Dillon,

a versatile artist whose repertoire ranges from the most dramatic to the highest comedy roles. Well known for his interpretation of Benoit and Alcindoro in *La Boheme*, Dillon has played these roles for Seattle Opera, Michigan Opera Theater, Austin Lyric Opera, Des Moines Metro Opera, Tulsa Opera and Kentucky Opera. Recent engagements include Bartolo in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* with Indianapolis Opera, Benoit and Alcindoro in *La Boheme* with Tulsa Opera, and Don Magnifico in *La Cenerentola* with Orlando Opera. Upcoming

photos provided



Tony Dillon in *Don Pasquale*

engagements include Benoit and Alcindoro in *La Boheme* with Florida Grand Opera and Bartolo in *Il Barbiere di Siviglia* with Sugar Creek Opera.

Tickets are \$50 for *GO Cabaret*, while general admission tickets for *Don Pasquale* are \$48 and \$50 for premium seats.

The Community House is located at 2173 Periwinkle Way. Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ is located at 2050 Periwinkle Way. To purchase tickets or to find a Gulfshore Opera event in your area, visit www.gulfshoreopera.org or call 529-3925.*



MEDICAL BREAKTHROUGHS & DISCOVERIES

HEALTHCARE SPEAKER SERIES

Shell Point is pleased to announce the lineup for its 2019 Medical Breakthroughs & Discoveries Series, a healthcare speaker series designed to share updates on the latest advances in medical research and healthcare practice.

All four Medical Breakthroughs & Discoveries presentations will be held in The Village Church.

These events are free, but you must register at (239) 433-7936.

This 2019 healthcare speaker series is sponsored by:



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Tuesday, January 22, at 7 p.m.

Clinical Applications of Regenerative Medicine

Presented by Dr. Shane Shapiro,
Mayo Clinic Center for Regenerative Medicine



Monday, January 28 at 2 p.m.

Advances in Alzheimer's Disease

Presented by Dr. Amanda Smith,
Byrd Alzheimer's Center and Research Institute
at the University of South Florida Health



Thursday, February 28 at 2 p.m.

**Nutrition Meets Modern Medicine:
The Key To Reversing Chronic Disease**

Presented by Dr. Michael Klaper,
internationally recognized author and speaker



Tuesday, March 26 at 7 p.m.

**Make This the Healthiest Year
of Your Life Yet!**

Presented by Dr. Malissa Wood,
Massachusetts General Hospital,
Co-director, Women's Heart Health Program

Multi-Dove Award Winner To Perform At Church Sunday

The smooth, rich sounds of multi-Dove Award winning and multi-Grammy nominated trio The Martins will be featured during a service at the First Assembly of God on Sunday, January 20 at 7 p.m.

The talented musical family, which includes siblings Judy, Jonathan and Joyce Martin from rural Hamburg, Arkansas, have collected countless radio hits with performances on stages at such prestigious locations as The Grand Ole Opry and The White House. During the 1990s, The Martins rose to national and international success, showcasing their distinctive harmonies before a vast array of audiences. Over the years the trio garnered eight Dove Awards from the Gospel Music Association, two Grammy nominations and multiple hit songs.

After nearly a decade of pursuing individual music careers, the trio reunited in 2010 and released their first new recording in 10 years, *New Day*, produced by Jay DeMarcus (Rascal Flatts).

In 2014, The Martins joined renown arranger Lari Goss and long-time friends and producers Michael English, David Phelps and Matthew Holt to record a new a cappella hymns project. The recording, titled *A Cappella*, was released in May 2014. The recording earned the group a Grammy nomination for Best Roots Gospel Album, as well as the Dove Award nomination for Inspirational Album of the



The Martins photo provided

Year from the Gospel Music Association.

Most recently, The Martins returned to the recording studio to produce their latest recording. *Still Standing* will be released in July under the Gaither Music Group label. These compositions, including the remake of their classic hit *Wherever You Are* reflect the latest chapters in the siblings journeys as they share messages of God's goodness and providential hand at work in every season of our lives.

The First Assembly of God is located at 4701 Summerlin Road in Fort Myers. For more information, call 936-6277 or visit www.famfm.com or www.martinonline.com.

Family Nights At The IMAG

The IMAG History and Science Center (IMAG) presents Family Nights, the fourth Friday of each month from January to April 2019.

Explore the IMAG after dark with extended hours until 8 p.m. on January 25. All exhibits will remain open, including the Sea-to-See Touch Tank and Virtual Fort Myers. There will be a special evening showing of *Meet the Keeper*, where guests will enjoy meeting some of our resident animal ambassadors up close. Family Nights are free for IMAG members and general admission price for nonmembers. Other Family Nights dates at the IMAG are February 22, March 22 and April 26.

Storytelling Showcase Returns To The Alliance

The Elephant III, *Stories You'll Never Forget*, is coming to the Alliance for the Arts on Wednesday, January 30 from 7 to 9 p.m. The 3rd annual storytelling showcase returns with 10 tellers and all new stories.

The Elephant was inspired by The Moth, a storytelling organization based in New York City. The Moth was founded in 1997 by George Dawes Green to recreate the feel of his childhood in Georgia, where stories were told on the front porch. He longed for the feeling of community that came from swapping personal stories. He called the organization The Moth because "People are attracted to a story the way a moth is attracted to a flame." Now, 21 years later, this storytelling organization produces live shows in nearly 30 cities, including Los Angeles, Chicago, New York, Detroit, Miami, London and Melbourne, Australia. It has had overwhelming success. There are Moths all over the world – in Kazakhstan, Edinboro, Perth – to standing-room-only crowds. It can be heard on NPR (National Public Radio) every Saturday night at 6 p.m. It has inspired numerous emulators who cater to their local communities.

Among the emulators are the Storytellers of the Round Table, who have named their productions The Elephant because these events have stories you'll never forget. The Elephant differs from The Moth in another respect as well – stories are not limited to personal stories. They can be traditional (folk tales), historical and literary as well as personal.

Master of ceremonies will be Dr. Joel Ying. Performances, in order of appearance, include *Truth and Story*, a medieval fable updated for a 21st century audience told by Mary Lou Williams; *The Wide Mouth Frog*, a humorous folk tale told by Tashahara Jallad; *The Tiger's Whisker*, a touching folk tale told by Rhonda Brazina; *Yellow Butterflies*, a personal story told by Leonor Reales about her life growing up with 15 siblings; *The Legacy of Love*, another personal story that is also historical as well because it takes place during the civil rights era,

told by Dr. Joel Ying; *Some Frog*, a tall tale that Lisa Leonhardt almost convinces to be true; *Blame It On Homesickness*, a true story that Tony Marr almost convinces to be a tall tale; *Running Out of Gas*, a personal story about an unforgettable character told by Marilyn Graham; *The Last Tango*, told by Pamela Minton with an ending you don't see coming; *The Fiery Retiree*, told by Phyllis May, who won a Toastmaster award for humor with this piece. The stories are as intriguing as their titles.

Tickets are \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members.

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

From page 2

Historic Downtown

the stunt would give Fort Myers the equivalent of \$250,000 dollars in publicity.

The nine-person delegation that flew to Pittsburgh from Tampa included Mayor Heard Edwards, who would present the key to the City of Fort Myers to the mayor of Pittsburgh; Lions Club members; as well as a "bevy of beautiful girls" to hand out coconuts at the stadium.

Queen of Edisonia Mary Louise Simpson (Carroll), Betty Prather and Doris Swank were chaperoned by Mrs. Frank Carson.

The coconuts traveled in two semis with signs reading "Pirates Coconut Caravan" and "Fort Myers, Home of the Spring Pirates."

Once there, the "ambassadors" were treated royally. The mayor and three "beauties" made a widely viewed television appearance in which they promoted Fort Myers. The visit wrapped up with a dinner party thrown by Pirates general manager Branch Rickey.

As for the coconuts, they caused such chaos when dumped on the field that the Pirates requested "no coconuts" in future.

Walk down to the former U.S. Post Office and imagine the scene in 1954 when the city went nuts for coconuts.

Then visit the following two research centers to learn more about other outlandish publicity stunts that make local history more interesting.

The Southwest Florida Historical Society is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization open Wednesday and Saturday between 9 a.m. and noon and Wednesday 4 to 7 p.m. It is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard on the campus of the Lee County Alliance for the Arts. Call 939-4044 or visit www.swflhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

The Lee County Black History Society is located at 1936 Henderson Avenue, adjacent to the Williams Academy Museum at Roberto Clemente Park. Hours for the all-volunteer, non-profit organization are Wednesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday by appointment only. For more information, call 332-8778 or visit www.leecountyblackhistorysociety.org.

Sources: Archives of the Southwest Florida Historical Society and *The News-Press*.

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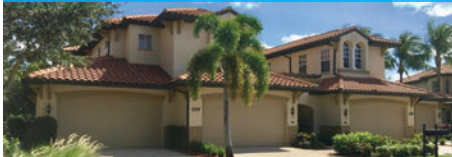
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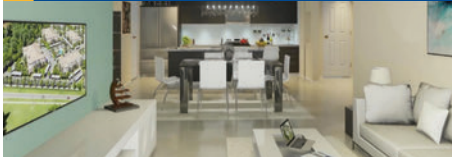
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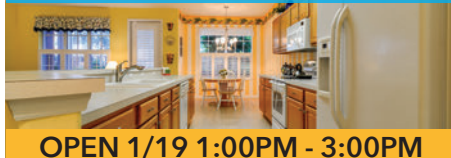
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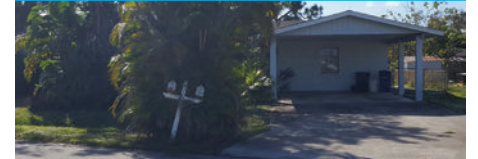
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Fort Myers Art:

Theater Artist Wins Broadway World Awards



by Tom Hall

Multi-faceted musical theater artist Amy Marie McCleary recently won two of Broadway World's top awards for last season – Best Actress in a Musical (Professional) and

Best Choreographer (Professional), both for Prather Entertainment's production of *Chicago* at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre.

McCleary started in theater as a chorus girl. Since then, she has played some pretty prestigious roles: Velma Kelly in *Chicago*, Velma Von Tussle in *Hairspray*, Lexie in *The Dixie Swim Club*, Lola in *Damn Yankees*, Bombalurina in *CATS*, Gladys in *The Pajama Game*, Tiger Lily/Mrs. Darling in *Peter Pan*, Lily St. Regis in *Annie* and Sheila in *A Chorus Line*, to name a few.

Most Southwest Florida theater lovers know McCleary more through her work as Prather Entertainment Group's resident director/choreographer. In that capacity, she has staged more than 50 productions. She has directed numerous productions for the company, including *Momma*



Amy Marie McCleary, center, with the cast of *Chicago* photo courtesy www.artswfl.com

Mia, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Memphis*, *Hairspray*, *Grease*, *CATS*, *Sister Act*, Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*, *Peter Pan* and *Footloose*, among others. As choreographer, McCleary has staged dances for *Evita*, *Cabaret*, *The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas*, *All Shook Up*, *The King and I*, *Les Miserables*, *Annie*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels* and the 2009-10 national tour of *The Wedding Singer*.

McCleary also helped create the musical revues *Holly Jolly Christmas* and *A Swinging Christmas* – creating a Fosse version of *The Nutcracker Suite* and a tap ballet featuring all nine of Santa's reindeer.

McCleary's directorial style reflects her passion for creating the world first and giving each actor equal attention as a facet of the story. She brings fresh and original ideas to every production in which she becomes involved. "I'm very much about

focus and finding the role each actor plays within the world," McCleary explained.

When directing, McCleary feels as though she has a part in all the roles, and is able to affect the picture at large. There's a stronger sense of being able to work with individuals and help them grow in their paths as performers. Her positive energy, passion for theater, collaborative style, inventive direction and unequalled organizational skills create wonderful environments for actors to play and discover.

"I am 'an actor's director' and have a knack at creating a great ensemble connection that spreads from the rehearsal room onto the stage," she said.

McCleary's movement style is always character-based and works to propel the storyline forward with special attention to time period and the confines of the world being created.

"I love stepping out of the box with style and vision," she expounded. "My individual dance style combines a love of ballet, Fosse and contemporary street. I'm equally at home with a romantic pas de deux in the *The Music Man* or the poppy hip hop of *High School Musical*. And a good old-fashioned Weimer era club scene makes me weak at the knees."

"Working with Amy is like a breath of fresh air in this business," said Katherine Walker-Hill, who played Betty Haynes in Irving Berlin's *White Christmas*. "Not only is she well-prepared, she is also interested in creating a truly beautiful piece of art. She works well with all ages, talent levels and backgrounds; but she also pushes each and every performer to be the best they can be in a nurturing, yet professional setting. She has raised the bar for all directors and choreographers, which is a gift to the theatre community."

McCleary has a passion for education through the arts. "I'm a champion of education and thrive on working with young professionals," she stated. "And as a working mother, I'm a self-proclaimed feminist who encourages tenacity and leadership in the young women I have the honor of working with on a daily basis. I hope my legacy is to encourage and enlighten other artists in the best way possible – through excellent work that has vision and heart."

In 2015, McCleary created the Musical Theatre Intensive Arts Summer Camp in partnership with the Alliance for the Arts. The camp works with students on music theory, performance skills, dance, acting, collaboration and improv. In partnership with the Broadway Palm, campers are provided with the opportunity to work with professional actors on their skills in an environment which gives every student the chance to shine.

McCleary received her BFA with highest honors from NYU's Tisch School of the Arts, where she studied at CAP21, the premiere training ground for musical theater performers. She now makes her home in Southwest Florida. Her works in progress include a 4-year-old and a 2-year-old who love singing and dancing almost as much as their mom.

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

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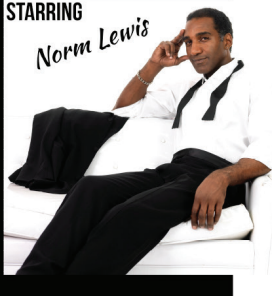
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For more information, call 239.334.6801
or email fmcslr@gmail.com



Noah Waddell

Pianist Among Performers At Benefit Dinner

The 2019 annual benefit dinner for The Music Foundation of Southwest Florida will take place at The Helm Club at The Landings Yacht, Golf and Tennis Club on Tuesday, January 22. The fundraising celebration will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. and will include a social hour and silent auction followed by dinner. The foundation's high school scholarship recipients and featured artist, award-winning professional young pianist Noah

Waddell, will perform.

The annual dinner is the main source of funding for the programs that the foundation sponsors. The nonprofit's mission is to offer programs that reach out to the young people in Southwest Florida, including the Summer Music & Arts Camps, Fifth Grade Traveling Instrument program, Double Reed & Music Festivals and High School Summer Music Camp scholarships. Each year, the foundation benefits more than 4,000 students with its programs and awards \$10,000 to \$15,000 each year to disadvantaged and deserving students.

Waddell is a local musical prodigy who started playing the piano at age 7. He has won numerous competitions

photos provided



Summer Music & Arts Camp participants

and performed with the Southwest Florida Symphony and the Tampa Bay Symphony. He performs weekly at Lee Health's HealthPark Medical Center and has appeared on the nationally syndicated radio program *From the Top* with Christopher O'Reilly. Waddell recorded his debut album at age 12.

Several of the award-winning high school scholarship students will perform at the showcase dinner. These include Grace Anderson, voice; Gus Bahruth, alto saxophone; Kassandra Cooper, cello; Carly Fulcher, cello; Jonathan Gardella, viola; Daniel Holmes, piano; Danyel Lawston, alto saxophone; Gwen Morris, oboe; and Victoria O'Donnell, violin.

This year, the foundation will also announce winners of the new Professional Development Program that supports local music teachers with continuing education opportunities.

Tickets are \$50 each and can be purchased at www.music-foundation.org. For those unable to attend, tax deductible donations to support The Music Foundation of Southwest Florida can be given online.

