



From left, Chauncey Goss, Tom Uhler, Geoff Roepstorff and Steve Pontius photo provided

Business Leaders Spend Weekend Hunting Pythons

Lee County businessmen Tom Uhler and Steve Pontius joined South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) board chair Chauncey Goss and district python hunter Geoff Roepstorff on a weekend python hunt in early November. They successfully removed

yet another invasive python from the Everglades.

"This group of environmentally sensitive friends removed the 2,675th python under our district python removal program," said SFWMD Project Manager Mike Kirkland.

Uhler is founder of Uhler and Vertich Financial Planners, LLC, Pontius is executive vice president of Waterman Broadcasting, and Roepstorff is CEO of Edison National Bank.

This was not the first python hunt for
continued on page 8

Estates To Host Garden Festival



Garden enthusiasts shopping for plants at a previous festival photo provided

Edison and Ford Winter Estates will hold its annual fall Garden Festival on Saturday, November 23 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday, November 24 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

More than 40 garden vendors from around the state of Florida will have tropical and native plants and trees for sale. Sponsored by Best Value and

Humana, the festival will also feature food trucks and live music.

"If you're looking for a really unique plant that you don't already have, this is the place to find it," said Debbie Hughes, horticulture director with Edison and Ford Winter Estates. "Vendors and staff will be available to answer questions and help

continued on page 14



Participants checking out displays along the street

photos courtesy www.goboatingflorida.com/boating-shows/2019-fort-myers-boat-show

Boat Show Begins Thursday

The 47th annual Fort Myers Boat Show returns to the downtown river district from Thursday, November 21 through Sunday, November 24. Hours are Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday from 10

a.m. to 5 p.m.

There will be boat displays in the Caloosahatchee, throughout Centennial Park and on the streets. This event is the biggest showing of boats, boating products and all things marine in Southwest Florida. Attendees will find hundreds of boats, more than 130 boat lines, expanded in-water displays and a large display of boating accessories and fishing tackle. From skiffs to fishing boats, to cruising



Aerial photo of a previous Fort Myers Boat Show

boats to luxurious yachts, there is a boat for everyone plus all the gear and gadgets boaters love.

The main show entrance is at the west side of Centennial Park at First Street and Carson Street – next to Joe's Crab Shack – and there is a second entrance at the City Yacht Basin on the corner of Lee Street and Edwards Drive.

Admission is \$13 for adults. Children under age 16 are admitted at no charge

with a paid adult. Remote parking is located at First Street and Altamont Avenue, just west of the main show entrance. Parking is \$5 and includes a free two-minute shuttle ride that brings you to the show entrance.

Centennial Park is located at 2000 West First Street. Tickets may be purchased on site at either show entrance.

The Fort Myers Boat Show is owned
continued on page 24

Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

Audubon Convenes In Fort Myers



by Gerri Reaves, PhD

Twenty-five years ago, the local Audubon Society chapter, environmental and scientific luminaries, and even a former U.S. president convened in downtown Fort Myers for the National Audubon Society's (NAS) Convention. The Audubon Society of Southwest Florida, since renamed simply Audubon of Southwest Florida (ASWF), hosted the event. The location was the Sheraton Harbor Place Hotel on Edwards Drive, a 25-story, 454-room luxury hotel that had opened in January 1987.

The first part of the three-stop convention, whose theme was "People, Water, and Wildlife," was held in Fort Myers from November 11 to 15, 1994. The convention then continued to Everglades National Park and Miami, concluding on November 20.

It was the first time that NAS had held the biennial convention in Florida. Harborside Convention Center was also utilized to accommodate the jam-packed schedule of meetings, receptions, discussions, exhibits, speeches, award ceremonies, conference sessions, workshops and presentations.

In addition, numerous field trips were scheduled off-site. A few of the well-known attendees were Nathaniel Reed, former NAS board member and former assistant secretary of the Interior for Fish, Wildlife and Parks; Dr. Paul Ehrlich, biologist and expert on population growth; Peter Matthiessen, author; Florida Sen. Bob Graham; U.S. Rep. Porter Goss; and Dr. Sylvia Earle, marine biologist and former chief scientist at NOAA.

Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, however, was the most noted celebrity. He was to be awarded the 1994 Audubon Medal for his environmental work.

One disappointment: Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt was forced to cancel his presentation due to illness.



Middle school student Valerie Miller looks on as former Pres. Jimmy Carter shakes hands with Jim Reynolds, president of Audubon of Southwest Florida, at the convention banquet. Carter was awarded the 1994 Audubon Medal for his environmental work. Rosalynn Carter is pictured bottom right. photo courtesy Neil Wilkinson

ASWF's board of directors and volunteers had worked for months to make the event a success, among them president Jim Reynolds and board members Neil Wilkinson, Vince McGrath and Dan Van Norman (current ASWF president).

Wilkinson, who served on the host committee, recalled the event in a recent email: "I was thrilled to see some of my up and coming friends from the environmental world from all over the country attend."

Another attendee who was thrilled at the convention was middle-school student Valerie Miller, who greatly admired former President Carter. In the photo, she looks on as he shakes hands with Jim Reynolds at the banquet.

The hosting Audubon chapter had been officially chartered in March 1958. However, Audubon had a presence in Lee County long before that.

In January 1917, Julia Hanson and her son Stanley Hanson were two of the co-founders of the Lee County Audubon Society, a precursor to ASWF.

In the early 20th century, they joined the fight to end plume hunting, which was devastating wading bird populations to provide feathers to the millinery industry. They joined national and state Audubon efforts to pass bird-protection laws.

Julia was active in both the Florida Federation of Women's Clubs and Florida Audubon, established in 1900. She served as the chair of the bird-protection



The former Sheraton Harbor Place Hotel was completely renovated and opened in 2017 as Campo Felice photo by Gerri Reaves



The Sheraton Harbor Place Hotel opened in 1987 on Edwards Drive photo courtesy SWFL Historical Society (Sara Nell Hendry Gran Collection)



The National Audubon Society's November 1994 convention program announces Fort Myers as the first of three locations for events (encircled) photo by Gerri Reaves

continued on page 20

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THE RIVER

WEEKLY NEWS

FROM THE BEACHES TO DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS

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From left, Teta Roberts, Deanne Kyle and Susan Kyle

Students Gain From Mina Edison Society Fundraiser

Florida SouthWestern (FSW) State College students shared how scholarships made their dreams possible at the Mina Edison Society's Focus on Excellence signature annual event at The Forest Country Club on October 30. Busey Wealth Management was the title sponsor.

The event, which included more than 150 attendees, raised \$40,425 for scholarships for academic excellence at the college. With enrollment at the college growing to more than 22,000 students, the goal of the Mina Edison Society is to triple annually the number of scholarships granted. Since its founding in 2007, the Mina Edison Society's endowed fund has distributed \$72,000.

The event featured networking, a student expo and awards and a keynote address by Dr. Eileen DeLuca, FSW provost and vice president of student

photos provided



Jenny Campbell and Crissy Fabian

affairs, who highlighted the bright future of the growing home-town college.

"Mina Edison Society is a network of influential professionals providing leadership and scholarships to students," said Victoria Stephan, director of development institutional advancement for Mina Edison Society. "We are grateful for the investments these leaders provide. They have big hearts and truly understand how education changes lives."

Susan Kyle, a well-known philanthropist, community leader and advocate for quality education, was



Liz Allbritten and Susan Kyle

recognized at the luncheon with the annual Mina Edison Society's signature Luminary Award in honor of namesake Mina Edison, a philanthropist, activist and self-titled "home executive" who was a firm believer in education.

Mina was the business force behind her husband, inventor Thomas A. Edison, while raising three of his children and three of their own. The Luminary Award honors an individual or organization who has attained eminence in their field and who encourages and motivates others to do the highest good.*

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K-9 Mattis and Officer William Schulte

photo provided

Police K9 To Get Donation Of Body Armor

Fort Myers Police Department's K9 Mattis will receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. Mattis' vest will be embroidered with the sentiment "Honoring those who served and sacrificed." Delivery is

expected within eight to 10 weeks.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is a 501(c)3 charity located in East Taunton, Massachusetts. The non-profit has provided more than 3,500 U.S.-made, custom-fitted, National Institute of Justice (NIJ)-certified protective vests, in 50 states, through private and corporate donations, at a value of \$6.9 million.

The program is open to dogs actively employed in the U.S. with law enforcement or related agencies who are certified and at least 20 months

of age. New K9 graduates, as well as K9s with expired vests, are eligible to participate.

The donation to provide one protective vest for a law enforcement K9 is \$950. Each vest has a value between \$1,744 and \$2,283 and a five-year warranty, and an average weight of four to five pounds. There is an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States.

For more information or to learn about volunteer opportunities, call 508-824-6978. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provides information, lists events, and accepts tax-deductible donations of any denomination at www.vik9s.org.

Toy Drive To Benefit Children's Hospital Families

MY Shower Door / D3 Glass is counting on generous hearts to make this a special holiday season for families at Golisano Children's Hospital. From now until December 6, people can bring new, unwrapped toys to any of the three MY Shower Door locations in Fort Myers and Naples; TWO39 Work in Bonita Springs; Brown and Brown Insurance in Fort Myers and Naples; Audi of Fort Myers and CONRIC PR & Marketing in Fort Myers.

MY Shower Door co-owner Bill Daubmann said his company is partnering with Lee Health to spread Christmas cheer to families whose holidays deserve a special present through the Golisano Children's Hospital Toy Drive and the Golisano Snow Pile Room, where toys are delivered. To help people with ideas for what families might need, a Child Life Wish List is available online at myshowerdoor.com/toys.

This drive has special meaning for MY Shower Door / D3 Glass employees. The infant daughter of company controller Jared Larson and his wife, Liz, a nurse at Gulf Coast Hospital, died from a rare birth disorder called trisomy 18 or Edwards syndrome. She spent nine days in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Golisano before going home. She lived for 22 days. This

toy drive and a toy collection by MY Shower Door employees two years ago are in honor of Emma.

"Emma touched a lot of lives," Jared said. "The families in the hospital are going through tough times, and we want to support them. It is not only hard on mom and dad but also hard on the siblings. What impresses me was how caring (Golisano employees) were, especially the nurses. Our nurse went out of her way to make sure we had everything we needed. It was like being part of the family."

Now, Emma's memory lives on.

"We wanted to set this up as a legacy to Emma," Daubmann said.

Among wish list ideas are:

Infants and toddlers: Pop-up toys, light-up toys, rattles, teething toys, musical toys, toy phones.

Pre-school: Crayons, markers, Play-Doh, doctor play kits, action figures, animal figurines, balls.

School age: Lego sets, action figures, harmonicas, board games, card games, remote control cars, Barbies.

Teens: Plain t-shirts to decorate, PlayStation 4 games, over-the-door basketball hoops, advanced craft sets, gift cards for iTunes, GameStop, Walmart or Target.

Other items needed are shampoo, body wash, lotion, toothpaste, Chapstick, hair brushes and hair ties, nail care kits, deodorant and pajamas (infant to adult size).

Toys can be dropped off at:

MY Shower Door at 14261 South Tamiami Trail, No. 2, Fort Myers,

MY Shower Door at 13500 North Tamiami Trail, north Naples,

MY Shower Door at 1200 Central Avenue, No. 103, south Naples,

TWO39 Work at 24301 Walden Center Drive, Suite 300, Bonita Springs,

Brown & Brown Insurance at 6611 Orion Drive, Unit 201, Fort Myers,

Brown & Brown Insurance at 1421 Pine Ridge Road, Unit 200, Naples,

Audi of Fort Myers at 10050 Daniels Interstate Court, Fort Myers,

CONRIC PR & Marketing at 6216 Whiskey Creek Drive, Suite B, Fort Myers.

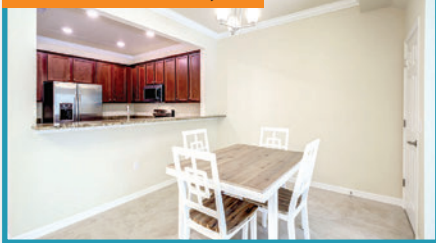
For more information, call Daubmann at 596-3255 or visit www.myshowerdoor.com.

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Fort Myers Art:

Drama On Night Before King’s Assassination



by Tom Hall
Theatre Conspiracy at the Alliance for the Arts is bringing *The Mountaintop* to the Foulds Theatre boards from January 16 to 26, 2020. Written by Katori Hall and directed by Rick Sebastian, *The*

Mountaintop is a two-person drama about the last day of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

The entire play is set in the Lorraine Hotel room, the evening before his assassination. Dr. King is alone, trying to create yet another powerful speech. When he orders a cup of coffee from room service, a mysterious woman arrives, bringing much more than a late-night beverage. What follows is a reflective, often funny, often touching conversation in which Dr. King examines his achievements, his failures and his unfinished dreams.

Derek Lively will portray Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Since relocating to Fort Myers from New York City in 2015, Lively has starred as Walter Lee Younger in Theatre Conspiracy at the Alliance’s production of Lorraine Hanberry’s *A Raisin in the Sun* following a strong



image courtesy www.artswfl.com

performance as Canewell in August Wilson’s *Seven Guitars*. But perhaps his most memorable role was that of Frederick Douglass in *The Agitators*.

For more on Derek’s staged credits, visit www.artswfl.com/actors/lively-derek/derek-lively.

Sonya McCarter will play Camae opposite Derek Lively. McCarter is an actor, director, an instructor in the Alliance for the Arts’ CHANGE (Communities Harnessing the Arts to Nurture and Grow Equity) program and the Alliance’s community engagement coordinator. Her acting credits include the part of Corryn Fell in Gideon’s *Knot*, Ntozake Shange’s choreopoem *For Colored Girls Who Have Considered Suicide When the Rainbow is Enuf*, appearances in two episodes of the television show *Burn Notice* and the film *The Florida Project*.

For more on Sonya’s theatrical credits, visit www.artswfl.com/actors/

mccarter-sonya/sonya-mccarter.

Theatre Conspiracy’s New Play Contest To Be Held December 14

Theatre Conspiracy at the Alliance for the Arts will hold its 21st annual New Play Contest on Saturday, December 14. The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. with a reception in the gallery with food, wine and drink. At 7:30 p.m., Theatre Conspiracy will conduct readings from its top three finalists. Following the last reading, the audience chooses the winner. That play will receive the Janet & Bruce Bunch New Play Contest Award and be produced during the company’s 2019-20 season.

The New Play Contest provides opportunity for audiences to get involved with the production process itself, rather than the end result. The last three winners were *Engagement Rules* by Rick Orloff, *Repossessed* by Greg Lam and *Noli Timeri* by Jared Michael Delaney. Finalists are selected from more than 500 entries around the world.

Artist Applications For Fringe Fort Myers Closing November 15

You must submit an artist application for the inaugural Fringe Fort Myers Festival no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, November 15. Emerging and experienced artists in all disciplines are encouraged to apply. Categories include, but are not limited to, theatre, dance, magic, film, music, stand-up comedy, puppetry, performance art and more. Whether you are an accomplished singer, hilarious clown, emotive mime, or just want to stand up in front of a bunch of people with complaints about the weather, Fringe Fort Myers is your perfect venue.

To foster accessibility, the selection process for Fringe Fort Myers will occur via a lottery on Friday, November 22. On that date, all timely-submitted applications will be placed in a hat with the lucky ones pulled that night getting into the festival.

Each performer or performing group is guaranteed three performances in the same venue and are given a three-hour tech rehearsal before opening.

Artists applying to Fringe Fort Myers are encouraged to hit the Florida fringe trifecta. Tampa International Fringe runs April 30 through May 10, 2020, with Orlando International Fringe running May 12 through May 25, 2020. This is your chance for over a month of performances in sunny paradise.

For housing and performance details or for more information, visit www.artinlee.org/fringe or call 939-2787.

*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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Scholarships Available

by Jeff Lysiak

The Rockin’ Christmas Fund, created by Sanibel resident Vincent M. Wolanin and his family, is currently taking submissions for scholarship grants for the 2019 holiday season.

Launched 19 years ago, the Rockin’ Christmas Fund was created to provide college scholarships for students in need. Wolanin’s father was a policeman who died suddenly when Vincent was 14, impacting both the family and his own ability to continue his education. These grants are restricted to students who suffered the sudden loss of a parent, impacting their ability to financially continue in school.

Since it was founded, the Rockin’ Christmas Fund has raised more than \$100,000 in scholarship money for college students.

How to apply: Submit a letter narrative by the student regarding the circumstances of the loss of the parent; the school, college or university being attended; the focus of study; and whether an NCAA athlete or whether a participant in any other activities in addition to attendance at school. Proof of the sudden parental loss can be a copy of the obituary, death certificate copy or any news article, etc. Submit applications via email to

RockinScholarships@RockinChristmas.net. For more information, visit www.RockinChristmas.net. Applications must be submitted on or before December 13, 2019.*

Blues Festival At Historic Home

The Burroughs Home & Gardens will host the inaugural Blues, Brews, and Food Festival on the River on Saturday, November 16 from 5 to 10 p.m.

Millennial Brewing Company is sponsoring the festival for ages 21 and older. There will be unlimited beer tastings, live blues performances by the Betty Fox Band, food from Nevermind Awesome Bar & Eatery, and wine by the glass.

Proceeds will go to the Uncommon Friends Foundation.

Tickets that include the unlimited beer tasting are \$40. Non-drinking tickets are \$20. Food and wine will be available for purchase. A valid ID must be presented at check-in.

The Burroughs Home & Gardens is located at 2505 First Street in downtown Fort Myers. For more information on the unlimited beer tasting, call 271-2255, or visit the microbrewery’s Facebook page: @MillennialBrewing. For more information about the festival and tickets, call the Uncommon Friends Foundation at 337-9503.*

Estates To Offer Unique School Break Camps

Edison and Ford Winter Estates is offering several school break camp options for students in first grade through sixth grade. The camps are fun, educational and unlike other local opportunities.

The next camp runs from Monday, November 25 to Wednesday, November 27 and will teach students about LEGO Mechanics. Camp starts at 9:15 a.m. and ends at 3:45 p.m. each day.

"In the LEGO Mechanics Camp, students will build and explore with simple machines and mechanisms using the power of physics and LEGOs," said Pearce Augustenborg, Estates education coordinator. "They will also learn how levers, pulleys, wheels and other mechanical innovations make work easier."

Camps focus on science, technology, engineering, art and math (STEAM) topics, as well as history and the natural world. Registration is open for the following camps.

November 25-27: LEGO Mechanics – Students will build and explore with simple machines and mechanisms (members \$135; non-members \$150).

December 26-27: Forces of Light – Focuses on the physics and design of airborne objects (members \$90; non-members \$100).

December 30-31 and January 2-3: 3-D Printing and Design – Students



Students learn about robotics at Edison and Ford Winter Estates

photo provided

can attend one or both sessions and participate in creative 3-D design challenges (members \$90; non-members \$100).

February 10: Eco-Discovery – From estuaries to invasive species, students will learn about Florida's habitat and man's impact on it (members \$45; non-members \$50).

March 13: Designed by Girls – This engineering day camp is for girls only (members \$45; non-members \$50).

March 16-20: Code Camp – Students will learn new platforms and

skills each day, including the essential 21st century skills (members \$220, non-members \$250).