The Helm Club at The Landings Yacht, Golf and Tennis Club is located at 4420 Flagship Drive in Fort Myers. For more information about the High School Summer Program Scholarship auditions and the Summer Music & Arts Camps, call Ruth Christman at 275-0057.✱

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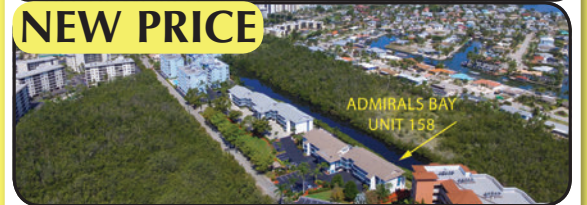


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Along The River

The **downtown Fort Myers River District** will again be the scene for **Music Walk** this Friday, January 18. Restaurants, bars, art galleries and shops will showcase a wide range of music during the evening from 6 to 10 p.m. Expect live jazz and blues to rock, drums and much more. Each month brings new energy to the historic streets of downtown Fort Myers.

Visit www.fortmyersriverdistrictalliance.com to learn more.

Dan Miller and Lew Del Gatto return for the **Jazzy Nights** series at the **Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center** this Friday, January 18. Cocktail hour is at 7 p.m., while the performance featuring vocalist Carla Cook, Joe Delaney on piano, Don Mopsick on bass and Tony Vigilante on drums begins at 8 p.m.

General admission is \$45, a table of four is \$220 and a table of eight is \$440.

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

Four-time Tony Award winner **Hedwig and the Angry Inch** by Stephen Trask and John Cameron Mitchell opens this Friday, January 18 at **The Laboratory Theater of Florida**.

Hedwig, the East German rock icon, was born in East Berlin only to fall in love with an American G.I. and flee to the West. Unfortunately, nothing worked out quite as it was supposed to and, years later, Hedwig is leading her rock band on a tour of the United States, telling her life story



The Dan Miller-Lew Del Gatto Quintet will be performing on Friday night

photo provided

through a series of concerts at Bilgewater Inn seafood restaurants. Her tour dates coincide with those of arena rock star Tommy Gnosis, a wide-eyed boy who once loved Hedwig – but then left with all her songs.

Lab Theater is located at 1634 Woodford Avenue in Fort Myers. For more information and performance dates, visit www.brownpapertickets.com/event/3377342 or call the box office at 218-0481.

Bacon Jam will be held at **Centennial Park** this Saturday, January 19 from 11:30 a.m. to sunset.

The festival will feature live bands and restaurants offering creative bacon-based dishes priced between \$1 and \$5. Cost is

\$10 for those age 3 and older.

Centennial Park is located at 2000 West First Street in Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.swfljams.com.

Scooter's Coffee will be holding its **Puppuccino Superhero Pet Day** this Saturday, January 19 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The public is invited to bring their pup for an afternoon of fun, photos and to participate in a costume contest. The Cape Coral Animal Shelter (CCAS) will be the beneficiary of event donations and raffle proceeds.

A superhero doggy costume contest will be held and awarded at 2 p.m. Other activities include pet grooming, a gift basket raffle, animal massage, PEMF (Pulsed Electro Magnetic Field) therapy demonstrations and a K-9 unit visit.

Scooter's Coffee is located at 1014 Del Prado Boulevard South in Cape Coral. For more information, email joann@wickeddolphin.com.

Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) will present **Guerrilla Girls: Rattling Cages Since 1985** – a site-specific survey exhibition and newly-commissioned, interactive installation at the **Bob Rauschenberg Gallery** now through March 23.

Bob Rauschenberg Gallery is located within Building L at FSW at 8099 College Parkway in Fort Myers. For more information, call 489-9313 or visit www.rauschenberggallery.com.

Sanibel Refuge Reopens With Limited Services

As one of America's 38 most-visited national wildlife refuges, the JN "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel Island was permitted on January 10 to reopen its admission-free Visitor & Education Center with limited visitor services.

A scaled-back government staff will receive pay from refuge entrance fee dollars, not appropriations. This arrangement is approved for 30 days, upon which time, if the government remains shut down, further guidance will be issued.

Normal Visitor & Education Center hours apply: daily 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The

refuge nature store, operated by the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge, is also open to resume its support of refuge programs and projects.

The schedule of films, lectures, free tours and programs as well as special exhibitions have resumed in the center. All other refuge facilities that have remained operational will continue to do so, including Tarpon Bay Explorers, Wildlife Drive and its trails and Bailey Tract.

Refer to www.dingdarlingsociety.org for events and the latest updates.*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. March And Celebration

The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. March is scheduled for Monday, January 21 with the formation area located at the Dunbar Jupiter Hammon Library at 3095 Blount Street in Fort Myers. It will open at 9 a.m. and the march is scheduled to begin at 11 a.m. The Fort Myers Police Department will begin shutting down roads along the march route at 10:30 a.m.

The marchers will travel west on Blount Street to High Street and turn south to SR 82 and head west to Monroe Street where they will turn north to Edwards Drive then to the entrance of Centennial Park.

Once the parade starts, Blount Street will also be closed in both directions and westbound traffic on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard will be stopped and redirected at Ford Street. Vehicles will not be able to travel north on High Street and traffic heading south on High will be rerouted at Indian Street. When the marchers travel onto SR 82, eastbound traffic will be stopped and rerouted south on Cranford Avenue. Streets will be reopened when marchers have completely passed through the area. Once the parade is complete, all participants will gather in Centennial Park.

Coolers, food, grills, alcohol or pets will not be allowed into the park. Food service will be shut down by 5:30 p.m. and the festival will end at 6 p.m.*

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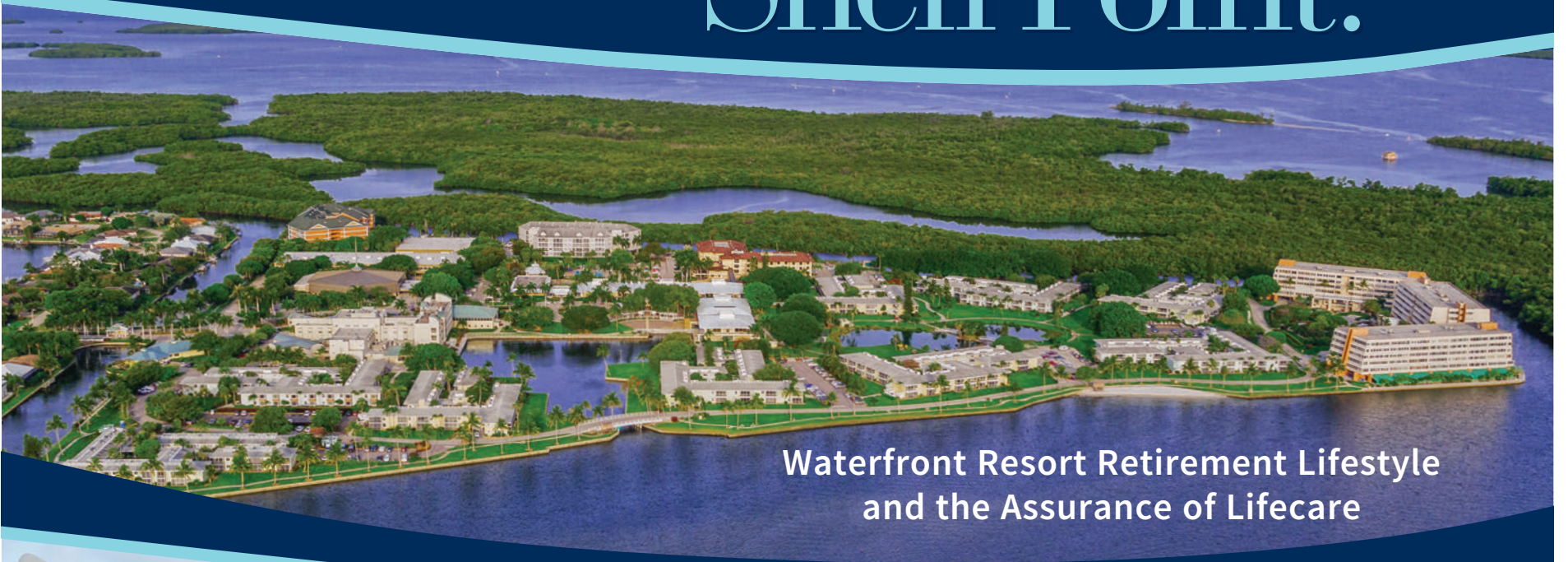
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Church Joins Health Challenge

In 2017, Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ (SCUCC) participated in the Million Mile Movement Challenge sponsored by Lee Health. The goal was for all of Lee County to get more active by moving one million miles in three months. Lee County, as a whole, fell slightly short of the goal, but SCUCC participants reached and surpassed the goal of 3,000 miles.

“By the end of the three months, we, as a team, had moved 7,317 miles,” said Linda Covertine, parish nurse. “This year, I have signed us up again and have set a very ambitious goal of 10,000 miles.”

Healthy Lee’s Million Mile Movement is open to people of all ages and fitness levels. Any form of movement qualifies. Activities other than running and walking can be converted into miles by using the Activity Conversion Chart.

Convertine said, “In 2017, we converted all sorts of activities into miles. Aerobics, bicycling, dancing, gardening, swimming, tennis, golfing (with or without cart), bowling, elliptical, weight lifting, dog walking, Tai Chi, yoga, water aerobics, pickle ball, ‘sittercize,’ and even vacuuming can be converted into miles. If you are moving, it can be converted.”

The challenge has begun and ends April 14. Convertine has made arrangements to have Lee Health list SCUCC as a team. She will assist anyone who would like help in registering or converting their various types of exercise into miles. She tells



Linda Covertine photo provided

golfers who are on the SCUCC team, “If you golf regularly, just let me know how many holes you play each week and if you use a cart. I will keep a list and routinely enter your miles once a week unless notified otherwise.”

Participants who want to track their own miles can sign up online as individuals, look for Sanibel Congregational UCC, and click on “Join the Challenge.” Conversion charts for various forms of exercise will be available in Fellowship Hall at the church.

“The Million Mile Movement is a fun way to get moving and energize our bodies and our minds,” said Convertine. “It’s also a great opportunity to unify our

community and church, working toward a common goal. Let’s move into this new year by moving.”

For more information, visit www.healthylee.com, or call the church office at 472-0497. Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ is located at 2050 Periwinkle Way and offers 7:45 a.m. chapel, 9 a.m. blended, and 11 a.m. traditional services on Sunday mornings.✽

Auditions For Local Premiere Set For Saturday

Open auditions for The Legend of Georgia McBride will be held at The Laboratory Theater of Florida on Saturday, January 19 at 2 p.m.

The Legend of Georgia McBride is a funny, touching, heart-warming play about transformation and the joy of discovering our true selves. This play examines the life of Casey and his newly pregnant wife Jo as they struggle to make ends meet when careers and chosen paths are no longer working. A tribute to the world of drag, down-trodden Casey is thrust into the joyous and often bitchy world of drag queens where he finds a passion and exhilaration he has never experienced before. This newly discovered world ultimately leads Casey and Jo to deeper levels of understanding, happiness and love. The family Casey and Jo thought they were creating ends up being much more than they bargained for.

Characters needed include:

Casey – a good-looking country boy in his 20s. Needs to know how to play guitar and sing. Just a good-hearted guy in search of himself.

Jo – Casey’s young good-looking wife. Script indicates that she is African-American. There needs to be a strong sexual energy between Jo and Casey. She is strong yet vulnerable.

Miss Tracy Mills – this character is the heart of the play. She needs to be a very polished drag performer who is in her 40s or 50s. Miss Tracey can have a bitchy edge to her, but mainly she is the grounding force of the entire play.

Eddie – A blue-collar guy who is a bit rough around the edges, but also has a kind and caring heart. This is a man who has had many drinks and many cigarettes. His world has been bars and honky-tonks.

Rehearsals will begin mid-April; the show will run from June 7 to 30.

Lab Theater is located at 1634 Woodford Avenue in Fort Myers. For more information, call 218-0481 or email laboratorytheaterflorida@gmail.com.✽

Craft And White Elephant Sale

Palmetto Palms RV Resort is having a Craft and White Elephant Sale on Saturday, January 19 from 8 a.m. to noon. The public is invited. Coffee and donuts will be available.

The resort is located at 19681 Summerlin Road in Fort Myers. For more information, call Marge Gregg at 466-5331.✽

Churches/Temples

ALL FAITHS UNITARIAN CONGREGATION
Sunday 10:30 a.m., www.allfaiths-uc.org, 2756 McGregor Boulevard, 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., www.annunciation.fl.goarch.org, 8210 Cypress Lake Drive, 481-2099.

BAT YAM-TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS
Friday Shabbat at 7 p.m. www.batyam.org, 2050 Periwinkle Way, 579-0296.

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, www.simplysimpleworship.com, 7050 Winkler Road, Suite 121, 437-8835.

BREAD OF LIFE MINISTRIES
Sunday 10:30 a.m. 16581 McGregor Boulevard, 267-3166.

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

CHAPEL OF CYPRESS COVE
Sunday 10 a.m., www.revtedalhouse@aol.com 10200 Cypress Cove Circle, 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., www.taecc.com, 1619 Llewellyn Drive, 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. www.clpc.us, 8260 Cypress Lake Drive, 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., www.christiansciencefortmyers.net, www.christianscience.com. 2390 West First Street, 334-6801.

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. www.fumctfmyers.org, 2466 First Street, 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.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FORT MYERS
11 a.m. Sunday, www.fpcfmyers.org, 2438 Second Street, 239-334-2261

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., www.lambofgodchurch.net, 19691 Cypress View Drive, 267-3525.

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

NEW COVENANT EYES
Monthly 9 a.m., www.newcovenanteyes.com, 1900 Park Meadows Drive, 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., www.newhopefortmyers.org, 10051 Plantation Road, 274-1230.

PEACE COMMUNITY
Sunday 10:30 a.m. www.peacecommunitychurch.com, 17671 Pine Ridge Road, 267-7400.

PEACE LUTHERAN
Sunday 8 and 10 a.m., www.peaceftmyers.com, peace@peaceftmyers.com. 15840 McGregor Boulevard, 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
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SAINT COLUMBKILLE CATHOLIC
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ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC
Monday through Thursday 6:45 a.m.; Friday 6:45 and 11 a.m.; Saturday 4 p.m.; Sunday 6:45, 9:30 and 11 a.m., 2157 Cleveland Avenue, 334-2161.

SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE METROPOLITAN

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

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

SAINT NICHOLAS MONASTERY
Sunday 9:30 a.m., www.saintnicholasmonastery.org, 111 Evergreen Road, 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., www.templebethel.com, 16225 Winkler Road, 433-0018.

TEMPLE JUDEA (CONSERVATIVE)
Friday 6:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m., www.tjswfl.org, 14486 A&W Bulb Road, 433-0201.

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

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

UNITY OF FORT MYERS
Sunday 10 a.m., www.unityoffortmyers.org, 11120 Ranchette Road, 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., www.zionfm.org, 7401 Winkler Road, 481-4040.✽

CROW Case Of The Week:

Eastern Screech Owl



by Bob Petcher

An Eastern screech owl (*Megascops asio*) is known to be a master of disguise. The nocturnal owl blends well color-wise into its gray background in these parts. It is even hard to find when sleeping upright and pressed against a tree log opening. Its hidability is also aided by its color patterns that involve complex bands and spots to provide excellent camouflage against tree bark. In fact, this owl species is far more often heard than seen with its vibrating trilling sound.

The short, stocky bird has a large head and almost no neck. The tree-friendly bird is roughly the size of a pint glass and enjoys a wide range of food from earthworms, insects and lizards to mice, squirrels and rabbits to small birds and woodpeckers to bats and, more rarely, other owls. Eastern screech owls can store extra food in tree holes for as long as four days.

If you'd like an Eastern screech owl to take up residence in your backyard's natural setting, attach a nest box to a

nearby tree. The structure should have a sloped roof, recessed floor and drainage floors in the floor of the box and proper ventilation holes in the walls.

At CROW, an adult Eastern screech owl was admitted from Labelle, when it was found along the side of the road. It was suspected to have been struck by a vehicle. As a result of the trauma, the owl suffered severe damage to its left eye. Just a couple days after being admitted, the eye showed no signs of improvement, and veterinarians involved with the case made the decision to remove or eviscerate the damaged eye.

"The luxation, or dislocation, of the lens meant that the eye could not be repaired," said Dr. Kyle Abbott, CROW veterinary intern. "The surgery was performed because this would be a source of chronic pain for this patient."

Since the surgery, the patient has reportedly been doing well. It was stated to have a great appetite and was recently moved to an outside enclosure where rehab staff is assessing its flight and hunting abilities before determining if it will be released.