April 10: The Chemistry of Food – Teaches about the science behind food, such as a root beer float (members \$45; non-members \$50).

April 13: Geo-Challenge – Explores cartography and geography in a property-wide scavenger hunt (members \$45; non-members \$50).

For more information or to register, visit www.edisonford.org, or call 334-7419.*

Art Sale Fundraiser For Vision Impaired

Lighthouse of SWFL will host the inaugural Holidaze Open House/ Art Sale on Saturday, November 16 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The public is invited to stop by for guided tours of Lighthouse of SWFL and browse the art exhibit of paintings and crafts created by artists who are blind or visually impaired. A large collection of arts and crafts from the art exhibit will be available for sale by the artists.

"My art being for sale is wonderful. I credit the Lighthouse of SWFL for the past five to six years that I have been coming to attend the art class. Art is my passion," said artist Doris Mott.

The art is created in the Lighthouse's art studio which will be included in the guided tours at the Holidaze event. The Lighthouse's Social Support and Recreational Therapy program helps older adults with visual impairment and blindness achieve their goals for independence. These programs offer activities, such as art and music, which allow participants to practice the skills that the vision rehabilitation instructors have taught them. Participants are empowered to learn new skills and reconnect with former hobbies while they meet new friends who have the unique understanding of the challenges of vision loss.

Lighthouse of SWFL is a local United
continued on page 18



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Along The River

The **downtown Fort Myers River District** will again be the scene for **Music Walk** this Friday, November 15. 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.

To learn more, visit www.fortmyersriverdistrictalliance.com.

Rus Anderson will perform as a young Elton John in **Rocket Man – The Ultimate Elton John Tribute Show** at the **Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center** this Friday, November 15. Doors will open at 7 p.m. for cocktails, and the performances will begin at 8 p.m.

Anderson will perform Elton John’s greatest hits, complete with spot-on vocals, fierce piano-playing and costumes during the first Vinyl Vibes concert of the 2019-20 series. His performance has earned the show an endorsement by the official Elton John Fan Club and the Elton John AIDS Foundation. For more information on **Rocket Man – The Ultimate Elton John Tribute Show**, visit www.rocketmanshow.com.

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

WolfStock will be held at **Riverside Park** this Saturday, November 16 from 4 to 8 p.m. The brewfest and food truck



Rus Anderson in **Rocket Man – The Ultimate Elton John Tribute Show** photo provided

event, featuring performances by The Ben Allen Band and local musician Justin Ross, will benefit Shy Wolf Sanctuary.

A full lineup of local breweries will be on hand, many serving brews named for Shy Wolf residents. Tickets for WolfStock are \$40 in advance and include a tasting cup and event T-shirt.

Riverside Park is located at 10450 Reynolds Street in Bonita Springs. For more information and tickets, visit www.shywolfsanctuary.org/events/wolfstock2019.

Love Your Rebellion (LYR) will present a **Songwriter Sunday Brunch** at

Remedies Parlor this Sunday, November 17 from noon to 2 p.m. Experience an intimate songwriter’s round from the Heart Attack Guns and Mountain Holler.

The bimonthly showcase will feature singer-songwriters playing original music and telling the stories behind the songs. Proceeds from the Songwriter Sunday Brunch fund LYR’s nonprofit arts programming.

Remedies Parlor is located at 2541 Thompson Street in downtown Fort Myers. To learn more, visit www.loveyourrebellion.org.

The **Southwest Florida Concert Band** will perform a concert Salute to our Veterans at **Unitarian Universalist Church** this Sunday, November 17 at 2 p.m.

The 40-member community band will perform a concert of patriotic music and more. The program will start with a salute to the Armed Forces, including the five main branch songs, and move to the reflective Hymn of Freedom. The band will play some traditional American folk songs and an arousing Sousa march called Liberty Bell.

The wide variety of music is certain to appeal to all audience members, and it is a not to be missed concert of the newest concert band in Southwest Florida. All concerts are free with donations accepted.

Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 3411 Shire Lane in Fort Myers. For more information on the group, scholarship program and other performances, visit www.swflconcertband.org.

The **Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers** will perform at **Sanibel Congregational United Church** of Christ this Sunday, November 17 at 3 p.m. The program, entitled Music in Transition, features selections written by composers facing challenges and changes in their lives. There is no admission charge but a goodwill offering will be taken to support the Mastersingers.

Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ is located at 2050 Periwinkle Way. Sanibel Community Church is located at 1740 Periwinkle Way. For more information, visit www.mastersingersfm.com.

The **Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida** opens its 9th season with Mozart’s dramatic *Coronation Mass* and Bruckner’s rarely performed *Te Deum* at **Faith Presbyterian Church** this Sunday, November 17 at 4 p.m.

Internationally acclaimed Hungarian organist Helga Bartus and a Brass Quintet from the Naples Phil will accompany the 75-voice chorale and four soloists, including soprano Jeanie Darnell, alto Lauren Davis, tenor Martin Nusspaumer and bass James Held. Dr. Trent Brown, the chorale’s artistic director, will conduct.

Tickets are \$20; students are \$5; children under age 12 are admitted free. For more information or additional concert highlights, visit www.symphonicchorale.org or call 560-5695.

Faith Presbyterian Church is located at 4544 Coronado Parkway in Cape Coral. For more information or tickets, visit www.symphonicchorale.org or call 560-5695.**

Earn To Learn Group To Honor New Mentors

Earn to Learn FL, a matched-savings financial assistance program, will honor eight distinguished Southwest Florida residents on February 19 as its 2020 Mentors of IMPACT.

Mentors of IMPACT is a program that recognizes men and women at the pinnacle of their careers or community service who have elevated the lives of others through mentoring. New honorees include:

Alise Bartley, PhD, Mental Health Crusader
Kellie Burns, NBC2
Joe Catti, FineMark Bank
Myra Daniels, Philanthropist
Gail Markham, Markham Norton Mosteller Wright & Company, PA
Michael Martin, PhD, Florida Gulf Coast University
Susan McManus, Champions for Learning

Mark Stevens, Stevens Construction
Earn to Learn FL will recognize the 2020 honorees at a fundraising gala featuring a cocktail reception, gourmet dinner, networking opportunities and a keynote address by Syd Kitson, chairman and CEO of Kitson & Partners. Attendees also will be able to meet college students and graduates who have been helped by Earn to Learn FL, which offers personalized financial capability training and success coaching

to students across Florida. The ultimate goal is for students to graduate with minimal or no debt.

The Mentors of IMPACT reception will be held at The Club at Medterra, 15755 Corso Medterra Circle in Naples.

Tickets are \$400 per person. A limited number of sponsorship opportunities are available starting at \$5,000 and include VIP tickets and tables, media recognition, and promotion in publications and at the event. Proceeds from the event will be used to help pay higher education expenses for students enrolled in the Earn to Learn FL program.

For more information or tickets, visit www.earntolearnfl.com or email Brenda Tate at brenda@earntolearnfl.org.**

From page 1

Pythons

this group. Uhler, Pontius and Goss joined Roepstorff in August. Two invasive snakes caught on that hunt were the 2,345th and 2,346th pythons removed by 25 SFWMD hunters in just over two years.

“Governor DeSantis has been a great supporter of the Everglades, both in water quality issues and invasive species issues,” said Goss. “District python hunters like Geoff Roepstorff are a highly experienced group. Their success in taking pythons out of the Everglades is unprecedented. They’re trying to make a real difference for the native species now threatened in their Everglades habitat by these predator pythons.”**

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Hope Clubhouse Breaks Record



From left, Roz Barminski, Zachira Gonzalez and Marvin Ventura

photos provided

Hope Clubhouse of Southwest Florida has set a new fundraising mark, collecting \$200,000 at its recent annual mental health luncheon, which brought more than 300 people to the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre in Fort Myers.

The theme of this year's luncheon, Faces of Hope Who Give, was designed to spotlight the people that have given of their time, talent and treasure since

the clubhouse's inception.

Southwest Florida Community Foundation President and CEO Sarah Owen gave a keynote address, discussing the struggles her own child dealt with growing up with mental health issues. Owen also addressed the need for "community care" when it comes to dealing with mental health issues in the area and that we all need to be a part of helping to come up with answers.✱



Mike Sullivan and Bryan Blackwell



Sawyer Smith and Sarah Owen



Sandy Stilwell and James Wineinger



Marlene Moulton and Wendy Murray



From left, Cindi Wineinger, Nina King and Anna Toole

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A Celebration Of Storytelling

The Tamiami Tale Tellers will present Tellabration 2019! at Lakes Regional Library on Saturday, November 23 from 2 to 4 p.m. Ten experienced storytellers will perform a variety of stories – some funny, some poignant. Admission is free to the family-freindly event.

Tellabration is an annual event held the weekend prior to Thanksgiving in communities across the nation and in many other countries around the world. This is the 30th anniversary of the Tamiami Tale Tellers presenting Tellabration in Southwest Florida. Pamela Minton will be this year’s emcee. Other tellers include Janel Behm, Joel Ying, Rhonda Brazina, Bob Nelson, Donna Wilson, Gwyneth Wint, Mary Lou Williams, Lisa Leonhardt and Marilyn Graham.

Tellebration is the result of a dream of JG Pinkerton, who envisioned an international festival as a means of building community support for storytelling and of providing storytellers with a way of sharing their love of the art form with the community. The first event was launched in 1988 by the Connecticut Storytelling Center. By 1997, there were Tellabration events on every continent except Antarctica. The tradition continues to the present day.

Storytelling is not reading aloud, but



Pamela Minton photo provided

making the story come alive for the listener through verbal imagery, vocal variety and all the tools of the actor’s trade.