"The assessment is generally a few weeks to assess the patient's flight and hunting prowess with only one eye," said Dr. Abbott. "This owl has shown that he can make flights and does well in an outside cage. The next step is to test this owl's ability to catch its own prey."

While one-eyed patients are less likely to be re-released into the wild, an owl has a better chance due to its hearing capabilities.



Patient #18-4724 needs to show it can catch its own prey before being released

photo by Brian Bohlman

"In general, we do not release raptors that have only one eye," added Dr. Abbott. "However, this is different in owls because they rely on hearing for much of their hunting. This is still controversial amongst wildlife rehabilitators, but the majority of centers will still release owls that have passed flight and hunting tests in captivity."

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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Sheepshead Fishing Great In Cold Water



by Capt. Matt Mitchell

Falling water temperatures and more cold fronts made for another week of nonstop sheepshead fishing. Some days locating these fish took more

work than others, though after a few moves the daily result was the same with my clients smiling and a cooler of sheepshead heading to the fillet table.

Anywhere close to the passes was a good place to start the sheepshead rodeo. Docks, pilings, sea wall and blow downs or basically any place with moving current that has barnacles growing on it held these fish. Often the difference between catching them and not catching them was getting the boat positioned so you could present your bait right next to the structure. After getting the boat set up in the right position, an accurate cast is all that's required for game on.

Downsizing the tackle to 2500 series spinning reels on medium light rods rigged with 10-pound braid makes the larger sheepshead a real tussle.

This lighter tackle also makes for more accurate casting. I cannot stress enough how important it is to keep your bait close to the structure to be successful on these, what I refer to as finesse fish. The bite is often very light as they nibble at a bait, and knowing when to set the hook only comes with time spent. It's almost like you have to anticipate that the sheepshead is holding the bait to hook 'em.

Many of the places I'm catching the sheepshead are also giving up a few other species including redfish and black drum. During cold water times, chunks of shrimp fished on a quarter jig head has our catch all set up. Keep the bait on the bottom and don't move it as these fish feed by scent.

With each passing cold front, the average size of these fish continues to increase. With February and March, the prime months for this fishery will just keep getting better and better. It's amazing how this species of fish takes over our cold water months and becomes our main target species when it's just too cold for many other species to cooperate. With more cold fronts forecast over the next 10 days, our sheepshead fishing will only continue to get better.

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.✱



Mary Laser with another smiling sheepshead

photo provided

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Dave Doane

Multiple Grammy Winner To Perform January 25

Multi-Grammy Award-winner Bill Gaither will host a spectacular evening of music, laughter and encouragement featuring the talent of the prestigious Gaither Vocal Band at the First Assembly on Friday, January 25.

The Gaither Vocal Band will share timeless gospel classics, as well as refreshing, inspiring new favorites embraced by audiences of all ages and backgrounds. Few events have the ability to unite individuals from all walks of life the way Gaither concerts do. "The longer I live, the more I learn to appreciate the here and now – this moment – this place in life – this group of people with whom I am privileged to collaborate," said Gaither Vocal Band founder and bass singer Bill Gaither.

This past fall, the Gaither Vocal Band celebrated the release of *We Have This Moment*. The recording is a musical snapshot of a special season for this lauded quintet, featuring Gaither, Wes Hampton, Adam Crabb, Todd Suttles and Reggie Smith, the newest addition to the iconic group.

Joining The Gaither Vocal Band for this special evening will be female vocalist Charlotte Ritchie and male vocalist Gene McDonald, as well as guitarist and comedian Kevin Williams.

Gaither continues to be delighted by audiences' response to the concerts,



The Gaither Band

now more than 40 years after he quit his day job as a teacher: "I've always said it all starts with a great song, and we are fortunate that each concert includes great songs that have stood the test of time. With all the musical choices that are available now, there is still a special place for the joy and optimism that reside in Gospel music. Good news never gets old."

Named ASCAP's Songwriters of the Century, Bill and Gloria Gaither have written more than 700 popular gospel songs throughout their multi-decade career, including favorite standards *He*

Touched Me, Because He Lives and *There's Just Something About That Name*. Since 1992, when Gaither began recording the celebrated Homecoming series of DVDs and CDs, most every volume has gone gold or platinum with sales totaling approximately 100 million volumes. The programs appear regularly on television networks around the world.

For more information, including ticket pricing and group ticket information, visit www.gaither.com or www.premierproductions.com or call 1-855-484-1991 or 936-6277.*

photo provided

Distinguished Rabbi And Author To Speak

Rabbi Stephen Lewis Fuchs, spiritual leader of Bat Yam Temple of the Islands on Sanibel, will be the featured speaker at the 3rd annual Jewish Day of Learning at Temple Shalom of Naples on Sunday, January 20 from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The title of Rabbi Fuchs' program is *Prisoners of Hope*.

Rabbi Fuchs, whose stellar career has extended over four decades, is an author, noted speaker and former president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism. He earned his undergraduate degree from Hamilton College and was ordained a rabbi at Hebrew Union College. In October 2017, he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Vanderbilt Divinity School.

The Day of Learning program will also include a presentation by David Prager, southern regional representative for the Simon Wiesenthal Center, and will conclude with a concert called *Voices of Hope: Music and Poetry of the Holocaust* featuring noted area violinist Rachel Cox.

The cost for the program is \$18.

Temple Shalom is located at 4630 Pine Ridge Road in Naples. For more information or to register, contact the Jewish Federation of Greater Naples at 263-4205.*

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Native eastern gamagrass is wildlife-friendly, low-maintenance groundcover – border or background photos by Gerri Reaves

Plant Smart
Eastern Gamagrass

by Gerri Reaves

Eastern gamagrass (*Tripsacum dactyloides*) is a member of the grass family and closely related to maize. Native to the eastern half of the U.S. and much of the Midwest, it is also called Fakahatchee grass. In Florida, its natural habitat is wet areas such as swamps, marshes and wet pinelands and along riverbanks. This clumping perennial grows as tall as six feet in a fountain-like form, so it adds height and volume to the landscape. From spring to fall, terminal inflorescences bloom on tall arching stems that extend above the leaves. The spikes have separate male and female flowers. The stigma, the female part of the flower, is purple or reddish brown, and the stamens, the male part of the flower that carries pollen, is orange.

The blooms dangle from the stalk like a line of wine-colored fringe moving in the breeze. This species is a larval host for several native skipper species and provides cover for small wildlife. The small hard yellow one-seeded fruit is consumed by birds and deer. In the warmer parts of the state, the grass is evergreen. Use it as a groundcover, background, or border, or plant it beside a pond. Alternate linear leaves are flat and have sharp-toothed edges, giving the species some value as a security border. Its height makes it a good substitute for non-native pampas grass (*Cortaderia selloana*). This grass also works well as a soil stabilizer on sloping ground. Give it full sun to partial shade. It can grow in nutrient-poor soil, but must have some organic content to thrive. It is pest-resistant, salt-tolerant and hardy, and has a moderate growth rate. While it prefers moist soil, it is somewhat drought-tolerant. Cutting back or mowing is optional, so it's virtually maintenance-free.



Spikes of separate male and female flowers appear spring to fall. The female flowers are purplish or wine-colored.

Propagate it with the seeds or by dividing the clumps of fibrous roots. Sources: *Betrock's Florida Plant Guide* by Edward F. Gilman; *Florida, My Eden* by Frederic B. Stresau; *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants* by Rufino Osorio; *Native Florida Plants* by Robert G. Haehle and Joan Brookwell; www.floridata.com; www.fnps.org; www.gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu; www.regionalconservation.org; and www.wildflower.org. Plant Smart explores the diverse flora of South Florida.*

Florida Water Policy Summit To Be Held Monday

With newly elected officials now sworn in, a panel of experts will assemble for the 1st annual Florida Water Policy Summit at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre on Monday, January 21 to lay out actionable policy intended to cure the ills besetting our waterways. With the forum on Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, organizers will weave a social justice narrative into the evening – Clean Water is a Basic Human Right. Doors open at 5 p.m. for a Clean Water Fair in the lobby. The summit will begin at 6 p.m. Panelists and topics will include John Cassani, The Calusa Waterkeeper, Recent Historic Outbreaks of Red Tide and Blue-Green Algae; Jaclyn Lopez, Florida director, senior attorney of The Center for Biological Diversity, Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule; Rae Ann Wessel, SCCF natural resource policy director, Minimum Flow Levels from Lake Okeechobee; Marisa Carozzo, Conservancy senior environmental policy specialist, Basin Management Action

Plans, Total Maximum Daily Loads and Stormwater Run-Off; Dr. William J. Mitsch, director of Everglades Wetland Research Park, Wetland Restoration Solutions and the C-43 Reservoir; and Capt. Daniel Andrews, co-founder of Captains for Clean Water, The Southern Solution and the Everglades Agricultural Area. "It's never been more important to engage water policy issues in Florida, now that a new administration has taken the reins with a new and enlightened outlook," said Cassani. The format for the evening provides each speaker 10 minutes to address their relative issue. Then, organizers will open the floor for approximately one hour of questions from the audience. Tickets are a \$10 donation. "It is critical that regional leaders in Clean Water advocacy keep up the pressure and take the lead in framing and guiding policy and legislation going into 2019," said Calusa Waterkeeper's Executive Director KC Schulberg. Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre is located at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers. For more information or tickets, call the box office at 278-4422 or visit www.broadwaypalm.com/shows/florida-water-policy-summit or www.facebook.com/events/550315122098179.

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Untold Stories: Sanibel I features historic black-and-white photographs of the Woodring family by their late neighbor Charlie McCullough photo by Charlie McCullough

Untold Stories Featured In Film

The 7th annual “Ding” Darling Wednesday Film Series continues its biweekly showings with a showing of the WGCU Public Media documentary *Untold Stories: Sanibel I* on Wednesday, January 23 at 1 p.m. in the JN “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge Visitor & Education Center.

Discover the history of Sanibel Island from local historians, family members of original settlers and other islanders. The film covers topics such as the island’s involvement in the Civil War, its hurricane hardships, life before the causeway and the rich culture that continues to make up the island today.

The half-hour film is part of the public unveiling of the Woodring 100th Anniversary Exhibition that day. Ralph Woodring speaks in the WGCU documentary about his family’s deep island roots and islander camaraderie back in the pioneering era. The exhibition opens

at 9 a.m. that day and other sit-down presentations, including talks by Woodring and Teddy Roosevelt reprints Joe Wiegand, will take place at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m.

“Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge hosts the free film showings with sponsorship from Sanibel-Captiva Beach Resorts. Seating is limited and on a first-come basis.

Other scheduled films this season include *A Plastic Ocean* on February 6; *Saving Sea Turtles* on February 20; *Jane* on March 6; *Invasion of the Giant Pythons* on March 20; and *Saving Atlantis* on April 3.

All films begin at 1 p.m. A short discussion will follow each film to allow visitors to gain more from their documentary-viewing experience by listening to other people’s points of view and analyzing what they just watched.

JN “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge Visitor & Education Center is located at 1 Wildlife Drive on Sanibel. For full descriptions of the films, visit www.dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/lecture-and-film-series.✱

Choral Festival Goes Latin

The Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida is proud to be hosting Sing Out! Latin America, its sixth annual choral festival at New Hope Presbyterian Church on Friday and Saturday, January 18 and 19.

Award-winning composer and conductor Julio Morales will lead the festival chorus through workshops culminating in a Festival Chorus Concert featuring the rhythms of Latin America and Mexico, as well as a performance by his seven-member a cappella performance group, Vox Populi Project Choir. The festival workshops begin on Friday evening and go through the day on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The festival concludes with a free admission Sing Out! Festival Concert Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

“We are thrilled that Julio Morales and Vox Populi Project Choir singers will be

joining us for our Sing Out! Latin America Festival this year,” said Trent Brown, symphonic chorale artistic director. “Sing Out! participants return year after year and share that it’s always such a special experience for them as choral singers. This year will not disappoint, and we’re excited to be premiering a new composition that Julio just wrote for our festival.”

Morales and Vox Populi Choir Project members, both based in Veracruz, Mexico, have garnered much praise and recognition at international music festivals throughout Mexico, Latin America and South America. The group specializes in performing unique a cappella arrangements exploring different sounds and textures of Mexico’s popular and folk music. The choir will be performing the first half of the festival concert on Saturday evening. The chorale is grateful to the LAT foundation and Lee County’s VCB Arts & Attractions for grants to support and market the group’s visit to Southwest

continued on page 26

Pianist To Perform At Shell Point

Shell Point Retirement Community’s 2018-19 Fine and Performing Arts Series continues its Concerts & Conversations program with a performance by pianist Peter Fancovic in the Grand Cypress Room at The Woodlands on Thursday, January 24 at 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$30 and can be purchased online at www.shellpoint.org/concerts or by phone at 454-2067.

Born in Slovakia, Fancovic began his musical career at an early age as a soloist with the Conservatory’s Symphonic Orchestra and Bratislava Chamber Orchestra, winning first prize in the National Conservatory Competition. He received his master’s degree in piano performance at Manhattan School of Music in New York City.

In addition to his accomplishments as a classical pianist, Fancovic also has performed his own jazz transcriptions and renditions of early jazz piano music. He has been awarded prizes in the JN Hummel Piano Competition, held in Slovakia, as well as the Mariánské Lázně International Fryderyk Chopin Piano Competition and the Beethoven’s Hradec International Music Competition in the



Peter Fancovic photo provided

Czech Republic.

As part of Shell Point’s Concerts & Conversations program, guests can partake in fellowship and a dessert reception with Fancovic following the concert.

The Woodlands at Shell Point is located at 14441 Woodsong Lane in Fort Myers. To learn more, visit www.shellpoint.org or call 1-800-780-1131.✱

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Builders Care Honors Partners And Volunteers

Lee BIA Builders Care recently hosted its annual awards event honoring several community partners and volunteers for their service and commitment to Southwest Florida's needy and deserving elderly and/or disabled homeowners and their families.

The 2018 awards included Volunteer of the Year, presented to Trevor Taulman of Taulman Pest Control; Volunteer Company of the Year, awarded to Ferguson Enterprises; Outstanding Partners of the Year, recognizing Ad-Ler Roofing and Thread Source; Contributor of the Year, presented to HONC Industries; President's Special Recognition Award, awarded to Mike Dannenhauer; and the Presidential Award, recognizing 2018 board president Dan Beiter.

"Whether they've helped build a wheelchair ramp, fund a life-changing project, or volunteer at a fundraising event, our community partners and volunteers



2018 Volunteer of the Year Trevor Taulman of Taulman Pest Control photos provided

go above and beyond to make Lee BIA Builders Care and our mission possible," said Becky Swift, executive director of Lee



Ferguson Enterprises was named 2018 Volunteer Company of the Year. From left, P.J. Anzalone of Ferguson Enterprises, Becky Swift, Mandi Wray, Dan Beiter and Chuck Thornton of Ferguson Enterprises

BIA Builders Care. "These individuals and companies truly exemplify the meaning behind "Builders Care," and we are so

grateful for this year's honorees and all of our valued partners for their selfless support and passion for our community." ❄️



Gloria Gropelli of Ad-Ler Roofing, one of the Outstanding Partners of the Year



Dan Beiter presents Mike Dannenhauer with the 2018 President's Special Recognition Award



Mandi Wray with Steve Honc of HONC Industries, the 2018 Contributor of the Year



Dan Beiter received the 2018 Presidential Award from Lee Building Industry Association board president Richard Durling

Meetings About Flood-Mitigation Efforts Near

Lee County is planning three public meetings to inform stakeholders and residents about the yearlong effort the county has started for Phase 3 of its post-Hurricane Irma flood-mitigation efforts. The informational meetings will be formatted as a drop-in 4 to 6 p.m. on three consecutive Thursdays at various county locations.

The meetings will be held:

January 24 at Wa-Ke Hatchee Recreation Center, 16760 Bass Road, Fort Myers

January 31 at the Bonita Springs Library, 26876 Pine Avenue, Bonita Springs

February 7 at Veterans Park Recreation Center, 55 Homestead Road South, Lehigh Acres

County staff and engineering firms

will be on hand to provide information about the study and the process. Staff will also introduce the public to the county's updated flood-mitigation project website – www.leegov.com/flooding – so residents can follow the process and obtain updates. More public meetings will be planned in 2019 before the study's conclusion.

This study and process – called Phase 3 – is being handled by local engineering firms and Lee County Natural Resources. The Lee Board of County Commissioners approved a contract for the firms, who were selected via a procurement process, to do a yearlong assessment with recommendations for the board in late 2019 looking at potential long-term flood-mitigation projects.

Completion of Phase 3 of the county's flood-mitigation effort is necessary before any long-term and large-scale infrastructure improvements can happen. Next steps could include an array of actions such as grant applications, land acquisition (if necessary), permitting,

design, bid and construction. Projects would be subject to board approval and could include stakeholders such as municipalities and special districts. ❄️

Governor Issues Executive Order On Water Policy

On January 10, Gov. Ron DeSantis signed Executive Order 19-12, which reforms Florida's environmental and water policy. Called the Achieving More Now for Florida's Environment executive order, Governor DeSantis said:

"Our water and natural resources are the foundation of our economy and our way of life in Florida. The protection of water resources is one of the most pressing issues facing our state. That's why today I'm taking immediate action to combat the threats which have devastated our local economies and threatened the

health of our communities."

The order has five major components:

Appropriating \$2.5 billion over the next four years to restore the Everglades and water protection.

The creation of the Blue-Green Algae Task Force which will work to reduce blue-green algae blooms over the next five years.

The South Florida Water Management District will start the next phase of Everglades Agricultural Area Storage Reservoir Project all according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The creation of the Office of Environmental Accountability and Transparency which will organize scientific research so that all agency actions will be aligned with environmental policies.

The appointment of a Chief Science Officer which will organize, monitor, and collect scientific data to ensure communication between the agencies and Floridians regarding environmental issues. ❄️

Commercial Group Volunteers For Food Bank



Trinity Commercial Group employees volunteered for a United Way Day of Caring at Harry Chapin Food Bank's Mobile Pantry photo provided

Thirty volunteers from Trinity Commercial Group (TCG) participated in a three-part project United Way Day of Caring for Harry Chapin Food Bank. Volunteers were divided into three groups: preparing bags of food, packaging pinto beans and distributing food through the mobile food pantry.

"We loved having Trinity Commercial come and help us. It's amazing that they were able to staff two shifts sorting food plus a mobile pantry, all in one day. It shows how much a committed organization can accomplish," said Richard LeBer, president and CEO of Harry Chapin Food Bank of Southwest Florida.

In the food bank warehouse, one group prepared 240 bags of supplemental food for delivery to local seniors in need. Another group took 750 pounds of pinto beans in large bulk bags and repackaged them into family-size meal packages. The third group went to Franklin Park Elementary School to distribute nearly 4,000 pounds of food to families through the Harry Chapin Mobile Food Pantry program.

"Trinity Commercial Group would like to thank the United Way and the Harry Chapin Food Bank for the opportunity to participate in the Harry Chapin food

packaging and mobile food bank mission. Our team had a wonderful time at this event and looks forward to many more. We are honored and humbled to be a small part of serving our communities through these fine non-profit agencies," said Doug Olson, principal managing director of Trinity Commercial Group.

"The work of the TCG employees who volunteer for a United Way Day of Caring, means a great deal to our United Way Partner Agencies such as Harry Chapin Food Bank. The gift of your time and effort helps stretch agency dollars, and has a significant impact on the lives of families in our community," said Cliff Smith, president of the United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades, and Okeechobee.

The United Way's Day of Caring is a year-round program, coordinated by the United Way Volunteer Center which matches businesses' desires to help with the needs of the community. Many local groups and companies have participated such as Publix Super Markets, Lee County Tax Collector, Wells Fargo and Pavese Law Firm.

The United Way Volunteer Center connects individuals and companies to volunteer opportunities throughout our community.

For more information, call 433-7567, or by visit www.unitedwaylee.org.

Quarter Auctions To Raise Funds At The Shell Factory

The public is invited to participate in a series of quarter auctions being presented by the Pilot Club of Fort Myers in the Dolphin Room at The Shell Factory on Tuesday, January 22; Tuesday, February 26; Saturday, March 16; and Tuesday, April 23. All events will begin at 11 a.m.

Everyone attending the January 22 program will receive two free passes to The Shell Factory's Nature Park. The

Shell Factory is offering a special lunch menu for the events. Participants are encouraged to make reservations by calling 246-6364. There is no charge for attending the quarter auction.

Vendors and the sponsoring charity offer a variety of items participants can bid on for one or more quarters. The events are fundraising activities for the sponsoring charity. The January 22 proceeds will benefit the Pilot Club and The Shell Factory's Nature Park.

The Shell Factory is located at 2787 North Tamiami Trail in North Fort Myers. For more information about the quarter auctions, contact jodyvanc@gmail.com or 634-9046.

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Book Review

The Tattooist Of Auschwitz



by Di Saggau

The *Tattooist of Auschwitz* is an unlikely love story set amid the horrors of a Nazi death camp. Based on real people and events, this debut novel from Heather Morris, takes place

in 1942. Lale Sokolov, a 25-year-old Slovakian Jew, is forcibly transported to the concentration camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau. When his captors discover that he speaks several languages, he is assigned to the heinous task of tattooing incoming Jewish prisoners with the dehumanizing numbers their SS captors use to identify them. He is a Tätowierer tasked with permanently marking his fellow prisoners.

One day in July 1942, Lale, prisoner 32407, meets 17-year-old Gita, and he is immediately smitten. He carefully comforts the trembling young woman before tattooing the number 34902 on her arm. He later told Morris, "I tattooed her number on her left hand, and she tattooed her number in my heart." Eventually, the attraction becomes mutual, and Lale vows to somehow survive the camp and marry her.

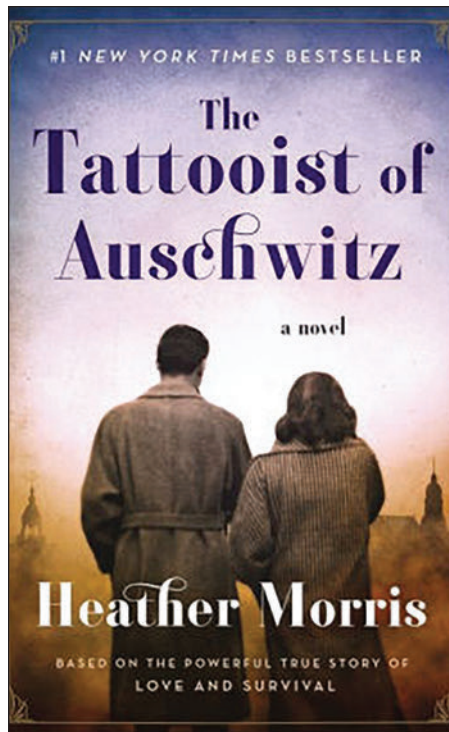


image provided

Imprisoned for more than two and a half years, Lale witnesses horrific atrocities and barbarism, but also incredible acts of bravery and compassion. Risking his own life, he uses his privileged position to exchange jewels and money from murdered Jews for food to keep his fellow prisoners alive. Morris explores some of the trickier issues, the guilt of those Jews, like the tattooist, who survived by doing

the Nazis' bidding, and some of the Slovaks in Lale's hometown, who failed to come to the aid of their beleaguered countrymen. With his knowledge of several European languages, he eavesdrops on conversations between SS guards, and befriends Russian prisoners of war.

Over time, a strange dynamic develops between Lale and SS officer Stefan Baretski. Known for his sadism and enthusiasm at selections on "the ramp," he was sentenced to life in prison at the 1963 Frankfurt Auschwitz trials. In the camp, he acts as a messenger between Lale and Gita. Lale also adds

emotional support to many, including Leon, Lale's assistant who was castrated by Dr. Mengele, and 41-year-old Nadya, who is eventually sent to the gas chambers with the remaining Roma.

It took three years of thrice-weekly meetings between Lale and Morris for the author to gain the survivor's trust. The result is a vivid, harrowing and ultimately hopeful re-creation of Lale Sokolov's experiences during the Holocaust and his eventual reunion with Gita. *The Tattooist of Auschwitz* is a testament to the endurance of love and humanity under the darkest possible conditions.✧

School Smart



by Shelley M. Greggs, NCSP

Dear Shelley, My second grade daughter is having a hard time following directions. She can't follow simple three step directions and she's

struggling in school. Her hearing is fine, and she's able to pay attention so why can't she remember things better. What's going on?

Kayte, Fort Myers

Kayte,

Kids who have a hard time "staying on track" may be having problems with working memory. Remembering a phone number, recalling directions, or remembering an assignment are all mental tasks that use working memory. Working memory is an executive function that plays a major role in how we process, use and remember information on a daily basis. Everyone struggles with the limits of working memory sometimes, but for kids who struggle with working memory, it often presents a more significant problem.

Dr. Matthew Cruger, senior director of the Learning and Development Center at the Child Mind Institute defines working memory like this, "It's keeping in mind anything you need to keep in mind while you're doing something." While long-term memories stay with us even when we're not thinking of them, working memory is an active process, a mental chalk board where we hold and process all the information we need to access at any given time.

"Our brains have a finite capacity for juggling a lot of information at once," explained Linda Hecker, MEd, education specialist at Landmark College. Hecker says she helps her students understand the role of working memory by describing it as a table. When you have a lot of new information, it's easy to overload your "table" and things start falling off."

One of the challenges kids with working memory issues face, Dr. Cruger notes, is that their lapses can easily be misinterpreted as bad behavior. When

they fail to follow a set of instructions, they appear to be unmotivated or even oppositional, which can lead to conflict and accusations of not trying hard enough. Kids hate having to admit that they can't remember things, he adds, and they tend to try to minimize the amount of effort they put into things that don't yield positive results. And the criticism they get in turn is a disincentive for them to expend the extra energy it takes for them to keep track of what's expected of them.

Here are some suggestions to help your child. Observe your child carefully and figure out when and how often she starts to lose the thread. It will help you get a clearer picture of your child's capacity to hold information. Once you know where her limits lie, you'll be able to use that as a guide for giving effective directions.

For example, if you notice your child has a hard time following multi-step directions, try breaking tasks down into smaller, more manageable steps. For example, try focusing on one task at a time: "We're getting ready to have dinner soon. It's time to put your toys away. When you're finished, let me know and I'll tell you what to do next."

Helping kids get into routines is essential for helping with working memory. "When we're able to automate a task, it no longer requires working memory to function," said Hecker. "Remembering what to do next takes up cognitive workspace — and that's not necessary."

Be consistent: Find a routine that works and stick with it.

Be patient: Don't expect kids to get it right away, it takes time to build habits. Reminding and praising your child's efforts to stay on course will help her stick with the routine until it sinks in.

Use verbal and visual cues: Help kids internalize routines by adding verbal and visual backups.

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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THOMAS P. HALL
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"More than a meticulously researched chronicle of the disasters that shaped Fort Myers, this book details the historical moment of each blaze, creating a rich portrait of a community forged and tempered by fire. A must-read for anyone interested in area history, with riches for newcomers and experts alike." - Amy Bennett Williams

YOUR MUSEUM COMES **ALIVE!**



BAILEY-MATTHEWS
**NATIONAL
SHELL
MUSEUM**

ShellMuseum.org/ALIVE



WHAT'S NOW WHAT'S NEXT

Whether you're a long-time resident or a first-time visitor to Sanibel or Captiva, shells are probably on your mind. Your family delights in them at the beach. You might collect them to take home as souvenirs. Perhaps you've become one of our local shell experts!

AT THE BAILEY-MATTHEWS NATIONAL SHELL MUSEUM, WE KNOW THAT MOLLUSKS—THE MARVELOUS CREATURES THAT CREATE THE SHELLS—ARE AMAZING ANIMALS. THERE ARE MORE MOLLUSKS IN THE OCEAN THAN ALL THE FISH AND MARINE MAMMALS COMBINED. MOLLUSKS ARE A CRITICAL COMPONENT OF THE WORLD'S FOOD WEB—including OUR OWN. MANY ARE ENDANGERED AND MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW THEY EXIST.

However, when people meet mollusks, they fall in love with them. It may start with a love and appreciation for their beautiful shells, then through the Museum's educational platforms; that love grows for the living creatures themselves—the shell creators.

There is no other community in the world that is doing this work. There is no other community in the world that is as invested in the health of these mollusks—and the ocean—as our island friends. **That's why we started the *Alive!* campaign which will expand the Museum to include an innovative aquarium with all types of amazing mollusks, including octopus, cuttlefish, and squid.**

One of the most gratifying aspects of the *Alive!* campaign is the enormous and broad participation we have already seen. We've already raised nearly 60% of our fundraising goal. We are thrilled to report that we're celebrating breaking ground. Construction will take about six months, with an additional six months for aquarium and exhibit design and installation. We are on track to open the aquarium in early 2020.

Based on our momentum, it's clear that the Museum's focus on mollusks and our natural environment is greatly

inspiring others. There's real excitement: new people, new ideas, and new resources. It will transform the way we create informed and engaged environmental stewards. That's more important than ever. Great things will come of this!

We're grateful to our wonderful community for all that you have done to make *Alive!* an enormous success so far, and for all that you will do to help us meet remaining priorities in the coming months. You are helping the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum make a difference in our community, and around the world.

In the weeks that follow, look for the **WHAT'S NOW WHAT'S NEXT** column each week.

THIS IS YOUR MUSEUM AND WE WANT TO KEEP YOU UP-TO-DATE EVERY STEP OF THE WAY ALONG THIS JOURNEY!

DORRIE HIPSCHMAN
Executive Director

RICHARD JOHNSON
Campaign Cabinet Chair



NAUTILUS PHOTO: STEF (CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)



THE NEW AQUARIUM: FAQ

WHY SANIBEL?

- Sanibel is the shelling capital of the world.
- Sanibel is the only place whose identity, laws, and people have made shells—and the animals that create them—part of the very fabric of our community. We led the world when we passed the first-ever live shelling ban in 1994 and we have been protecting these animals ever since.
- The world will look to Sanibel as the leader and expert in live mollusks. We will preserve, care for, breed, and share these animals with the world. The work is just beginning. So little is still known about these creatures.
- Sanibel's local mission is now global. We are reaching out to the world—opening the minds of museum visitors and beachgoers, and spreading a passion for shells to a love for the animals that create them and the ocean they live in.

HOW WILL MY FAMILY BENEFIT?

- Sanibel families will enjoy a mollusk aquarium unequalled anywhere else in the world.
- These animals will surprise, delight, and entertain family members of all ages while they learn our important lessons of environmental and animal stewardship.

WHERE DO WE START?

- FIRST: We start here. People come to Sanibel because of our shells and "shell brand."
- AND: 9 out of 10 people don't know that a shell was part of a living animal.
- FACT: If you don't know a creature exists, you can't help to save it.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- FIRST: Create a unique aquarium: the first mollusk menagerie.
- AND: The diversity of these animals from all over the world is beyond belief.
- AND: Enable people to "meet" mollusks eye-to-eye, nose-to-syphon.
- FACT: It's an emotional, life-changing experience.

HOW WILL IT MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

- FIRST: Once you've learned that an animal exists, you can't forget!
- AND: We will add educational programs to complete the experience.
- AND: We will connect people, mollusks, and ocean stewardship.
- FACT: To save something—even the world—you have to emotionally care about it. That's the change we will make every day, every visitor, every time.

WHAT IS THE MOST COMMON VISITOR COMMENT AFTER A MUSEUM VISIT?

"WOW, I will never look at the beach in the same way again. You've opened up a whole new world for me."

WILL THIS BE GOOD FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT?

Yes. The Museum's vision is to connect people to the natural world around them. Our residents and visitors are more connected to shells than are people anywhere else in the world—by extending that connection to shells AND the living animals, we change perceptions of our natural world.

WILL THIS BE GOOD FOR KIDS?

Yes! The aquarium will educate, delight, inspire, and thrill kids of all ages. And, the revenue generated by the addition of the aquarium will enable the Museum to take our mobile educational programs to more schools throughout Lee County.

MAKITANI (CC BY-NC-SA 2.0)





HOODED CUTTLEFISH BY SILKE BARON (CC BY 2.0)

WILL THIS BE GOOD FOR OUR ECONOMY?

Yes. The Museum has a \$1.6 million annual budget. We employ more than 20 people and spend about \$1.3 million in our local economy. The addition of the aquarium will sustain this, benefiting our community.

WILL THE PROJECT BRING MORE VISITORS TO SANIBEL?

The Museum does no off-island advertising. We encourage people who are already on the island to learn more about our wonderful sanctuary island and the need to preserve its wildlife, waters, and beaches.