The Tamiami Tale Tellers, an informal group of tale spinners, hold monthly meetings on the third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m. at the Brookdale Retirement Community. The meetings are free, and the public is welcome.

Lakes Regional Library is located at 15290 Bass Road in Fort Myers. Call 543-4872 for more information.✧

Unified Champion Schools Named

Cypress Lake High School and North Fort Myers High School have both been chosen as a 2018-19 National Banner Unified Champion School through the Special Olympics. Only 24 schools in Florida and 173 in the United States achieved this status.

“Being named a National Banner Unified Champion School is an incredible honor and a tribute to the commitment our district has made around the work of inclusion,” said North Fort Myers Principal Debbie Diggs. “With only 24 National Banner schools in Florida and less than 200 in the entire nation, both North Fort Myers High School and Cypress Lake High School are leading the way to put sustainable systems in place for Special Olympics athletes and traditional athletes to train and compete together as teammates. I applaud Special Olympics, FHSAA, Lee County Parks & Recreation and The School District of Lee County for the financial and structural support necessary to make our Unified Sports teams possible.”

A Special Olympics Unified Champion School has an inclusive school climate and exudes a sense of collaboration, engagement and respect for all members of the student body and staff. A Unified Champion School receiving national banner recognition is one that has demonstrated commitment to inclusion by meeting 10 national standards of excellence. The primary activities within



A Special Olympian prepares to bowl photo provided

these standards include: Special Olympics Unified Sports (where students with and without disabilities train and compete as teammates), Inclusive Youth Leadership and Whole-School Engagement.

“When I watch a unified game, I see the power of relationships,” said Cypress Lake High School Principal Angela Roles. “The athletes connect in such a positive and powerful way. It makes everyone proud to be a Panther.”

Cypress Lake and North Fort Myers celebrated their Unified Champion School status on November 4 with banner-raising ceremonies.✧

Churches/Temples

ALL FAITHS UNITARIAN CONGREGATION
Service 9, and 11 a.m. Children’s RE, Adult Education Forum 10 a.m., www.allfaiths-uc.org, 2756 McGregor Boulevard, 226-0900.

ALL SAINTS BYZANTINE RITE CATHOLIC
Sunday 10:30 a.m., 10291 Bayshore Road, 599-4023.

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 YESHUA MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE
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 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.fumcftmyers.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.fpcfortmyers.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.lambofgod

church.net, 19691 Cypress View Drive, 267-3525.

NEW BEGINNINGS CENTER
Friday 6:30 and 7 p.m. nbcministry@embarqmail.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
Meditation classes. www.MeditationInFortMyers.org, 567-9739.

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

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

SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE METROPOLITAN
Sunday 10 a.m., 3049 McGregor Boulevard,

344-0012.

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

SAINT NICHOLAS MONASTERY
Sunday 9:30 a.m., 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 FAITH CENTER
Sunday 9 and 10:30 a.m., Thursday 7:15 p.m., 17650 South Tamiami Trail, Suite 212, 278-3638.

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.

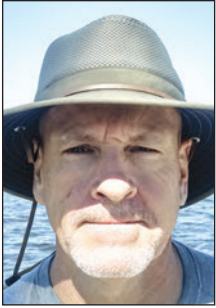
WORD OF LIFE
Sunday 10 a.m., Wednesday 7 p.m., 2120 Collier Avenue, 274-8881.

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

CROW Case Of The Week:

Reddish Egret

by Bob Petcher



A reddish egret (*Egretta rufescens*) is an odd character.

It is referred to as a medium to large heron with long legs and long neck. Adults mainly have a pinkish color at the base of their bills with a

blackish tip. They are so-called due to their reddish neck to contrast the grayish color on the rest of their bodies. However, and strangely, they are white reddish egrets.

Reddish egrets are known for their peculiar behavior when looking for fish. They like to take long strides through shallow water and may leap at any point or stagger sideways while raising a wing or wings before taking a stab at their next meal. However, at times, these egrets can be less flamboyant when feeding.

At CROW, an adult reddish egret was rescued along Wildlife Drive in the JN 'Ding' Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel. Upon being admitted to the wildlife hospital, veterinarians assessed the bird and noted it to have moderate ataxia – abnormal walking – and mild head tremors. The bird was able to stand, but preferred to sit down on its hocks. All of these symptoms were consistent with brevetoxicosis, or red tide poisoning.

With red tide returning to area waters at this time of year, CROW officials have

seen an influx of patients with the same symptoms.

"Yes, we have been admitting many seabirds with neurologic signs consistent with red-tide poisoning or brevetoxicosis," said Dr. Robin Bast, CROW's staff veterinarian, when asked about patient intake.

An intravenous catheter was placed in the reddish egret's jugular to administer fluids and an intravenous lipid emulsion (ILE) therapy, which has previously been used by CROW to treat red tide in double-crested cormorants and sea turtles as part of its ongoing research.

"Fluid therapy is a key component in treating this toxin," said Dr. Bast. "We give a fat solution called ILE through the vein which binds the toxin in the bloodstream and helps the patients recover faster. That treatment is followed by additional fluids through the vein to help support the kidneys as the toxin is processed and eliminated from the body."

"This treatment has been used in people as well as dogs and cats for any toxin that is 'fat soluble,' or that binds easily to other fats. This treatment has not been documented in the literature as a treatment for red tide poisoning, but we investigated it during last year's bloom and found that it has increased our success rate to 85 percent for seabirds being treated for brevetoxicosis."

The patient is one of five reddish egrets that were outfitted with satellite tracking devices as part of a study by the Avian Research and Conservation Institute at the JN "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge that began in 2014 to learn more about seasonal movements, year-round habitat use, home range sizes and survival. All five



Patient #19-4600 succumbed to brevetoxicosis complications

photo by Brian Bohlman

reportedly survived Hurricane Irma.

Many seabirds are affected by red tide, which tends to be more prevalent in the fall and winter months as warmer waters can be congenial to algal growth. Cormorants are an indicator species for this type of poisoning.

"Cormorants tend to be commonly affected by this toxin and, during active blooms, can be seen acting 'drunk' on the beach, struggling to stand and unable to fly. Other seabirds affected include pelicans, gulls and terns, and herons and egrets," said Dr. Bast. "During an active bloom, our ICU is typically filled with affected cormorants."

As for the reddish egret patient,

problems associated with brevetoxicosis were too much for it to handle.

"Unfortunately, this reddish egret developed complications from renal failure including stones in the cloaca, called cloacaliths," added Dr. Bast. "Despite intensive treatment, this egret passed away from its illness."

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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Our First Cold Front Of Season Fires Up Fishing



by Capt. Matt Mitchell

Our first noticeable cold front of the season finally passed through this week. After the warmest October on record, this cool down was much needed to fire

up our fishing and give us that much anticipated change of season.

After a brief period of strong northerly winds, the lower humidity and cooler temperatures made for a much welcomed change. Now that we have had our first cold front, the gates are open for what is an almost week-to-10-day pattern of cold fronts.

Spanish mackerel, king mackerel and bonitos will be following the south bound bait migration out from the beaches. Taking a live well full of small shiners out here is a great way to fire up the open water action by live chumming, though its certainly not necessary. Most days, the live chumming is not needed though it will keep these feeding fish close to the boat and within easy casting distance.

Getting in on this action during calmer days will be as easy as finding feeding birds within sight of the beach. Look for surface feeding action right under these birds. Somedays, this action can be as close as the no wake buoy line while other days its out a few miles.

Once you locate these feeding frenzies, it's "run and gun action." Run the boat up to the feeding fish, shut down and start rapid fire casting. Small heavy spoons are the best choice out here as the bait these fish are targeting is small. As fast as you can work a spoon across the surface, these lightening-fast fish will chase it down and crush it. Replacing the treble hooks on your spoons to a single J hook not only does a lot less damage to these fish, it makes unhooking them much safer.

This week marked the arrival of the first huge flocks of white pelicans, which are a sure sign winter has already begun for our northern neighbors. Sheepshead fishing will finally start to pick up as our water temperatures continue to drop. These fish move in closer to shore for their annual spawn. After months of cleaning very few fish, it's now time to sharpen your fillet knives.

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.✪



Pam and Kevin Murray got in on the redfish bite with Capt. Matt Mitchell this week photo provided

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Dave Doane

Plant Smart

Miami Lead Plant

by Gerri Reaves

Miami lead plant (*Amorpha herbacea* var. *crenulata*) is in a particular category of native plant. It is endemic to the state, meaning that it is found only in certain locations in Florida.

Another, and more profound, way to look at it is that the species is found growing naturally in no other place in the world. Specifically, its native range is the pine rocklands on the Miami Rock Ridge of Miami-Dade County.

Such habitats exist only in South Florida, the Florida Keys and some islands of the Bahamas, and they are so diminished that they are designated as globally imperiled.

Miami lead plant was discovered in Miami-Dade County in 1904, thus the common name.

Today, it is federally listed as endangered.

A member of the pea family, it is also called crenulate lead plant, white lead plant and clusterspike false indigo.

This long-lived perennial shrub reaches a height of three to five feet and is about as broad.

The stems are purplish and the alternate leaves five to seven inches long and pinnately compound.

Each leaf has 5 to 22 pairs of oblong leaflets, each about an inch long, plus a terminal leaflet. The term *crenulata* refers to the leaflet's crenulated, or scalloped, edges.

The showy white to pale lavender flowers bloom spring to early fall on racemes measuring six to eight inches long.

Each flower is tiny, only about one-fourth of an inch long.

This endangered species is the host and nectar plant for the cassius blue butterfly and attracts other pollinators such as native bees.

It grows in full to partial sun in dry sandy soil and is not salt tolerant.

Research is exploring whether the plant can survive conditions outside its historic range in case climate change makes introduction to other areas necessary.

Sources: *Everglades Wildflowers* by Roger L. Hammer, *The Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida* by Gil Nelson,



Miami lead plant, a federally listed endangered species, produces showy spikes of flowers photos by Gerri Reaves

www.fairchildgarden.org, www.fnps.org, <http://www.miamidade.gov>, and <https://saveplants.org>.

*Plant Smart explores the diverse flora of South Florida.**

Morning Bird Walk At Bunche Beach

Experience the beautiful birds of Bunche Beach with a bird patrol guide on Saturday, November 16 at 8 a.m.

Provided in cooperation with Lee County Parks and Recreation, the beachfront walk is free with paid parking of \$2 per hour (tour is approximately two hours). Participants meet on the beach located in South Fort Myers, off Summerlin Road. Drive south on John Morris Road until it dead ends.

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

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

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

Celebrating Fall Tradition



Angela Chenaille and Monika Morgenweck

photo provided

Bell Tower's 2nd annual Pumptober-Fest recently brought beer aficionados, families and friends together for an afternoon that included unlimited beer samplings, fresh food, carnival-style games and live entertainment.

Pumptober-Fest featured ales, lagers, pilsners, stouts and hard ciders from 27 craft breweries, including six from Southwest Florida, along with special pumpkin-flavored beer served from a nostalgically decorated Pumpkinade

Stand. Bell Tower restaurants and merchants also provided complimentary appetizers and dessert samples, and several competed in a mac and cheese tasting event.

Pumptober-Fest was hosted by Bell Tower in partnership with Suncoast Beverage and benefited the Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce Foundation, which provides college scholarships, grants for teachers, entrepreneurial education, internships and mentoring.*

Alva Boat Ramp Renovations

Boaters who navigate the upper Caloosahatchee will soon notice an improved access to the Alva Boat Ramp due to a renovation project approved by the Lee Board of County Commissioners recently.

The project will expand the popular boat ramp at 21580 Pearl Street to two lanes, replace the boarding dock and make

parking lot improvements, including ADA accessibility. The ramp, which provides access to the Caloosahatchee River upstream of the Franklin Locks, is used by an average of 1,150 people monthly.

The work is scheduled to be completed by Spring 2020 and is being completed by Kelly Brothers, Inc. of Fort Myers.

Cost of the project, about \$495,000, is funded by boater registration fees.

For more information on Lee County Parks & Recreation, visit www.leeparks.org or call 533-7275.*

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North Fort Myers High had the Best Overall Display with *Mummy's Curse* photos provided

People's Choices For Scarecrows In The Park

The Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation recently announced the People's Choice winners of the 10th annual Scarecrows in the Park competition.

The winners are:

Best Youth Group Created Display – Cub Scout Pack 119, *Ultimate Couch Potato*, sponsored by Morgan & Morgan

Most Creative Display – Riva Del Lago

Condominium Association, *Two Ghoules and a Hurst*

Best Halloween Theme – Lehigh Elementary School, *Our Happy Place*, sponsored by GameTime

Best Business/Organization Created Display – The Little Gym, *Seriously Spooky Little Gym*

Best Overall Display – North Fort Myers High School, *Mummy's Curse*, sponsored by Riverside Realty/Staging Matters

More than 14,000 votes were cast in this year's People's Choice competition, compared to last year's 11,000 votes, despite a tornado warning and severe



The Most Creative Display went to Riva Del Lago Condominium Association

weather watch during the second weekend of the Fall Festival. Increased interest in volunteering at "the polls" is credited with the increase in votes. Volunteer students from the Lee County schools, Florida Gulf Coast University, Florida SouthWestern State College and other schools signed up in record numbers to participate, welcoming visitors and encouraging them to vote for their favorite scarecrow.

The Lakes Park Fall Festival brings the community together each year to create a fun, family-oriented, Halloween-themed event at Lakes Regional Park. This includes Lee County Parks & Recreation, park vendors Wheel Fun and the Railroad

Museum of Southwest Florida, local schools, nonprofits, youth organizations, various businesses and philanthropic organizations such as the Foundation and the Sunrise Rotary.

"Our Rotary Clubs are pleased to have been in partnership with Lakes Park for the Fall Festival event for a decade," said David Gallantine, past president of the Sunrise Rotary Club. "Each year we get to welcome new visitors to the park and many will stop on their way out commenting on how well the park is maintained, and expressing amazement on the variety of options for all ages. Lakes Park is a hidden gem for Fort Myers."✴

Historic Lodge And Indian Mounds Cruises

Captiva Cruises' newest expedition in its Discover Southwest Florida History tours will focus on the fishing cultures in Pine Island Sound. Titled A Thousand Years of Fishing, the cruise encompasses fascinating characters and traditions.

Departing weekly from McCarthy's Marina on Captiva, guests will travel to Pineland on Pine Island. Along the way, there will be an up-close look at historic fish houses of Pine Island Sound and a discussion on the area's diverse fishing cultures from the indigenous Calusa, to Spanish Cuban Ranchos, to the Punta Gorda Fish Company, and the spectacular tarpon and sport fishing of today.

The next stop will be Tarpon Lodge, where passengers will be oriented to the historic property, the family-run business and its storied tradition of fishing within Pine Island Sound and Charlotte Harbor. Guests will have lunch at the 1926 lodge with waterfront views of Pine Island Sound and mangrove islands.

After lunch, passengers will walk across the street to Randell Research Center (RRC). RRC, a program of the Florida Museum of Natural History, aims to establish and maintain, at the internationally significant Pineland



Historic fish house on Pine Island Sound

archeological and historical site, a permanent facility dedicated to learning and teaching the archeology, history and ecology of Southwest Florida. An educator will guide participants on Calusa Heritage Trail to one of the pre-Columbian mounds of the ancient Calusa while elaborating on this unique fishing culture.

This cruise is an excellent opportunity for families and neighbors to get together and learn about the natural and cultural history of

Southwest Florida while observing wildlife along the way. There will so be an opportunity to view fish and other marine life during the trawling net segment of the cruise.

Cruises will be offered on Tuesdays through April, departing at 10 a.m. and returning at approximately 3 p.m. Captiva Cruises also offers cruises to Cabbage Key, Useppa Island, Boca Grande with beach and shelling excursions to Cayo Costa State Park as well as sailing adventures, sunset

cruises and dolphin watch and wildlife adventures with Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF).

For more information and reservations, call Captiva Cruises at 472-5300 or visit www.captivacruises.com.✴

Garden Festival

visitors find plants for their gardens."

Vendors will have many types of plants and trees, including palms, fruit trees, bromeliads, hibiscus, butterfly plants, African violets, orchids, air plants, herbs, succulents, cacti and many hard-to-find species. Vendors will also offer garden supplies, such as mulch and special fertilizers. The Edison Garden Shoppe will be open and have unusual tropical and Florida native plants that thrive in Southwest Florida. Ceramic flower pots, vegetable and flower seeds, garden art and gardening gift items will also be available for purchase.

A limited number of carts will be available, so guests are encouraged to bring a cart or wagon for transporting plants. A designated plant holding tent and loading spot will be offered for anyone needing assistance. Parking and admission to the festival is free, but tours of the homes, museum and lab are not included.

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

Book Review

The Bitterroots

by Di Saggau

U*SA Today* says, "If Box isn't already on your list, put him there." I couldn't agree more. *The Bitterroots* is the third novel I've read by CJ Box, and I look forward

to his next one. This is about a former sheriff's investigator, Cassie Dewell, who against her better judgement, accepts a case from one of her clients – a friend defending a man accused of raping his niece. The case seems open and shut but Cassie goes to a small town nestled by the Bitterroot Mountains of Montana to sort out the truth.

She's her own boss, and she prefers it that way. After existing in the bureaucracy of local law enforcement for years, she tired of the self-aggrandizing officials and the good old boys system, so she founded Dewell Investigations LLC. Things are going quite well for her. All that is about to change. This case involves a black sheep member of the infamous Kleinsasser family in Lochsa County. Cassie interviews the man accused of the rape and then proceeds to track down other members of the family. They are a dark, corrupt bunch, obsessed with family loyalty to a fault. In the process, her life is threatened, she ends up in jail, and she gets to know some of the most conniving and dangerous people in the county.

Meanwhile, there is an unknown

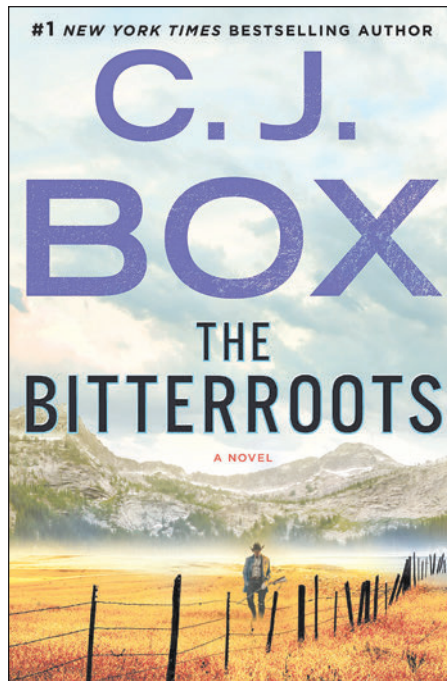


image provided

driver of a huge semi who is determined to run over anyone who gets in his way. His identity is not revealed until much later in the book. The Kleinsassers have called the shots in their county for decades, and the Iron Cross Ranch is their stronghold. Now there is a bitter battle to see who will inherit the ranch. The power of this family goes above and beyond anything Cassie could have imagined.