WILL THE PROJECT CAUSE MORE TRAFFIC?

The Museum does not bring traffic to the island, and we persuade visitors to get off the road and spend several hours in the Museum. Even on our busiest days, we have plenty of parking.

WILL THE MUSEUM EXPAND OR REQUIRE MORE LAND?

No. All improvements will be within the existing developed area. The Museum’s footprint will remain the same.

WILL THE MUSEUM HAVE TO BE CLOSED DURING CONSTRUCTION?

We will have to be closed for a couple of weeks, but we expect to be operational during most of the construction phase.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IN A HURRICANE OR BAD WEATHER?

The building improvements will be built to current hurricane standards. The aquarium will have a generator for animal life support in the event of a power failure.

HOW WILL WE AFFORD IT?

The Museum is raising funds for the project. Once operational, the new facilities pay for themselves and can be used to underwrite programs.

HOW CAN I HELP?

Call Executive Director, Dorrie Hipschman or Assistant Director, Melanie Moraga at 239-395-2233.



“We have the opportunity before us to transform the way we teach residents and visitors about the ocean and our local habitat. Caring for the environment is important for each and every one of us. The aquarium addition will help us inspire the next wave of ocean leaders!”

—Chris Davison, Campaign Cabinet Member and Board Past President



“Most people do not know mollusks are the creators of the beautiful shells found on our beaches. Exhibits can go a long way to educate, but seeing live animals in the Museum’s aquarium will solidify the importance of these amazing creatures.”

—Richard Johnson, Campaign Cabinet Chair



“The aquarium expansion will improve the Museum’s opportunity to connect children with the natural world through their love of seashells. It will help bring the Museum’s mission to life!”

—Holli Martin, Board President

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Chairman Joins FSW's Insurance Advisory Board

Dan Dannenhauer, CPCU, chairman of Five County Insurance Agency, has joined Florida SouthWestern State College's Insurance Advisory Board for the School of Business Administration.

FSW recently announced their partnership with the Florida Association of Insurance Agents (FAIA) workforce development to promote risk management and insurance associate degree programs. Dannenhauer is one of the local community's independent insurance agency owners supporting this program through providing internship and mentorship opportunities for students enrolled in the program. Dannenhauer also serves on FAIA's Good Works Fund committee which raises money to support the state college insurance degree programs and provide scholarships to students.

Dannenhauer established Five County Insurance in 1982 and serves customers with insurance coverage for home, business, auto and life. Five County is a family owned and operated insurance agency, representing over 20 of the nation's top carriers.

Dannenhauer graduated from the University of Miami with a bachelor's degree in business administration. He holds the CPCU designation and 2/20,



Dan Dannenhauer photo provided

2/18 and 1/20 licenses for the State of Florida and often serves as an expert witness. He was the recipient of the National IIABA Presidents Award for Exemplary Leadership and Volunteer Activities in 2007 and is a member and past chairman of FAIA and continues to serve on the FAIA's PAC committee. He is also a member of the Lee Building Industry Association, United Way Keel Club, CREW Land and Water Trust and has been a member of the Merchant Marines since 1997.✱

DEAN'S LIST

Estero native Kylie Nelson was recently named to the Dean's List for the 2018 fall semester at Dickinson State University in Dickinson, North Carolina.

Fort Myers native Gavin Meade has been named to the Dean's List for the 2018 fall semester at Hamilton College in Clinton, New York.

Meade, a junior majoring in neuroscience, is a graduate of

Canterbury School.

Cape Coral native Francis Ferdinand has been named to the Dean's List for the 2018 fall semester at Roger Williams University in Bristol, Rhode Island.

Fort Myers native Blake O'Neill has been named to the Dean's List for the Fall 2018 term at Elmira College in Elmira, New York.✱

For more information, visit www.schoolchoiceweek.com/multimedia.✱

From page 1

Outdoor Concert

Caloosahatchee. A cash bar and light appetizers from Pinchers and The Marina at Edison Ford will be available. A limited number of seats will be provided. Guests are encouraged to bring a folding chair as well as a jacket or blanket.

Cost is \$20 for Edison Ford members and \$25 for non-members. Advance tickets may be purchased at www.edisonfordwinterstates.org. A limited number of tickets will be available at the door for \$30 for members and non-members.

The Edison Ford Winter Estates is located at 2350 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers.✱

Republican Women To Hold Dinner Meeting


Lee Republican Women Federated will hold its February dinner meeting at Pinchers – The Marina at Edison Ford on Monday, February 11. Social begins at 5:15 p.m. with dinner and program to follow.

K. Carl Smith, the author of *Frederick Douglass Republicans: The Movement to Re-Ignite America's Passion for Liberty*, will be the guest speaker for the February's program. Cost is \$25.


Pinchers – The Marina at Edison Ford is located at 2360 West First Street in Fort Myers. To RSVP, visit www.leerepublicanwomen.com or contact Wren Morefield at 270-210-1284 or wrenspet@hotmail.com before Thursday, February 7 at noon.✱



K. Carl Smith photo provided



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Superior Interiors

Accent Prone



by Trinetta Nelson

So, what is “accent furniture,” and what can it mean in your home décor?

Clearly, accent furniture suffers from an identity crisis as it is frequently lumped into the “occasional

furniture” category. But accent is not occasional – never has been, never will be.

Accent furniture celebrates individualism. It doesn’t want to match and is contemptuous of hanging about in sets or suites of furniture. It stands apart, not in pairs. This individualistic trait distinguishes accent from occasional furniture, which is designed to blend in and match. Occasional is typically plural, as in two end tables, a cocktail table and a sofa table that match or a suite of bedroom furniture, all detailed and finished exactly alike. Accent pieces exist to break up this monotony by adding that hot spot where there is none.

When carefully selected, the perfect piece can create bright and interesting spots in every room of the home. The category includes chests, tables, benches, chairs, console cabinets, secretaries, wine (social) cabinets, headboards and etageres.

Accent furniture commands attention and usually is the focal point in any

room. Often colorful, these pieces can be hand-painted or crafted from exotic woods, fossil stones, sea grasses, various metals, hammered copper, glass, acrylic, driftwood, tiles, animal skins, or reclaimed woods. At last fall’s International Home Furnishings Market in High Point, North Carolina, we saw many accent tables upholstered in fabrics, leathers and shark skin. Most every furniture showroom we visited offered an extensive array of accent pieces – unique, fun and functional.

If there are rooms in our homes that haven’t changed in years, that still function well but don’t excite, maybe it’s time for a fabulous accent piece to liven things up a bit. Become prone to accents.

Trinetta Nelson is an interior designer on Sanibel/Captiva Islands and can be reached at linda@coindecaden.com.✱

Continental Women’s Club

The Continental Woman’s Club will hold its next luncheon meeting at The Hideaway Country Club on Thursday, February 7 at 11:30 a.m.

The program will be Edible Landscape presented by Adrienne Diaz, a Lee County master gardener and owner of Miss Potters Place. Cost to attend is \$22.

The club will also hold its annual fundraising Fashion Show at Heritage Palms on Monday, March 18.

The Hideaway Country Club is located at 5670 Trailwinds Drive in Fort Myers. Call 691-7561 for more information.✱

Financial Focus

Which 401(k) Plan Is Right For You?



by Jennifer Basey

For many years, employees of companies that offered 401(k) plans only faced a couple of key decisions – how much to contribute and how to allocate their dollars among

the various investment options in their plan. But in recent years, a third choice has emerged: the traditional versus Roth 401(k). Which is right for you?

To begin with, you need to understand the key difference between the two types of 401(k) plans. When you invest in a traditional 401(k), you put in pre-tax dollars, so the more you contribute, the lower your taxable income. Your contributions and earnings grow tax-deferred until you begin taking withdrawals, which will be taxed at your ordinary tax rate. With a Roth 401(k), the situation is essentially reversed. You contribute after-tax dollars, so you won’t lower your taxable income, but withdrawals of contributions and earnings are tax-free at age 59 ½, as long as you’ve held the account at least five years.

So, now that you’ve got the basics of the two types of 401(k) plans, which should you choose? There’s no one right answer for everyone. You essentially need to ask yourself these questions: When do you want to pay taxes? And what will your tax rate be in the future?

If you’re just starting out in your career, and you’re in a relatively low income tax bracket, but you think you might be in a higher one when you retire, you might want to consider the

Roth 401(k). You’ll be paying taxes now on the money you earn and contribute to your Roth account, but you’ll avoid being taxed at the higher rate when you start taking withdrawals. Conversely, if you think your tax rate will be lower when you retire, you might be more inclined to go with the traditional 401(k), which allows you to avoid paying taxes on your contributions now, when your tax rate is high.

Of course, you can see the obvious problem with these choices – specifically, how can you know with any certainty if your tax bracket will be lower or higher when you retire? Many people automatically assume that once they stop working, their tax liabilities will drop, but that’s not always the case. Given their sources of retirement income from investment accounts and Social Security, many people see no drop in their tax bracket once they retire.

Since you can’t see into the future, your best move might be to split the difference, so to speak. Although not all businesses offer the Roth 401(k) option, many of those that do will allow employees to divide their contributions between the Roth and traditional accounts. If you chose this route, you could enjoy the benefits of both, but you still can’t exceed the total annual 401(k) contribution limit, which for 2019 is \$19,000, or \$25,000 if you’re age 50 or older.

You may want to consult with your tax advisor before making any decisions about a Roth or traditional 401(k) – or Roth and traditional 401(k) – but in the final analysis, these are positive choices to make, because a 401(k), in whatever form, is a great way to save for retirement. Try to take full advantage of it.

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.✱

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From page 1

Collaboratory

ACL Railroad Depot in downtown Fort Myers.

“I wrote the play specifically for this historical location,” said Brock. “And it’s also influenced by the mission of the foundation, as it celebrates community and inclusivity.”

As with other Ghostbird productions, this play involves original music, songs, dance, soundscape and spoken word. “We designed the play to take place outside the Collaboratory,” said director Barry Cavin, “where the original depot remains intact. We want to use as much of the old station as possible, and then fill it with light and sound and movement.”

Two newcomers to Ghostbird are taking lead roles. Sharon Isern will play Mother, the Chechen refugee, and Josh Needle plays Sam, the luckless commuter. “What’s cool in the play,”

said Needle, “is that Mother and Sam never meet, but their lives are connected.”

For Isern, an FGCU professor of biology, this is her stage debut. “I’m more than out of my comfort zone,” said Isern, “but we have only one life to experience what we can. I love it that the play is also about that simple message.”

The cast also includes past Ghostbird performers Dan De La Rosa, Katelyn Gravel, Scott Michael, Kaleena Rivera, Megan Shindler and Terry Tincher. Victor Ballo and Philip Heubeck composed original music, and dancer Olivia Curtalo will have featured performances.

Tickets are \$20 per adult and \$10 per student. The run time of the show is under 90 minutes. The play is not suitable for children.

The Collaboratory is located at 2031 Jackson Street in downtown Fort Myers. For tickets or more information, visit www.ghostbirdtheatrecompany.org.✱

Big Brothers Big Sisters Celebrate Mentoring Month

Longstanding studies show long-term, one-to-one, staff-supported volunteer mentoring works. During National Mentoring Month this January, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast is honoring all who make up their successful community – parents, volunteers, staffers and donors who work together – to make a mentoring match strong, enduring and successful.

Behind every successful mentoring match is a team of selfless, dedicated believers. Of course, there's the volunteers who makes time in their schedule to commit to helping a child reach their full potential. There's the parent or guardian, most often a single mom or grandmother who courageously seeks support to give her child every opportunity to succeed. Then there's the staff person, a professional who uses facts from interviews, references, experience and intuition to match the right child and family with the right volunteer. And behind every relationship are the donors, whose financial resources make it possible for our mentors, mentees and parents to get the ongoing support, guidance and resources that help them establish and maintain the kind of dialogue, communication and understanding that are behind Big Brothers Big Sisters' successful long-term one-to-one



Little Brother Matthew Roig spending time with his Big Brother and Sarasota County Sheriff Tom Knight

photo courtesy Sarasota County Sheriff's Office

mentoring relationships.

This month, volunteers are being honored for being Defenders of Potential. Parents and guardians are being thanked for their trust and commitment to their children as are Big Brothers Big Sisters staff and donors.

"In my 32 years I've encountered a lot of youth who are kind of lost and who are really good kids. They are looking for someone to spend some time with them. And not a lot of time.

Just a little bit of time. The value that it brings to that youth, I believe keeps them from encountering people like me and encountering my deputies. I believe the value of Big Brothers Big Sisters is much larger than anybody would ever recognize or know – purely for the fact that the youth coming out of the program usually go on to bigger endeavors in their life. It humbles you, and makes you realize the little bit of time your spending with the young man

is leaving an impact," said Big Brother and Sarasota County Sheriff Tom Knight.

Sheriff Knight's Little Brother Matthew Roig says this about his Big Brother. "Before I met Tom, I didn't get out very much. He's definitely opened up a lot more opportunities for me. You know, just to be more outgoing in life, it has definitely changed me for the better. I know that we're going to be friends for a long time."

For over 50 years, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast has been matching youth in meaningful, enduring, professionally supported mentoring relationships with adult volunteers who defend their potential and help them achieve their biggest possible futures. Big Brothers Big Sisters' evidence-based approach is designed to create positive youth outcomes, including educational success, avoidance of risky behaviors, higher aspirations, greater confidence and improved relationships. This past year, Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast has served over 1,800 youth across a 10 county footprint. Learn how to get involved at www.bbbssun.org.

President's List

Fort Myers native Nicole Fortner-Rodriguez was recently named to the President's List at Jacksonville State University. Fortner-Rodriguez is a sophomore who is undecided in her major.

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Pay On Death Account Fail



by Craig R. Hersch, Florida Bar Board Certified Wills, Trusts & Estates Attorney; CPA

Not to disparage bank employees, but many of my clients have been told by tellers, managers and other bankers to designate their accounts as “Pay on Death” to their beneficiaries rather than spending the money to create a revocable living trust. While a Pay on Death (“POD”) account will generally avoid the probate process, those accounts are not ideal for those with any degree of net worth.

PODs may name a single or multiple parties, but a beneficiary is not the same as an account signatory. A beneficiary is the person named as one to whom sums on deposit in an account are payable on request after the death of the account holder. Generally speaking, if the account owner becomes incapacitated, the POD beneficiaries may not access the account funds for the account owner’s benefit.

In which case, the account owner should have a validly drawn, current durable power of attorney that would specifically enable the agent named in that document to handle pay on death accounts. Absent such a document, the account funds may not be accessed. The family’s choice would then be to head to guardianship court, which takes time and is expensive.

Further, the financial institution’s responsibility is to pay the account to the beneficiaries upon demand at the account owner’s death. If the account owner has a surviving spouse who would have rights to the account either as someone who contributed amounts to it, or under state law under a spousal elective share interest, then that controversy could very well end up in litigation.

The account may suffer if one of the owners is sued, then the funds in the account may become subject to a judgment lien. This could wipe out some, or possibly all, of the account.

If the original owner of a POD account adds one child as a beneficiary but has other children that he wants to share in the account, he may unintentionally disinherit the other children. If one of his children predeceases, the account may nevertheless go through that child’s probate. If one of the beneficiaries is a minor, a court ordered process may be necessary for the bank or financial institution to make a distribution of the account until the minor is an adult.

Upon the account owner’s death, the account cannot be used to settle the decedent’s final affairs, or be used to satisfy ongoing expenses that might be

necessary to maintain a home, business or other asset. The account is not available to pay the last taxes of the decedent.

All of these problems may be alleviated through the use of a revocable trust. When you create a revocable trust and transfer your assets into the trust, you remain in control of your assets. When you become incapacitated, the person or institution that you’ve named to serve as your successor trustee steps in seamlessly to handle your financial affairs. Upon your death, the assets in the trust avoid the probate process.

I’ve had multiple clients who have already established revocable trusts have their bankers or financial firms instruct them to place their accounts as POD. This is absurd. When a client has already created a revocable trust, POD accounts may do nothing more than bypass the client’s express wishes and serve to complicate his trust administration.

In one recent case that I’ve handled, my client – unbeknownst to me – created several POD accounts, one for each of her grandchildren. Late in life, she became ill. One of her daughters, not realizing that the accounts each named different grandchildren as beneficiaries, drained an account fully to pay for the client’s medical and nursing home care before accessing a different account.