Box throws in some local history that enhances the story. He's also very talented writing about roads, vistas, mountains and towns. The reader believes they are right there. So far *The Bitterroots* is the best book by Box that I've read. And that's saying a lot because I also liked his others.✧

School Smart



by Shelley M. Gregg, NCSP

Dear Shelley,
My fourth grader seems to be struggling with reading comprehension. She can figure out how to say

the words she's reading but, somehow, she has trouble at the end of a story or lesson really understanding what she's read. How can I help her?

Annamarie M, Fort Myers

Annamarie,

A great way for you to help your daughter increase her reading comprehension skills is by teaching her to ask the "right" questions before, during and after she reads a story or assignment. You can teach these to her by reading with her and modeling these questions. When she sees how much this helps her understand her assignment, she will start asking herself

these questions as she does her work. She'll learn from you how to implement this questioning technique.

Questions to ask before reading an assignment include:

What do you think will happen in this story?

What might be the problem?

Where may be the setting of the story?

What do you know about this topic?

What does this story make you think of?

What are you wondering about this story?

What does the title tell you?

Here are some questions to ask while reading the story:

What do you think will happen next?

What can you tell me about the story so far?

What questions do you have?

Why do you think the character did that?

What would you have done?

Here are some questions to ask after the reading is completed:

What was the problem/solution of the story?

Why do you think the author wrote this?

What were your favorite and least favorite parts and why?

What would you change about this?

What will happen next?

Asking these probing questions about the reading material will allow your daughter to activate her long-term memory so that she can remember the reading selection. It may take some time for you daughter to learn the process, but it will be worth her and your time to learn this comprehension technique.

Shelley Gregg 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.✧

Expansion Plans Set For Ronald McDonald House

Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) Southwest Florida will be breaking ground soon on a house expansion. Through silent fundraising, the organization has raised 80 percent in cash and pledges towards the capital campaign target of \$3 million.

A \$500,000 Challenge Grant from

the Clark Family Foundation will be used to encourage new donations from first-time donors and increased donations from previous donors. Campaign Co-Chairs Jim Nathan and Sandy Stilwell-Youngquist recently kicked-off the capital campaign at a House Expansion Launch Party at the Ronald McDonald House.

The Ronald McDonald House provides a home-away-from-home for families with children who require medical attention. The charities' family centered programs make a difference by improving the clinical outcomes and experience for the children and their families. With the ever-growing medical services and advancements of Golisano Children's Hospital, the need for additional space at the Ronald McDonald House will grow as well.

The house expansion will consist of: six additional bedrooms; two additional offices; one additional public restroom; one storage closet; entry hallway; additional parking; and structural improvements to the existing 23-year-old house, including, but not limited to heating, venting, air-conditioning, hurricane impact windows and soffit/fascia repair and replacements.

The community is encouraged to help Ronald McDonald House Charities Southwest Florida provide stability and resources to even more families so they can be near their children while they receive the care they need.

To donate or for more information, visit www.rmhcswfl.org/house-expansion or call Amy at 437-0202.✧

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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

Heights Halloween Fundraiser



From left, Armando and Tamara Llechu with Teresa and Dave Cato photos provided

The Heights Foundation's Black Jack, Black Cats and Boo'z raised \$18,200 to benefit educational programs for at-risk children in Harlem Heights. The event, held October 26 at The Heights Center, featured casino games including Black Jack, craps, roulette and poker.

There was live music, a spooky signature cocktail, silent auction, raffle and door prizes. Sponsors included Golisano Children's Hospital, Lee Health, Entech, Mutual of Omaha and Pristine Landscape. Bahama Breeze Island Grille and Fine Folk Pizza

provided food. The emcee was Gina Birch.

Bryan and Christina Filson were awarded best overall costume and most creative costume. Armando and Tamara Llechu were voted best couple.

"We had a fun evening featuring casino games, costumes and cocktails," said Kathryn Kelly, president and CEO of The Heights Foundation. "In addition to having a great time, guests supported educational programs at The Heights Center, including after-school, summer camp, our charter school and early learning center."**



Christina and Bryan Filson



Kathleen and Kevin Shimp



Kathryn Kelly and John DeMaster



Katy and Doug Johnson



Lori and Jim Sanger



Stephanie and Damien Warden



Susan and Craig Scott



Tom Hornby and Tracie Bagans

Bonita Dentist To Compete In Ironman Triathlon

by Jeff Lysiak

It may be one thing to take on the challenge of competing in the most physically demanding endurance race for an athlete of any age, but to face that challenge – for the first time – at 60 is quite the daunting task.

However, for Sanibel resident Dr. Toniann Conte, she has a greater sense of purpose.

“For me, I’m not only a dentist but I’m also a fitness person,” said Dr. Conte. “When I woke up the morning of my 60th birthday, I asked myself, ‘What can I do that’s different this year?’”

Her answer? A triathlon.

On November 24, Dr. Conte will compete in the IRONMAN Arizona Triathlon race, to be held in Tempe. The urban race course includes a 2.5-mile swim, followed by a 112-mile bicycle ride, finishing with a 26.2-mile run.

“I wanted to do something that fulfills my passion, but with a greater sense of purpose,” added Dr. Conte, who will be competing in the triathlon to raise support for children with cleft palates. As a member of Team Smile Train, she hopes to raise awareness and funds to help support youth in need of cleft palate surgery.



Dr. Toniann Conte

photo provided

According to the Mayo Clinic, a cleft palate results in openings or splits in the upper lip, the roof of the mouth (palate) or both. A common birth defect, a cleft palate can be corrected. In most babies, a series of surgeries can restore normal function and achieve a more normal appearance with minimal scarring.

Dr. Conte has already raised more than \$10,000 of her \$15,000 goal.

“My original goal was \$10,000, but since I’ve already exceeded that, I thought about where all of this started,” she explained. “It began when I turned

60, so I thought what better way to help than to raise 60 new smiles. That will cost \$15,000 to train doctors how to perform the cleft palate surgery.”

Smile Train is an international children’s charity with a sustainable model that provides training, funding and resources to empower local medical professionals in more than 90 countries to provide 100 percent free cleft repair surgery and comprehensive cleft care in their own communities.

“We use the ‘teach a man to fish’ model focusing on training local medical professionals to perform cleft

repairs in their communities. Those medical professionals then go on to train others creating a long-term, sustainable system,” the Smile Train website reads, in part. “Patients see their forever smile for the first time, parents cry tears of joy, lives and communities are changed forever.”

And how dedicated is Dr. Conte to attaining her goals, both financially and physically? In preparation for the triathlon, she wakes up at 3 a.m. every morning in order to train six days per week, and up to 20 hours each week.

“I’ve been a known runner on the island for a while – you can see me running along San-Cap Road all the time,” said Dr. Conte, whose dental practice is located in Bonita Springs. “But I’ve been training for this triathlon since January. I’m doing long distance biking loops around Sanibel and Captiva – I go through ‘Ding’ Darling and down to Lighthouse Beach. I think I’ve biked through every neighborhood on the planet! And I can’t thank Coach Kurt (McIntyre) enough for making sure there’s an open lane for me to swim at the Sanibel Rec Center.”

To support Dr. Conte’s effort, visit <https://my.smiletrain.org/fundraiser/drtoniannconteironmanarizona20191487512060>.

“The people on Sanibel and Captiva have been so charitable,” added Dr. Conte. “I’ve already got lots of support, particularly from women on the islands. And everybody likes to see children with a happy smile.”✱



Babcock Ranch Homes for the Holidays features nine decorated models photo provided

Babcock Ranch Holiday Model Home Tour

There’s no place like Babcock Ranch “Homes for the Holidays” model home tour during Charlotte DeSoto Building Industry Parade of Homes Friday, November 22 through Sunday, December 8. Models will be open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday.

The free event features nine model homes decked out in holiday splendor from Florida Lifestyle Homes, Lennar, WCI, Meritage Homes, Pulte Homes and Stock Classic Homes. Models showcasing the Babcock Ranch lifestyle will be available for touring in the Lake Timber, Parkside, Trails Edge, Lake Babcock and Lake Babcock Estates neighborhoods.

Visitors can also learn more about Arthur Rutenberg Homes, Divco Custom Homes and Babcock National, a new golf and lifestyle community

within Babcock Ranch that will feature 18 of Lennar’s most popular Terrace, Veranda, Executive and Estate Home designs.

Stop by the Woodlea Hall Discovery Center in Founder’s Square, Babcock Ranch’s walkable downtown, for an official Parade of Homes ticket entry booklet. After touring the models, visitors can cast their votes at Table & Tap restaurant for Best Holiday Home Décor, Best Babcock Ranch Home and Best Outdoor Living Space in the Parade of Homes People’s Choice Awards and enter to win raffle prizes including a Visa gift card, a Smart television, an iPad and gift certificates.

Babcock Ranch Parade of Homes Homes for the Holidays programs will be available in the Woodlea Hall Discovery Center. To learn more about the event and the model homes available for viewing, visit www.babcockranchparadeofhomes.com.✱

Our Mother’s Home Benefit

Our Mother’s Home, a Fort Myers-based residential program for transitioning teen mothers and their children from foster care and human trafficking to stable, happy and productive lives, will be holding a Fundraiser Dinner Dance at The Plantation Golf and Country Club on January 25, 2020, as its official party

to recognized 20 years in service. The dance will run from 5 to 11 p.m.

Music will be provided by Sound Decision. Silent auction items will be available. Tickets are \$100 per person. Since this event has been sponsored by a generous donor, 100 percent of all proceeds will benefit Our Mother’s Home of Southwest Florida.

Founded in 2000 to provide teens mothers and human trafficking victims with a safe nurturing home, education, parenting support, physical, psychological and spiritual care, Our Mother’s Home has provide care to over 300 young women and their babies, more than 30 percent of whom were human trafficking victims.

“Our Mother’s Home was founded as a way to ensure teen mothers and their babies have the opportunity to remain and grow together,” said Karen Watson, executive director. “Today, we’ve seen hundreds of young mothers come through the home and move on to beautiful lives. The goal of this celebration is to spread awareness about the positive changes we’ve been making in the lives of teen mothers and their babies over the last 20 years. We know it will be a fun and inspiring celebration for all those who attend.”

The Plantation Golf and Country Club is located at 10500 Dartington Drive in Fort Myers. Tickets can be purchased at www.ourmothershome.com/event/may-brunch. For more information, contact Karen Watson at 267-4663.✱

Will Power

Reality TV



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

What do Christmas, Thanksgiving, birthdays, anniversaries, family reunions and Valentine's Day all have in common? Some of you are fortunate enough to look forward to and enjoy these lifetime events.

For the rest of us, however, who feel a pang of dread or nervousness, what do you suppose is at the root of your emotion?

If you ask this question to any psychologist, they'll probably tell you that holidays, events and family gatherings are all kindle that could ignite combustible situations into full-on emotional

fires.

Our own memories recall crushed hopes for some; lifelong slights bubble to the surface in others.

There's a certain expectation that comes with holidays and special events, isn't there? We envision a Norman Rockwell painting but sometimes end up with Ozzie and Sharon Osbourne-like catastrophes worthy of the strangest and most embarrassing reality television show episodes.

The unrealistic expectation is what does us in. We envision an unlikely picture rather than approach holidays and gatherings with a realistic expectation of what is likely to be. We fail to prepare ourselves to remember to take deep breaths and not overreact when the inevitable disappointment arises.

Hence the pain.

Expectations surrounding family finances and estate plans are no different. I can't tell you the number of times that, prior to a catastrophic event such as a heart attack, stroke, or even death, Mom and Dad haven't discussed their finances with their adult children beneficiaries, who often anticipate unrealistic inheritances.

Along those same lines, parents don't want to be a "burden" to their children, but fail to discuss financial situations prior to needing nursing or assisted living care. If only everyone discussed the need prior to the crisis, appropriate legal and financial planning could have saved the family tens of thousands of dollars.

In our culture, discussing finances is taboo. Parents aren't open to the discussion, usually for any number of reasons including pride, embarrassment, a desire to not be a financial burden, or to avoid entitled relatives from seeking handouts.

Not only do families avoid lifetime finance discussions, rarely will Mom and Dad reveal the contents of their estate plan ahead of time.

Perhaps they don't want to have difficult conversations resulting from their decisions, such as naming a gatekeeper trustee on a spendthrift son's inheritance or giving him less than his siblings because he enjoyed so much more in the form of lifetime gifts. Other times, clients don't wish to reveal their true net worth to their children. Yet in other situations, Mom and Dad, with good reason, delay their adult children's inheritance for a surviving spouse in a second marriage who is not the biological parent of the children.

Expectations also surround the roles that Mom and Dad assign. "I thought I was the logical choice to be the trustee to administer Mom's affairs," eldest son points out when he learns youngest sister has been named to fill that role.

Certainly, Mom and Dad have the absolute right to bequeath their hard-earned assets and money in ways and amounts that they see fit. Whenever a client directs me to draft a plan with what I perceive to be unusual provisions, I'll ask for his thought process to document the file.

Most of the time, the explanation justifies the direction.

When the bomb drops, however, especially when it's only days after Mom died, which is itself an emotional time, I brace for the emotional fallout.

What's the answer? One answer is to develop a lasting relationship with a qualified estate planning attorney who's been through these types of situations dozens, if not hundreds, of times. Practice does count here.

Rather than view your estate plan as a once-a-couple-decade transaction, instead develop a sense of its fluidity and continuity with your family, ever-changing finances and tax laws. Ask the emotional questions during the planning process. Determine how to best frame your plan amongst your loved ones to minimize unrealistic expectations.

A well thought-out estate plan is as much of an art as it is a science.

And enjoy that upcoming wedding, holiday or family reunion. Be mindful of your reactions and do your best to relish the presence of your loved ones. It's rarely all Norman Rockwell, but it won't be too bad if you have an *America's Funniest Home Video* moment either.

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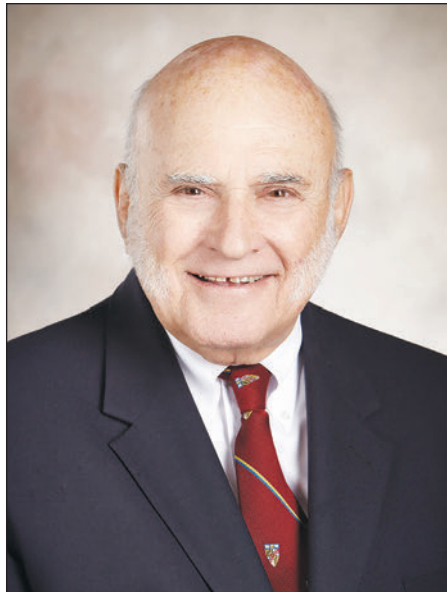
Doctor Named Trustee Of The Year

Lee Health board member and former board chairman Sanford "Sandy" Cohen, MD, was recently named Florida Hospital Association's (FHA) Trustee of the Year at its annual Celebration of Achievement in Quality and Service Awards last week. Dr. Cohen has served on the Lee Health Board of Directors since 2013 and served as chairman from 2014 to 2017.

"It has been an honor to serve with Dr. Cohen over the last six years, and I congratulate him on this well-deserved honor," said Lee Health Board of Directors Chairman Stephen Brown, MD. "Sandy has been a great advocate for improving access to health care in Southwest Florida. His leadership has been instrumental in expanding high-quality health services in our community."

FHA cited Dr. Cohen's years of service within health care and education and his support of the construction of Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida, the only children's hospital between Tampa and Miami, as key factors in honoring him with this award. Dr. Cohen has increased transparency within Lee Health by pushing for better reporting of quality outcomes and has been instrumental in advancing physician-led teams such as the Physicians Leadership Council and the Clinical Collaboration Council.

"As a public safety-net health system, we have a fiduciary duty to our community to remain transparent and vigilant in the work we do as a board to promote



Sanford Cohen

photo provided

the best possible health and wellness for Southwest Florida," said Dr. Cohen. "I am humbled by this recognition, and I am thankful for the support of the Lee County community that allows me to continue to serve as an advocate for improved health care quality, access and transparency."

FHA's annual Celebration of Achievement in Quality and Service Awards is held each year during its annual meeting to acknowledge leaders in the industry who have contributed to the mission of providing quality health care for the people of Florida. FHA honored 12 individuals and teams for their achievements in improving patient care and contributing to their communities, and recognized 18 hospitals for their work in the Hospital Improvement Innovation Network.

"Florida hospitals do so much more than treat illness and injury," said Bruce Rueben, FHA president. "These leaders, teams and volunteers remove barriers to care for vulnerable populations, improve patient/provider communication, encourage healthy lifestyles and provide dependable support during emergencies. We are proud to recognize these anchor organizations in our communities."

Dr. Cohen earned his medical degree from The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in 1960. He served as chair of the pediatrics department at Wayne State University School of Medicine and chief of pediatrics for the Children's Hospital of Michigan. He also served as dean and the university's provost before retiring as a professor. Dr. Cohen served as a captain in the U.S. Army Medical Corps at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and has an extensive history of community involvement in pediatric health care issues and research organizations.✧

Participants will learn how to identify grief triggers, discuss coping strategies and explore ways to memorialize lost loved ones.

Adults age 18 and older are welcome, and there is no charge to attend the professionally led sessions. Pre-registration is required; call 985-7716.

With generous community support, Hope is able to offer additional counseling programs including grief support for adults, teens and children, bereaved parents and those who have experienced the suicide of a loved one. Hope also offers an LGBT group, crisis support for community schools and businesses, and a Spanish language group.

Call 482-4673 to learn more or visit www.hopehcs.org/counseling.✧

From page 7

Art Sale

Way partner agency serving individuals with blindness and vision impairment in Lee, Glades and Hendry counties. The mission of the Lighthouse of SWFL is to enable people of all ages living with a visual impairment or blindness to remain independent, active and productive in society. Lighthouse of SWFL, a nationally accredited agency, is funded by the Division of Blind Services; United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee; Lee County Board of County Commissioners Partnering for Results; and civic, corporate, and individual donors.

Lighthouse of SWFL is located at 35 West Mariana Avenue in North Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.lighthouseswfl.org or call 997-7797.✧

Series Offers Grief Support Over The Holidays

If you've lost a loved one, Hope Healthcare can help you discover the tools and support you need to cope with feelings of grief over the holiday season.

Hope's three-part Coping with Grief During Holidays educational series will be held Tuesdays on November 19 and 26 and December 3 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. in Room B at Hope's Administrative Office at 9470 HealthPark Circle in Fort Myers.

Professor Honored In Health Field

Elizabeth Whitmer, a professor of health information technology for Florida Southwestern State College (FSW), was just recently selected as Top Professor of the Year in Health Information Technology for 2020 by the International Association of Top Professionals (IAOTP) for her outstanding leadership and commitment to the industry.

With close to three decades of professional experience in health information technology and education, Whitmer has certainly proven herself as an accomplished professional and expert in the field. As a dynamic, results-driven leader, she has demonstrated success not only as a professor for FSW, but in every role she has held. Her impressive repertoire of roles has included healthcare coder, director of FIRE (Find, Inspire, Recruit, Educate), former president of the Southwest Florida Health Information Management Association and inventor of My Healthcare Coder, a patented, specialized keyboard designed to make the coding process more efficient and accurate.

Whitmer's areas of expertise include but are not limited to: medical coding, billing, legal compliance, HIPAA guidelines, privacy rules for healthcare patient records, electronic health systems technology and security.