The result of her actions was to disinherit some of the grandchildren, since their accounts were consumed for their grandmother’s care. The other accounts that weren’t consumed were eventually distributed to the other grandchildren, who chose not to share their inheritance.

In yet another case, a client named her son as a POD beneficiary. At the time of the client’s death, son was undergoing a divorce. The account sums ended up included in alimony calculations. The frustrating aspect of this case was that the client had a revocable trust that was drafted specifically to protect the son’s inheritance from a divorcing spouse.

I could go on. I hope that you now realize that for those with even a modest net worth, POD accounts are not the best estate planning vehicle. Instead, talk to a qualified estate planning attorney to establish a proper estate plan.

©2019 Craig R. Hersch. Learn more at www.sbshlaw.com.✧

From page 15

Choral Festival

Florida for Sing Out!

As a composer, Morales has served as the composer-in-residence for the “Contare” project, designed to bring Mexican and American cultures together through music, sponsored by VocalEssence, a chorus based in Minneapolis, Minnesota. He is currently serving as composer-in-residence with Chicago a Cappella, based in Chicago, Illinois, and he conducts several choirs at the A.C. Mateo Oliva Oliva, in Naolinco, Veracruz.

The Symphonic Chorale invites all area singers ages 15 and older to join them in the festival chorus. No

audition is required and registration to participate is \$50 for adults while students may register for free, thanks to support from an anonymous foundation. Registration covers all costs, including music, a T-shirt, water, snacks, and a hearty lunch on Saturday. A discount is available for groups of five or more from the same organization. There is no admission charge to attend the festival concert.

New Hope Presbyterian Church is located at 10051 Plantation Road in Fort Myers. For more information and to register, visit www.symphonicchorale.org, email contact@symphonicchorale.org or call 560-5695. Free admission tickets to the concert may be printed on the website.✧

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Joanne Semmer of the Ostego Bay Foundation holds a check presented by CMCS Summerset Vice Commodore Alan Fiske

photos provided

Sailing Regatta Proceeds Are Distributed

Each year for the past 53 years, the Caloosahatchee Marching and Chowder Society (CMCS) has hosted the Summerset Sailing Regatta, involving sailing clubs from Florida's

west coast converging on Fort Myers Beach for a weekend of racing and social events.

Proceeds of these events go to several local nonprofits that impact youth groups in the same communities.

CMCS Summerset Vice Commodore Allen Fiske says boats pay entry fees and sponsorships are solicited to offset costs. Fiske said it is done "so that we can end up with a profit that is



CMCS Summerset Vice Commodore Alan Fiske presents a check to Stephanie Webb of the Edison Sailing Center

distributed back to the communities in the same percentages as where the entries and sponsorships came from."

The 53rd annual Summerset Regatta included 38 boats, and \$10,900 was distributed to young sailors and marine enthusiasts.

The proceeds breakdown is as follows:

\$1,500 to the Ostego Bay Foundation for youth marine education

\$4,000 to the Edison Sailing Center for youth sailing travel grants

\$4,000 set aside for 20 Youth Learn-to-Sail Scholarships at the Edison Sailing Center

\$300 to Charlotte Harbor Youth Sailing

\$300 to Learn-to-Sail Inc.

\$300 to Charlotte Harbor

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\$500 to Naples Community Sailing*

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NFL Playoff Teams Earn Much Less Than Other Postseason Pro Squads



by Ed Frank

It's a well-known fact that the National Football League is a billion-dollar-plus business.

Surprisingly, however, that the NFL playoffs are not that profitable for the 12 teams that reach the playoffs. In fact, the four teams that exit after the first round could actually lose money.

A long playoff run in baseball, basketball and hockey can generate \$20 to 30 million in revenue with 50-percent profit margins.

NFL playoff teams collect a fraction of that amount as expenses and player incentives pile up.

You seldom hear that fact as all NFL teams already make big money thanks to about \$5 billion in media money from ESPN, FOX, NBC and CBS. For lack of a better term, the NFL model is a Socialist model. The NFL splits revenue evenly among all 32 teams from national media and licensing deals. That includes doling out equal portions of gate receipts. That model continues into the playoffs.

This is not the case in Major League Baseball, the National Hockey League and the National Basketball League Association.

For example, a team like the New England Patriots can generate \$10 million in gate receipts for a playoff game, but they don't see a dime of that as it flows to the league. Each playoff team does get a stipend for expenses such as travel and to pay

for players' contract incentives. And the home team does get to keep receipts for parking and concessions.

Remember there are only 11 playoff games, including the Super Bowl, in the NFL. Baseball playoff games can run 40 or more games and basketball and hockey as high as 80 to 85 games.

Last year, each player on the Super Bowl Champion Philadelphia Eagles was awarded a winner's share of \$115,000, the losing New England Patriots, \$57,000.

By comparison, in 2017, the playoff pool for the champion Houston Astros split a record \$84.5 million.

These facts are not written to make anyone feel sorry for the billion-dollar team owners and the millionaire team players. It's just a fact of the wide divergence in playoff money between the National Football League and the other professional leagues.

A Familiar Name To Manage Fort Myers Miracle In 2019

Toby Gardenhire, son of longtime Minnesota Twins manager Ron Gardenhire, this week was named manager of the Fort Myers Miracle, the high A farm team of the Twins.

The younger Gardenhire, in just his second year as a professional baseball manager, is moving up after a successful rookie year as manager of the Twins low A Cedar Rapids Kernels.

Gardenhire spent seven years in the Twins farm system as a player and five years coaching in college baseball.

Ramon Borrego, who managed the Miracle to the Florida State League Championship last season, was promoted to manager of the Twins new Double A affiliate Pensacola Blue Wahoos.

The elder Gardenhire is now the manager of the Detroit Tigers.✧

Ownership Change For Miracle Baseball

The Fort Myers Miracle Baseball Club announced recently that Andrew Kaufmann (Kaufy Baseball, LLC) closed the acquisition of the controlling ownership interest in the team and will be the new managing owner, effective immediately.

Kaufmann takes over for Jason Hochberg (SJS Beacon Baseball, LLC), who will continue as a minority partner in the club. Chris Peters will also remain as president and general manager. Under Hochberg's leadership, the Miracle won two championships in five years, most recently in 2018.

"As a lifelong baseball enthusiast, I am fired up for the opportunity to not only continue the tradition of excellence that this club has enjoyed since its inaugural season in 1926, but also to invest in new ways to enhance the fan experience for years to come," Kaufmann said. "We plan to continue to make Hammond Stadium the number one destination for affordable family fun in Southwest

Florida."

The Miracle will continue as the Class-A Advanced Affiliate of the Minnesota Twins and to assist the Twins with Spring Training operations. Kaufmann expressed his thanks for their support and longstanding partnership since 1992. Hochberg is also optimistic about the future and happy to remain on board.

"It has been a true honor to own the Miracle since 2014," Hochberg said. "The fans will love Andrew, and he will be a frequent presence at beautiful Hammond Stadium. Lee County and the Twins have been, and will continue to be, tremendous partners of the Miracle. I am excited to see the club reach new heights under Andrew's strong leadership and grateful to remain a part of the team."

The Miracle will celebrate their 2018 FSL Championship in 2019 with the best promotional schedule in their history. The number one focus will be on fun and the fan experience.

"I could not be more excited about the future of the Miracle organization," Peters said. "We have a solid foundation in place, and Southwest Florida continues to be one of the fastest growing areas in the nation. Our potential is unlimited."

Kaufmann, who is originally from

New York, currently makes his home in Jacksonville, Florida. He and his family plan to live in Bonita Springs for most of the baseball season.

"The Twins and Miracle have been partners in Lee County for over 25 years, and we welcome Andrew Kaufmann to that partnership," Twins Director of Minor League Operations Jeremy Zoll said. "We are excited by Andrew's ideas

for Twins and Miracle fans in Southwest Florida. Baseball games are back in Fort Myers starting February 23 with our first spring training game, and we are ready to work with Andy and the Miracle staff all throughout the baseball season."

Miracle Opening Night is Thursday, April 4 against Charlotte at Hammond Stadium.✧

SPORTS QUIZ

1. In 2017, Pittsburgh's Josh Bell set the National League record for most homers in a season by a rookie switch-hitter (26). Who had held the previous mark?
2. Two Texas Rangers pitchers tossed a no-hitter during the 1970s. Name either one.
3. Between 2007 and 2017, how many of the 11 Heisman Trophy winners were either freshmen or sophomores?
4. Name the last second-round NBA draft pick before Milwaukee's Malcolm Brogdon in 2018 to win the NBA Rookie of the Year award.
5. Who took over as head coach of the Detroit Red Wings after Scotty Bowman retired following a Stanley Cup championship in 2002?
6. In 2018, Joey Logano won the NASCAR Cup Series championship while driving a Ford. Who was the last Ford driver before him to do it?
7. In what year did tennis great Rod Laver win his first Wimbledon men's singles title?

ANSWERS

1. Atlanta's Chipper Jones, with 23 homers in 1995. 2. Jim Bibby (1973) and Bert Blyleven (1977). 3. Six. 4. New York's Willis Reed, in 1965. 5. Dave Lewis. 6. Kurt Busch, in 2004. 7. It was 1961.

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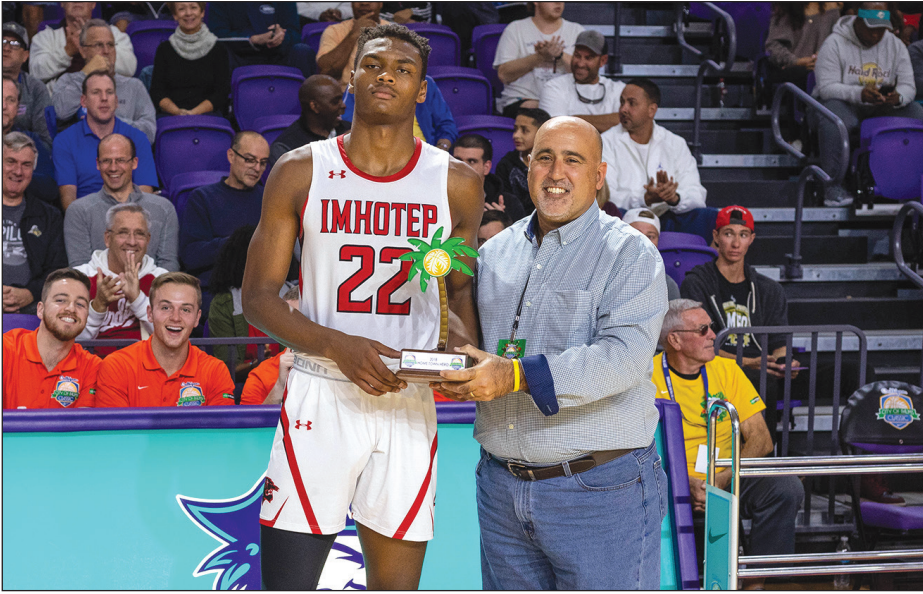


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Elijah Taylor of Imhotep Charter High School in Philadelphia won the Hometown Hero essay contest award photos provided

City Of Palms Classic Results Stir National Rankings

The ripple effects of an upset-filled 46th annual Culligan City of Palms are still being felt throughout the country. After more than 13,000 people watched the six-day event at Suncoast Credit Union Arena, a top-three attendance figure in tournament history, the national rankings have taken on a much different look.

Every team in both the *USA Today* Super 25 and MaxPreps Top 25 moved up or down by at least one spot in the first rankings issued by the respective polls after the tournament. By contrast, the top 11

teams in the MaxPreps poll issued January 3 remained in the precise order from the week before, despite a full slate of holiday tournament action. That was also true of the top 12 teams in the January 2 *USA Today* Super 25.

"There's a reason so many people come from all across the country to watch the Culligan City of Palms Classic. No tournament has nearly as much impact on the national scene," said John Naylor, the event's executive director.

While a few teams moved up or down in the January 7 *USA Today* Super 25, 11 of the top 12 teams stayed the same, with nine of the top 10 teams in the January 7 MaxPreps standing pat from last week.

The rankings prove the value of wearing the City of Palms crown. McEachern of Powder Springs, Georgia

Chart Reading Class Offered

America's Boating Club and the San Carlos Bay Sail & Power Squadron will be conducting its popular Local Waters Chart Reading class on Saturday, January 26, February 23 and March 23 from 8 a.m. to noon.

The one-day class, held at the squadron classroom located at 16048 San Carlos Boulevard in Fort Myers, 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 and how to get to where they want to go and how to take bearings.

Since there are a very limited number of charts in the classroom, students are strongly urged to bring chart 11427 to class. Charts are best purchased online from Ocean Grafix. Be sure to order the mapfold version of 11427.

Cost is \$45 for one student and \$70 for two people sharing the materials. It includes a divider and a plotter. Students can register on line at www.scbps.com or call 466-4040 and leave a message.✱



Tom Massolio of Charlotte High captured the Steve Bumm Coach's Award

rose from No. 7 to No. 1 in the MaxPreps rankings and from No. 10 to No. 2 in the *USA Today* poll after winning the title. University School of Fort Lauderdale plummeted all the way out of the MaxPreps poll from No. 5 after failing to defend its championship. *USA Today* had University School at No. 23 going into the City of Palms and hasn't ranked the Sharks since.

Tournament organizers have already begun planning to make even more of an impact next time, when the event returns to a Wednesday-through-Monday format. The 47th annual Culligan City of Palms Classic will take place from December 18 to 23 at the Suncoast Credit Union Arena.

By then, many of the players from the just-completed event will be starring for top-flight college teams.

Awards that were handed out at the 46th annual tournament include:

Hustle Award – Paulie Stramaglia, Mountain Brook in Mountain Brook, Alabama

Hometown Hero (essay contest winner) – Elijah Taylor, Imhotep Charter in Philadelphia

Steve Bumm Coach's Award – Tom Massolio, Charlotte High in Punta Gorda

Team Sportsmanship – Paul VI of Fairfax, Virginia

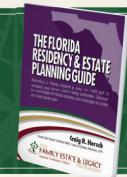
Visit www.cityofpalmsclassic.com to see tournament results and stats.✱

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Tuesday, February 5

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

First Assembly of God Church
4701 Summerlin Rd
Fort Myers, FL 33919

Wednesday, February 6

2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Sanibel Community House
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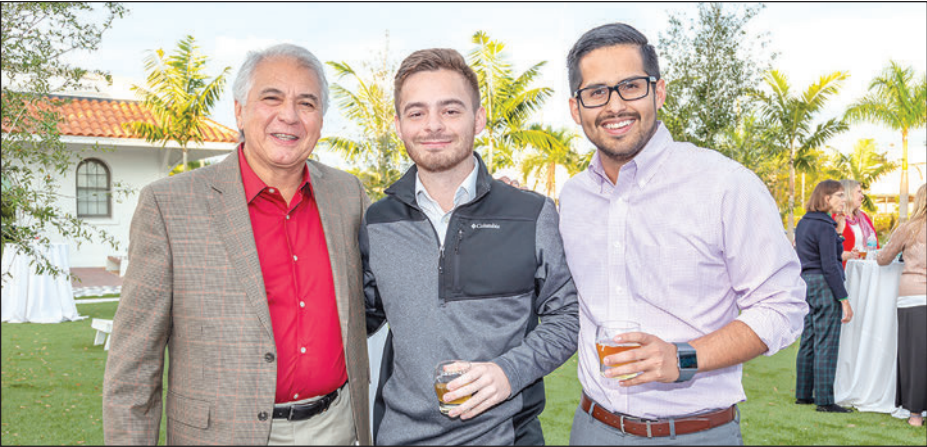
Community Foundation Hosts Local Nonprofits At Collaboratory



From left, Ann and Tom Smoot with Amy Turner

photos provided

The Southwest Florida Community Foundation recently hosted more than 60 local nonprofit leaders, their board and team members for a holiday party at Collaboratory. The event included a presentation on the foundation’s nonprofit capacity survey as well as a holiday party including brews from Millennial Brewing Company, refreshments, entertainment, cornhole and a local food truck.*



From left, Bob daFrota, Austin Brooks and Luis Leon



From left, Francoise Oslin, Marie F. Morisseau and Jessica Yarab



From left, Dotty St. Amand, Beverly Burke and Janelle Beaber



Gregory and Warren Van Kirk



From left, Gary Bonvillian, Sarah Owen and Don Payton



From left, Kara Ragan, Tessa LeSage and Joanne Muller

Bingo Fundraiser For Children's Advocacy

The Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) of Southwest Florida is holding its 3rd annual Bling & Bags Bingo fundraiser at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on Wednesday, April 3 from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. The night's special caller will be Lee County Tax Collector Larry Hart, who also serves on CAC's board.

Tickets are \$50 per person, which includes 16 bingo game cards for a chance to win fine jewelry and designer handbags, heavy hors d'oeuvres, silent auction items and raffle baskets. Tickets must be purchased in advance by going to www.eventbrite.com.

Sponsorships are available to reach an audience of 300 college-educated professional and executive-level women from Lee County who are the household decision-makers and influencers. Why pass up this opportunity to put your products and services in front of this desirable audience? Sponsor levels range from \$500 to \$5,000. For details, call Lisa at 939-2808 or email lrizzio@cac-swfl.org.

Since 1981, Children's Advocacy Center of Southwest Florida, Inc. (CAC), a United Way partner agency, has worked to improve the lives of children and their families through a coordinated response to child abuse and neglect, offering them a safe and friendly environment in which to heal. CAC provides abuse determination services as well as therapeutic counseling, parenting education and prevention programs in Lee, Hendry, Glades and Charlotte counties. All services are provided free of charge.

Crowne Plaza Hotel is located at 13051 Bell Tower Drive in Fort Myers. For more information, call 939-2808 or visit www.cac-swfl.org.

Savvy Caregiver Program

The Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer's Resource Center, in conjunction with Grace Church will be hosting the Savvy Caregiver Program at Grace Church on Tuesdays, starting January 29 from 2 to 4 p.m. Grace Church has offered to provide free respite, for your loved one with memory impairment, while you attend the course (advanced registration is required for respite). Respite includes important socialization, music, art and on occasion pet therapy. Snacks are also provided.

This educational program is designed to train family caregivers in the basic knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to cope with the challenges of caring for a family member with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia.

Sessions are delivered in two-hour increments. There is no charge for this program and seating is limited. This

program is made possible through a grant from the Cape Coral Community Foundation.

Grace Church is located at 13 SE 21st Place in Cape Coral. To RSVP, which is needed by January 28, call the Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer's Resource Center at 437-3007.

A Light To Remember

The Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer's Resource Center and Ellie Fox will sponsor the 21st annual A Light to Remember at Bell Tower Shops Thursday, January 31 at 5:30 p.m.

A Light to Remember was created to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease and related memory impairments. The event will include a lighted display of luminaries purchased by families and friends in honor or remembrance of loved ones with Alzheimer's disease or related memory impairments. These luminaries will border the center court of the Bell Tower Shops with a special lighting ceremony at sunset. Luminaries may be purchased in advance for \$5 each by calling the Dubin Alzheimer's Resource Center at 437-3007.

The Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer's Resource Center's office is located at 12468 Brantley Commons Court in Fort Myers.

Bell Tower Shops is located at the corner of Daniels Parkway and U.S. 41. For more information about the luminary event and services offered by the Dubin Alzheimer's Resource Center, call 437-3007.

Alzheimer's Family Caregiver Presentation

The Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer's Resource Center, in collaboration with Florida Gulf Coast University, will present a family caregiver presentation, Enhancing Caregiving Skills Through OT Techniques and the Allen Cognitive Levels, at the center on Thursday, January 29 from 10 a.m. to noon.

Guest speaker Brigitte Belanger, DSc, OTR/L from Florida Gulf Coast University, will offer practical and concrete occupational therapy suggestions to develop a safe and productive living environment for those with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers. She will also speak on the use and value of the Allen Cognitive Levels Screen in determining functional cognition and optimal performance in order to enhance quality of life for both caregiver and the person with memory impairment.

The presentation is open to all family caregivers caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia and is designed for spouses, families or other primary caregivers.

The Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer's Resource Center is located at 12468

Brantley Commons Court in Fort Myers. To RSVP by January 28, contact Mary Freyre, RN, health education specialist at the Dubin Alzheimer's Resource Center, at 437-3007. Limited seating.

Series On Medical Breakthroughs Begins January 22

Shell Point kicks off its 4th annual Medical Breakthroughs & Discoveries series with a presentation by Dr. Shane Shapiro at the Village Church at Shell Point on Tuesday, January 22 at 7 p.m. This educational health care program, entitled Clinical Applications of Regenerative Medicine, is free and open to the public. For more information or to register, call 433-7936.

Dr. Shapiro is a nationally recognized physician and the medical director of the regenerative medicine therapeutics program at the Mayo Clinic Center for Regenerative Medicine. During the presentation, he will describe the current state of regenerative medicine applications available to patients in clinical practice. He will also debunk many of the myths and misleading information accompanying such treatments while highlighting legitimate progress in the field, such as the use of stem cells that may become available in the near future.

The Medical Breakthroughs



Shane Shapiro

photo provided

& Discoveries series is an annual community health care speaker program that serves as a resource for residents in the greater Fort Myers area. All events are free to the public and held in the Village Church auditorium on The Island at Shell Point, located at 15100 Shell Point Boulevard in Fort Myers. To learn more, visit www.legacysHELLpoint.org.

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dearRPharmacist

Hypothyroidism Yields Depression, Anxiety And OCD



by Suzy Cohen, RPh

Dear Readers: If you have hypothyroidism, it can cause depression or anxiety, or OCD. The medications used to treat the psychiatric disorders work temporarily at best, if at all because they don't address the

low thyroid hormone. Anxiety is sometimes overlooked and misdiagnosed. Anxiety can have many definitions and physical symptoms. For some, it could be defined as looping thoughts, heart racing, racing thoughts,

trembling, internal tremors, feeling nervous, having unnatural fears or constant worry. Failing to normalize your low thyroid hormone levels will make it harder, if not impossible for you to get well. There's a very strong correlation between psychiatric disorders and thyroid disease. Some of you who are hanging on by a thread with severe or suicidal depression will find solace in the fact that a simple, inexpensive thyroid medication (or supplement) could turn things around for you. You cannot trust your lab tests even if they say "normal." The reference ranges were based upon a sick population. If you are in the "normal" reference range, that's not saying a whole lot. I cover this in my book *Thyroid Healthy: Lose Weight, Look Beautiful and Live the Life You Imagine*. By the time it takes you to read the next paragraph below, someone else will have taken their own life. That's because

every 40 seconds someone commits suicide in the world, and completes it. If you associate depression as a problem that impacts older people like people who recall the sound of a typewriter click, the ringing of a telephone or disco... well, you're wrong. It affects children, adolescents and adults of any age. In fact, one in 33 children and one in eight adolescents (age range 10 to 19) have a diagnosis of clinical depression. Up to 60 percent of people with thyroid disease are 100 percent completely unaware of their condition. They assume they have some other condition that their physician has diagnosed them with, perhaps stress, high cholesterol, diabetes, bipolar, depression, anxiety, OCD, obesity, chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia or some other chronic illness or infection. If you have depression or anxiety, you might benefit from a trial run of thyroid medication. The type that's right for you deserves a thoughtful, accurate response

so I've written a longer version of this article, and you can receive it to your email by signing up for my free newsletter at www.suzycohen.com. In the meantime, it's safe to say I think that thyroid medication and/or dietary supplements are better than antidepressants? Impressive results from STAR*D Trial (Sequenced Treatment Alternatives to Relieve Depression) have confirmed this. You can also take thyroid medication or supplements, along with a prescription antidepressant. It's not either/or, it could be both. Talk to your doctor about what's right for you. Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention lithium and fish oils as other natural options for mood stabilization and neurotransmitter support. *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.*✱

Beautifulife: Forever Young



by Kay Casperson

Ican almost guarantee that some of you have heard over and over again, "you are not that old" or when you tell someone your age, they say, "no way, I would have never guessed that." This

is because some of you have learned to master the art of living your life based on how you think and feel, not necessarily how old you are. We all want to live in this world for as long as we are healthy and thriving, right? I believe that age is just a number and that your real age is how you feel, how you act, and ultimately what you want it to be or where you want it to stay. My Dad is going to be 84 this year, and he is still very active; in fact, busier than most people much younger than him. He looks good, is in good shape and has a terrific attitude and outlook. Staying active with his hobbies is essential to him, from bowling, hunting, fishing and golf to taking care of his home and his summer lake house. He helps to run a weekly wellness center at his church that feeds, clothes and provides care to hundreds of people in need every week. How does he do it, I often ask, and his advice might not be the norm for others. His diet does not follow what others would think to be healthy, from avoiding most vegetables, salads or fruits, to eating everything he likes including sweets, treats and pastries. He doesn't drink much water throughout the day and does not have a regular exercise program. He would say that his key to staying young and healthy is to continue to do things that you love to do, help others, surround yourself with family and good friends and say your prayers. Being forever young does not just mean paying attention to how you can continue to look young but rather to keep

your heart, mind and body all in balance so that you can stay vibrant, happy and healthy for as long as you can. I came up with a forever young package of skincare, vitamins and essential oils that work well in helping me stay vibrant and healthy, and also to be able to offer something that I believe in and use to my clients. I have learned in my life journey that there are so many other important factors in keeping that youthful feeling and staying vibrant and healthy above and beyond the products that you use. I have actually done some studies on the lives of several centenarians to find out what the best advice was for living to be 100 and beyond. What amazes me the most is that there is not a cookie cutter way to living longer, and the ideas that worked for some were completely different than others. There were, however, a few common suggestions that popped up regularly and here are some of my favorites: Be positive. Think about the good things that have happened in your life and focus on all the beautiful things that you can continue to look forward to. Stay active. Even though exercising was not a priority for most centenarians, keeping busy with projects and activities was good for the mind and body. Do everything in moderation. From eating to drinking to everything in between, many agreed upon enjoying most things without too much indulging. Keep interested. Continue to do the things you love to do for as long as you can. If you have to stop, replace it with something else that makes you happy. Help others. Get involved with an organization or give some of your time assisting others, and you will fill your heart with joy and continue to have a sense of accomplishment. Regularly connect with family and friends. Find every reason possible to stay close through phone calls, emails, social media or gatherings. Nothing replaces a hug now and then. Have faith. Being able to pray and give thanks for the years you have been blessed with and the ones to come was unanimous amongst the group for having more hope, less worry and continued happiness.

Overall, the thing I learned the most in exploring the lives of people that are aging is that there is not just one single piece of advice but many. I would suggest that you find what ultimately works for you, and get into a routine that you can continue to follow. Don't worry or pay attention to what others are doing, what age you are or how fast time is passing by. Instead, keep focused on the fact that in your heart and in your mind, you can stay forever young and live your best and most beautiful life.

My affirmation for you this week is: "I continue to love and cherish my life and know in my heart that I remain forever young." *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.*✱

Doctor and Dietician

Chronic Pain Healing In Our Community



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

We love talking with people and hearing their stories. Many people have been dealing with joint pain for so long, it has become part of how they must plan their days – and limits so much of their retirement enjoyment, their ability to work, or participation in travel or sports. Often, this results because they truly had no idea that other treatment options existed for their conditions. Is surgery really the only option? Pain pills for life? Just "deal" with it? Our bodies have amazing healing potential! When we take care of ourselves by staying active, eating real food and limiting our stress, we have an even better

chance to heal. But sometimes we need a little help! We recently experienced a very fun afternoon at the Community House speaking with people about regenerative options for pain, as well as ways to enhance our longevity using Blue Zone concepts. We used our musculoskeletal ultrasound machine to examine attendees and answer questions about a variety of chronic pain conditions, including frozen shoulder, low back pain, neck and thoracic pain, headaches, post-knee replacement pain, meniscus problems, thumb arthritis and spinal stenosis (a common diagnosis that is, interestingly, often incorrect). Most chronic pain is due to looseness in the support structures (ligaments/tendons) which leads to unstable joints and spine. At our clinic, Caring Medical in Fort Myers, we offer a treatment called prolotherapy that stimulates the body to produce the healing cells it needs to strengthen and tighten this looseness which results in pain resolution in most cases. If you would like to meet us and discuss your case, we're hosting another event with food, wine and raffle prizes on the evening of February 5. If you have medical questions that you'd like to ask in person, please join us. *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.*✱

PETS OF THE WEEK

photos provided

Lee County Domestic Animal Services

Bella And King

Hello, my name is Bella. I am a 6-year-old female rottweiler mix who is a chill girl that likes to hang out with my favorite volunteers. I like to get cozy with them on the benches in the play yards when I am not running around. The best part about me is that I am past the pesky puppy stage and will be your instant companion without the demands on your time of training a puppy.

My adoption fee is \$25.

Hi, I'm King. I'm a 6-month-old male pit bull mix that is a loveable pup looking for a devoted family for long walks, play time and to provide the occasional belly rub after a long day of being your faithful companion. Oh...cookies are important too. As you can see, I am healing from a case of demodex, but I am sure to be one handsome stud when all my fur comes back in.

My adoption fee is \$25.

Lee County Domestic Animal Services invites you to make Skip the Jog and Walk a Dog your New Year's resolution this year. Include pets as a



Bella ID# A764384



King ID# A764232

part of your New Year's plan and consider that a new pet can help you achieve many of the most popular goals set each year. The adoption fee for all dogs over six months will be just \$25 through January 31 to assist potential pet owners in finding a new exercise partner and best friend.

The shelter is open to the public Monday through Saturday at 5600 Banner Drive in Fort Myers. Adoptions are available 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For information, visit Lee County Domestic Animal Services at www.leegov.com/animalservices or call 533-7387.

Haven on Earth Animal League

Lily And Sylvia

Hi, I'm Lily! I'm a beautiful 2-year-old female tabby with a white bib. I have been fully vetted and brought up to date on all vaccines. My adoption fee is \$100. Come see me at Petco in Gulf Coast Town Center.

Hello, I'm Sylvia. Aren't I just adorable? I'm only 6 months old and a very sweet little girl. I'm currently staying with a foster family and would really like a home to call my own! My adoption fee is \$100 which includes vaccines and spaying.

We are being cared for by Haven on Earth Animal League. For more information,



Lily
call Diane at 860-833-4472 or email
havenonearthanimalleague@yahoo.com.



Sylvia
call Diane at 860-833-4472 or email
havenonearthanimalleague@yahoo.com.

PAWS Of Sanibel

Brava And Lucy

Two very unusual and beautiful sisters are up for adoption. One is tortoiseshell cat with white or calico features, while the other is a dilute tortoiseshell.



Brava

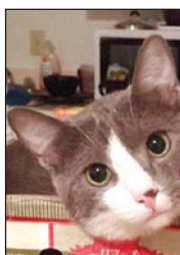


Lucy

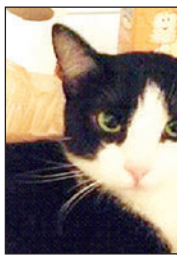
These photos do not do them justice, as they are much more adorable in person. Adopt one, or keep them together and adopt both. They are four and five months old. They come with complete vet check-up, all shots, tests, wormed, treated with flea preventative and spayed. Call Pam at PAWS at 472-4823 to adopt one or both.

Sonny And Cher

This is Sonny and Cher. Some of you may remember them. Three years ago, four kitties, the momma and three kittens



Sonny



Cher

were trapped between the Sunset Beach Resort and Lantana condominium on West Gulf Drive. All were adopted (Lana, Tanner, Sonny and Cher) to lovely people. However, Sonny and Cher's mom has reached a time in her life when she feels she must move in with family over on Pine Island. Unfortunately, in addition to her granddaughter being allergic, her son operates a business out of his home that is directly on Pine Island Road and the doors are always opening and closing, so it's not safe for kitties. These are very special kitties, and need to be together forever. Call Pam at 472-4823 if you can give these sweethearts a new home.

New Year's Kittens

Pictured are the three remaining PAWS kittens.

Donner, Cupid and Comet are so adorable.

Cupid, in the middle, is the only remaining female. These kittens are very sweet and now 10 weeks old. The only folks that came to see them left with two kittens. Maybe there's someone out there that will take home triplets. They are too cute to choose. Call Pam at 472-4823 to come spend time with these precious little babies.



Donner, Cupid and Comet



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 Harmonica Band	610-653-7940
Fort Myers Symphonc 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
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

APT OCCUPATIONS

- ACROSS
- 1 Ship parts

6 One in a veil

11 Very small: Prefix

15 Sealed, say

19 Early TV's Stu

20 Posteriors

21 Stick — in the water

22 Songwriter's creation

23 Martin the ticket collector?

26 Actor Bana or Stoltz

27 Pay to play poker

28 Game with Wild cards

29 Clinton the doctor?

31 Caught at a rodeo

33 Pollen lover

34 Hardly fresh

35 Worldwide

38 Ellington the Peppermint Pattie factory worker?

45 More greasy

49 Ending for Israel

50 Ilk

51 Car owners' org.

52 Kelly the minister?

54 "Let's go!"
- 55 Former Apple messaging software

57 See 64-Down

58 Primate studier

59 Benny the golfer?

61 Markey and Bagnold

63 Actor Hinds of 2017's "Justice League"

65 Negligent

66 Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand's purview

67 Bailey the philosopher?

72 Folder flap

75 Meal tie-on

76 Rice-based Spanish dish

77 Ivory's counterpart

79 Benatar the dairy owner?

85 Fuzzy stuff

87 Departure

88 Standoffish

89 Karmann — (bygone VW sports car)

90 Nolte the clockmaker?

92 Skeleton part

93 +

94 Ariz.-to-Kan. dir.
- 95 Girls in the family

96 Liotta the lamp designer?

100 Gets dilated

102 Basic deg. for designers

103 Supermodel Carangi or actress Scala

105 End profit

110 Behar the chef?

116 Airport stat

117 Hotel chain

118 Morales of film and TV

119 Arden the demolition contractor?

122 Shady giants

123 Get-out-of-jail money

124 Super-mad

125 "The Flea" poet John

126 Blog addition

127 Pot for stew

128 Lauder of makeup

129 Evil smile
- 7 Alter totally

8 Reply to "Who's in charge here?"

9 Bounced down the court

10 Actress Davis of two "Matrix" films

11 Spam, say

12 Langston Hughes poem

13 Athletic team assoc.

14 Film anew

15 Not wobbly

16 Throw

17 Troop body

18 Pt. of MIT or STEM

24 Nuclear reactor tube

25 Polar vehicle

30 Polar pixie

32 Curved arch

36 High jump on a skateboard, informally

37 Lacking a key, in music

39 "Semper Fi" mil. branch

40 Weirdo

41 Rubik of cube fame

42 Aiea's island

43 Broccoli —

44 Kit — (candy bars)
- 45 Poet Nash

46 Twisted wit

47 — lazuli

48 Frosted

53 Abbr. on a pay stub

54 "Please, Mommy, will you let us?"

55 "Veni," in English

56 Nero's 160

59 Villain in Disney's "Aladdin"

60 Waitress on TV's "Alice"

62 Spruce (up)

64 With 57-Across, Ali ring strategy

68 Abate

69 "Fighting" Big Ten team

70 Cut, as pizza

71 Cold and wet

72 Like poison

73 Japanese cartoon art

74 Measures of memory

75 Scaring cry

78 — noire

79 One of Henry VIII's Catherine's

80 Et —

81 Mug in a pub

82 Jamaican citrus fruit
- 83 Mean ruffian

84 Wife on "The Addams Family," to her hubby

86 Cover for a truck bed

90 Crystal rubbers, perhaps

91 Jab deliverer

93 Control in a clinical study

97 Certain wind player

98 Very loudly, musically

99 9-to-5er's weekly cry

101 Main dish

104 Art house film, often

106 Went aboard

107 Nitrogen compound

108 Words after all or hole

109 San Fran griddler

110 All-terrain vehicle

111 Fjord city

112 Tasty tubers

113 Egg-shaped

114 Eye, in Paris

115 Nut with caffeine

116 Rock finale?

120 Perched

121 LP replacers

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								
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110	111	112						113	114	115					116				117				
118								119							120				121				
122								123					124					125					
126								127					128					129					

King Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Ref

4 Present

8 Jeans-maker Strauss

12 Seek damages

13 Dunkable treat

14 Mosque bigwig

15 Jogged untogged

17 Baby feeding finale

18 Standing

19 Parched

21 Started

22 Let slip

26 Reservation residence

29 Marry

30 Part of "to be"

31 Unoriginal one

32 Pickle container

33 Thick chunk

34 Grant opponent

35 Plague

36 Coffin

37 Duration

39 Bill's partner

40 Scooted

41 Turmoil

45 Gujarat garment

48 Vigor
- 50 Help hoods

51 Unctuous

52 "Holy cow!"

53 Uppercase

54 Untouchable Eliot

55 Agent
- 8 Tripoli's land

9 Aussie bird

10 Alt. spelling

11 Mischievous tyke

16 Swiss mathematician

20 Scarlet

23 Hardy cabbage

24 Historic times

25 "Pay later" aftermath

26 Lofty

27 Duel tool

28 Hammerhead part

29 Grow bigger
- 32 Lincoln successor

33 Rid of wool

35 Sch. org.

36 Rabbits

38 Southern side dish

39 Ringlets

42 Early birds?

43 Flight component

44 Yon folks

45 Pouch

46 Counselors' grp.

47 Agt.

49 Dead heat
- DOWN
- 1 Cold War initials

2 Silent

3 Culprit, for short

4 Small beard

5 Annoyed

6 Retainer

7 Little kid

MAGIC MAZE

●

"DOR" WORDS

U J H E B Y V T R Q O L I G D

B Y W T R P L R O D N A C M K

I F D B Y W A U D S Q M R H O

M R K I F R B D A B Z B O U R

X R O D O W R U U S Q A D M O

O R O D A T A M C N L S A I D

J H N D R O D N E L P S E D I

F E D O N A O C A Y W A R O P

V V D T (CORREGIDOR) S

S U Q P N L C K I H F O T E U

T C B Z Y W V R O D I R R O C

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

Ambassador

Arдор

Candor

Condor

Corregidor

Corridor

Cuspidor

Ecuador

Labrador

Matador

Odor

Splendor

Toreador

Tudor

Vendor



"I was wondering if the latest popularity poll still has us behind the _____." answer on page 39

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!

Rank				
GRADE				
Climb				
DANCES				
Visual				
OPTIC				
Slight				
HINT				

TODAY'S WORD

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

SUDOKU

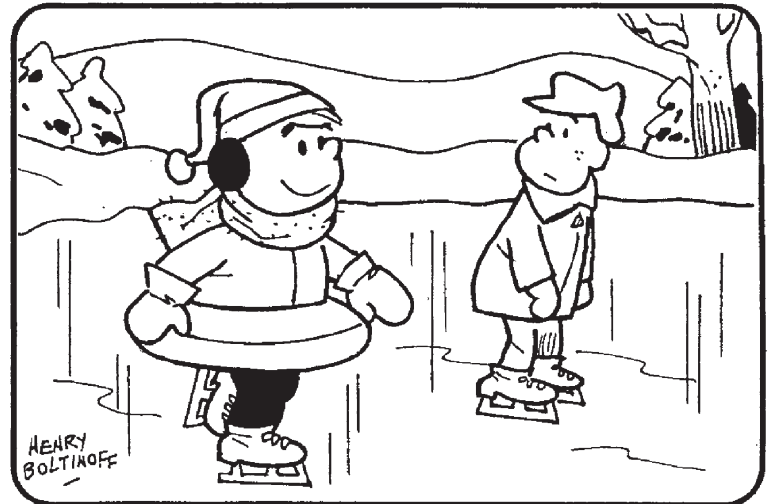
To play Sudoku:

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.

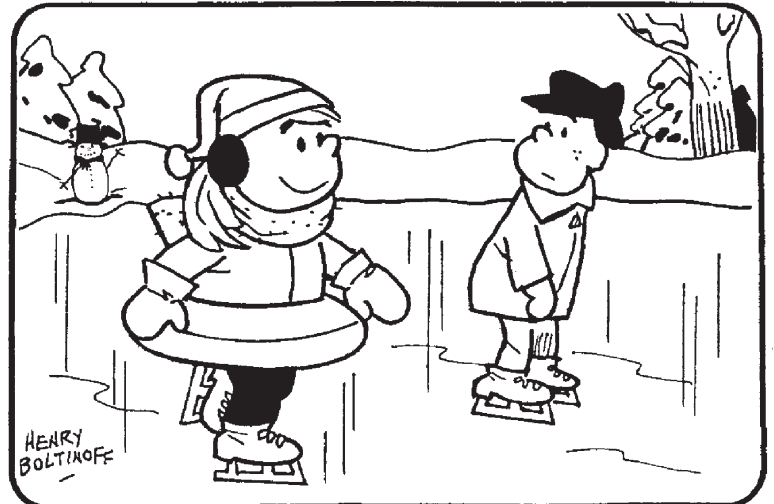
answer on page 37

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



FIND AT LEAST SIX DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS



Differences: 1. Snowman is added. 2. Boy's hat is black. 3. Girl's hair is different. 4. Background hills are missing. 5. Tree is added on right. 6. Boy's left arm is hidden.



Chicken Tortilla Soup

2-3 chicken breasts (cooked and diced into bite-size chunks)

2 ear's fresh sweet corn, cut off the cob

2 bell peppers (your favorite color), diced

2 tomatoes, diced small

1 small onion, diced small

1 jalapeno (remove seeds to lessen the heat), finely chopped

1 poblano pepper, diced small

3 cloves garlic, minced

1 small can green chiles

2 cans black beans, rinsed

2 tablespoons chili powder

1 tablespoon cumin

1 tablespoon oregano

6 cups low sodium chicken broth

2 cups water

1 lime, juiced

Hot sauce (your favorite kind, amount is up to you)

5 small corn tortillas, cut into long thin strips

Olive oil for cooking

Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste

Pre-heat a large skillet; carefully add the oil. Sauté the onions, bell peppers, jalapeno, poblano, and corn until soft; about 8 minutes. Add the minced garlic, tomatoes,



Chicken Tortilla Soup

and green chilis and cook for additional 5 minutes. Next add rinsed black beans, chili powder, cumin, and oregano. Stir all the ingredients to combine. Pour in the chicken broth and water; add the diced chicken and

tortilla strips now. Cover and simmer for 30 minutes, finish with fresh lime juice. Taste and adjust seasoning as needed. Serve with fresh avocado, sour cream, and crushed tortilla chips if desired.*

photo courtesy Fresh From Florida

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THE RIVER
WEEKLY NEWS
FROM THE BEACHES TO DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS



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December 14, 2018

Place Classified



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1/11 ★ 2/1

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1/11 ★ 1/18

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See at www.sanibelbeachcottages.com
1/11 ★ 1/18

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12/21 ★ TFN

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ANNUAL RENTAL

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2/2 on Sandpebble \$2,000
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Now hiring scoopers and supervisors for our Sanibel location. Both part-time and full-time positions available! Applications available in store, Jerry's Plaza Unit 9.
1/18 ★ 1/25

FRONT OF HOUSE

The Bubble Room Restaurant is now hiring for all full time front of house positions! Great pay with great benefits. Apply in person from 9 a.m. until 9 p.m. daily at 15001 Captiva Drive.
1/11 ★ 1/18

JERRY'S FOODS SERVERS & BARISTAS

Part Time Evening And Weekend Front End Associates Needed. Looking for energetic, personable, and fun individuals, with open availability Monday through Sunday. If interested call and ask for John, Norm Sarah 472-9300. 1700 Periwinkle Way
5/6 ★ TFN

LOST & FOUND

LOST WEDDING RING

Woman's ring. Lost on Sanibel. 3 diamonds, white gold Very sentimental Please call or text if found Lisa 801-703-7647. Reward
1/18 ★ 2/8

FOR SALE

CBD OIL

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We have 11 incredible Hemp-Derived CBD products in our HempWorx brand and Pet Products which all utilize CO2 Extracted Hemp Oil grown in Kentucky.
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GARAGE SALE

GARAGE SALE

1046 Sand Castle, Sanibel. No early birds! Fri/Sat 1/18 and 1/19 - 9 a.m. to noon. Moving sale. Not huge but fun stuff. Furniture, bike, dishes, lots of picture frames. Free stuff on lawn. Do not park on neighbors' grass.
1/18 ★ 1/18

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Jan. 26, Annual Yard Sale, A Local Favorite.
East End towards the lighthouse and as always early birds welcome on that day.
1/18 ★ 1/18

Cycling Safety Notes

Ride to the right

Warn to pass

Wear a helmet

Use lights at night

Always be courteous



SANIBEL BICYCLE CLUB

Mound House Offers Events

Mound House on Fort Myers Beach will offer many activities during the remainder of the month.

There will be a free Beach Walk at Newton Beach Park on Tuesday, January 22 at 9 a.m. Explore the natural treasures on Fort Myers Beach through a guided walk along the shore. Participants should meet at Newton Beach Park at 4650 Estero Boulevard under the thatched hut. Wear sunscreen, appropriate clothing, shoes and hats. Weather permitting.

There will be a free Caloosa Carvers' Woodworking Demonstration at the Mound House on Tuesday, January 22 from 9 a.m. to noon. See the craftsmen of the Caloosa Carvers make replicas of Calusa items, some using wood from the Mound House property.

Also, on Tuesday, January 22, check out the Tools of the Calusa Demonstration at the Mound House at 10 a.m. This hands-on demonstration will explore how the most powerful American Indian tribe in Southwest Florida crafted their tools, weapons and implements of daily life

from their natural surroundings. Swing a real conch hammer, handle a shark tooth carving tool or try your luck with an ancient atlatl "spear thrower" as you step back in time atop an ancient Calusa Indian shell mound. Cost is \$15 for adults and includes museum admission.

There will be a Mangroves by Kayak Guided Tour from the Mound House on Wednesday, January 23 and Saturday, January 26 at 9 a.m. This guided kayak tour explores the winding mangrove creeks and hidden backwaters of Estero Bay. Dexter Norris, biologist, naturalist and Mound House environmental educator, guides this unique tour. Search for birds, fish, manatees and dolphins as you 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. All paddling and

safety equipment are provided for ages 12 and older. Weather permitting. Cost is \$45 or \$15 for Mound House members. Reservations required.

There will be a Mound Key Boat Tour leaving Fish Tale Marina on Friday, January 25 at 3:30 p.m. Board the Estero Bay Express on an exclusive experience to Mound House and onto Mound Key, capital of the Calusa. At both sites, you will learn about the rich history of the Calusa as well as new findings scientists are discovering about this ancient society. Guests will disembark from the boat to hike the trails of Mound Key. All along the way, discover the ecology of Estero Bay as you search for diverse wildlife including dolphins, manatees and birds. This trip lasts until to 6:45 p.m. and requires walking and travelling over rough terrain. Cost is \$55 per person; or \$50 for members. Weather permitting.

Reservations required. Fish Tale Marina is located at 7225 Estero Boulevard on Fort Myers Beach.

Archaeology of the Mound House will take place Saturday, January 26 at 10 a.m. Explore what archaeologists uncovered about the Calusa Indians that lived on this 2,000-year-old Indian shell mound. Participants will have the opportunity to view artifacts from the Mound House currently not on display, and sort through materials from the Calusa Indian Shell Mound. Learn some of the techniques and tools that archaeologists use to uncover clues about people of the past. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$10 for ages 6 to 12. Cost includes museum admission.

Mound House is located at 451 Connecticut Street on Fort Myers Beach. For more information, call 765-0865 or visit www.moundhouse.org.

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SCRAMBLERS

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Top 10 Real Estate Sales

Subdivision	City	Year Built	Square Footage	Listing Price	Selling Price	Days On Market
Westlake Court	Estero	2018	3,017	\$1,669,000	\$1,669,000	0
Sanctuary	Estero	1999	3,200	\$1,250,000	\$1,160,000	77
Riverwalk	Bonita Springs	1994	3,738	\$1,195,000	\$1,100,000	10
Del Sega	Sanibel	1989	2,111	\$1,175,000	\$1,000,000	211
Trevi	Fort Myers	2007	3,532	\$990,000	\$930,000	54
Venetian Gardens	Fort Myers Beach	1947	2,136	\$975,000	\$950,000	1
Sanibel River	Sanibel	1987	1,828	\$885,000	\$840,000	22
Lexington Country Club	Fort Myers	1997	2,492	\$829,900	\$800,000	0
Pinewater Place	Bonita Springs	1997	2,606	\$749,000	\$735,000	15
Town And River	Fort Myers	1975	2,662	\$709,000	\$702,000	6



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SUN-DESIROUS ALIKE,
A VACATION ON A PLATE."**

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