Whitmer is a sought-after speaker and has also created a cellphone app for her



Elizabeth Whitmer photo provided

students' and coders' that can be found at www.myhealthcarecoder.com. She has also invented a unique coding keyboard for coders and recently earned two U.S. patents on her creation of the healthcare coding keyboard available at www.elliott-technology.com.

Ms. Whitmer earned a registered health information technician degree in health information management from International College in Fort Myers. She is also a Fellow of the Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity and has earned her certified coding specialist and certified coding specialist-physician office credentials.

For more information on Whitmer, visit www.elliott-technology.com.✱

Guardian Ad Litem Foundation Hires Director

Guardian ad Litem Foundation, 20th Judicial Circuit, has appointed Jessica Stanfield as its new executive director.

In this role, Stanfield will be responsible for carrying out the nonprofit organization's mission of ensuring that every abused, neglected and abandoned youth in Southwest Florida has a voice as they navigate the judicial, education and child welfare systems. Stanfield will oversee fundraising and development, communications, event coordination and campaigns to broaden community awareness about the Guardian ad Litem program.

Guardian ad Litem Foundation raises funds that help recruit and train court-appointed advocates, as well as pay for "extras" like school field trips, movie tickets, participation in clubs and sports, or birthday parties for youth in the child welfare and foster care systems.

"Jessica has a tremendous work ethic, is passionate about helping children in the foster care system and has strong skills in the fundraising and development arena," said Bruce Greenberg, president of Guardian ad Litem Foundation's executive committee. "I'm confident that she will continue driving the foundation's vision and making a positive impact on the lives of



Jessica Stanfield photo provided

children we serve."

Stanfield previously was the development director for Southwest Florida Symphony, where she led individual and corporate sponsor development for the symphony orchestra and its endowment foundation.

Before moving to Southwest Florida, Stanfield worked at the National Museum of Dance in New York, serving as programming and outreach coordinator.

Stanfield earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York.✱

Lee Republican Women To Hold Monthly Meeting

Lee Republican Women Federated will hold their monthly meeting at Pinchers – The Marina at Edison Ford on Monday, December 9. There will be a social at 5:15 p.m. followed by dinner and a program. Cost is \$25.

Guest speaker will be Eric Golub, columnist, blogger, author, public speaker, satirist and comedian.

Pinchers – The Marina at Edison Ford is located at 2360 West First Street in Fort Myers. For reservations, call or text Ashley Winstel at 602-708-8663 or email acwinstel@gmail.com before December 5 at noon. For more information, visit www.leerepublicanwomen.com.✱



Eric Golub photo provided

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Superior Interiors

How To Achieve Bohemian Aesthetic



by Linda Coin

When was the last time you gave your home decor an upgrade? Perhaps you've been waiting to revamp a room because you have limited inspiration, or you just can't

decide what style would make the most sense for the project. If you're ready to give your living space a well-deserved aesthetic boost but you're not sure where to get started, let bohemian style take the reigns.

Bohemian decor is all about creating a relaxed and care-free environment in the home. It's a mixture of culture, colors and items that are equally interesting and eclectic. The style offers an opportunity to express and diversify yourself, a route that's ideal for someone who's looking for an excuse to let their inner self shine without boundaries.

If you're not ready to part ways with a neutral color palette, you may need to take a step back. Bohemian aesthetic is only achievable when you're willing to focus on bold colors that may seem unconventional in a traditional or modern room. While you can certainly use a neutral base or foundation, you should focus on using vivid, deep shades of orange, purple and blue throughout the living space. Textures and patterns are also critical when it comes to boho chic – traditional tapestries can bring this style together if you're looking for a

wall hanging or item to drape across the couch.

From wall art and sculptures to books, plants and lamps, there's an endless opportunity to mix and match the decor to achieve the bohemian aesthetic. When it comes to accessories, don't follow the traditional phrase of "less is more" – the more pattern, texture and detail in a decorative accessory, the better. For example, you can opt for throw pillows with fringe and intricate patterns to make a statement in the living room.

When it comes to furniture, it's wise to choose pieces with a vintage touch. Brand new items that look clean-cut don't fit the bohemian aesthetic. Inspired by the likes of a gypsy, each piece of furniture should tell its own story. The more textures and styles of furniture that fill the room, the better. Consider lounge chairs and daybeds that encourage relaxation. When it comes to choosing textures, consider what types can help you and your guests get cozy and feel at home with ease. Plush options are encouraged – make it simple for everyone to get comfortable by adding an arrangement of mismatched throw pillows and blankets.

Bohemian aesthetic can be a bit intimidating for someone who likes to play it safe. If you're ready to break free from your shell, this is the perfect style choice for you. Don't let the idea of tackling this task on your own keep you from achieving the boho look in your living room, book nook or bedroom – a design professional can help you along the way. He or she will evaluate the living space and provide insight based on the allotted area, your personality and ideas. From there, you can devise a blueprint and get the ball rolling on your new and improved home that gleams boho.

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

Financial Focus

Get Creative With Retirement Withdrawals



by Jennifer Basey

Like many people, you may spend decades putting money into your IRA and your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan. But, eventually, you will want to

take this money out – if you must start withdrawing some of it. How can you make the best use of these funds?

To begin with, here's some background: When you turn age 70 ½, you need to start withdrawals – called required minimum distributions (RMDs) – from your traditional IRA and your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan, such as a 457(b) or 403(b). (A Roth IRA is not subject to these rules; you can essentially keep your account intact for as long as you like.) You can take more than the RMD, but if you don't take at least the minimum (which is based on your account balance and your life expectancy), you'll generally be taxed at 50 percent of the amount you should have taken – so don't forget these withdrawals.

Here, then, is the question: What should you do with the RMDs? If you need the entire amount to help support your lifestyle, there's no issue – you take the money and use it. But what if you don't need it all? Keeping in mind that the withdrawals are generally fully taxable at your personal income tax rate, are there some particularly smart ways in which you can use the money to help your family or, possibly, a charitable organization?

Here are a few suggestions:

Help your grown children with their retirement accounts – Your grown children may not always be able to afford to "max out" on their IRAs. You might want to help them with any excess funds from your own retirement accounts. You can give \$15,000 per year, per recipient, without incurring any gift taxes – an amount far higher than the current annual IRA contribution limit of \$6,000 (or \$7,000 for individuals age 50 or older).

Help your grandchildren pay for college – You might want to contribute to an investment specifically designed to build assets for college. A financial professional can help you choose which investments might be most appropriate. Of course, if your grandchildren are already in college, you are free to simply write a check to the school to help cover tuition and other expenses.

Help support a charitable organization – Due to recent changes in tax laws, many individuals now claim a standard deduction, rather than itemizing. As a result, there's less of an incentive, from a tax standpoint, for people to contribute to charitable organizations.

But if you'd still like to support a charitable group and gain potential tax benefits, you might want to consider moving some, or all, of your required distributions from your IRA to a charity. You can transfer up to \$100,000 from your IRA in this type of qualified charitable distribution, thus meeting your RMD requirements without adding to your taxable income. Furthermore, this move might keep you in a lower tax bracket. (Before making this transfer, though, you will need to consult with your tax advisor.)

Your RMDs can contribute greatly to your retirement income, but, as we've seen, they can do even more than that – so use them wisely.

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.✽

LeeTran Trolleys To Resume Free Seasonal Service

LeeTran's seasonal downtown trolleys will resume service on Wednesday, November 20.

Both the Blue and Gold Line trolleys provide free access to and from the historic Fort Myers River District. LeeTran trolleys allow for a fun and convenient way to enjoy shopping, dining and entertainment, without having to drive and park downtown.

The Blue Line runs through downtown Fort Myers. The route loops from the Oasis Condominiums to West First Street and McGregor Boulevard along First Street, then to Rosa Parks Transportation Center, Fowler Street and Second Street.

The Gold Line connects North Fort Myers to downtown Fort Myers. The route leaves from the Rosa Parks Transportation Center traveling over the Caloosahatchee Bridge, makes a

left on Hancock Bridge Parkway, left on Moody Road, right on Skyline Drive, and right on Hancock Bridge Parkway. The route continues to Beau Drive, makes a left on North Key Drive, right on North Cleveland Avenue, then back across the bridge to First Street and returns to Rosa Parks Transportation Center.

The seasonal downtown Fort Myers trolley service will run through April 2020.

All schedules and route information can be found at www.rideleetrans.com.

LeeTran is the public transit provider for Lee County, providing more than 3 million rides per year. LeeTran operates 27 bus routes, ADA paratransit service called Passport and an employer vanpool program. LeeTran employs approximately 280 people and has a fleet of 53 full-size buses, 11 trolleys, five seasonal trams and 50 paratransit vans.

To learn more about this event and about the services offered by LeeTran, or for schedule and fare information, call 533-8726 or visit www.rideleetrans.com.✽

From page 2

Historic Downtown

committee of the former and as secretary to the latter in the 19-teens. Stanley served as the state's district inspector under migratory bird law.

Today, ASWF is still going strong, and the board members of 1994 are still familiar faces at chapter events.

But the Sheraton's star faded – as a hotel, anyway.

The tower was eventually reinvented as the Ramada Inn and Suites at Amtel Marina and then as the Ambassador Riverfront Hotel. It then remained vacant for several years.

However, it was completely renovated to become Campo Felice, which opened in 2017.

Walk down Edwards Drive and remember when a local Audubon chapter hosted a national convention in historic downtown.

Then visit the following research centers to learn more about downtown

conventions and who hosted them. The Southwest Florida Historical Society is an all-volunteer, nonprofit 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 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 nonprofit 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.

Visit the IMAG History & Science Center at 2000 Cranford Avenue or at www.theimag.org.

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

Pelican Wire Wins Blue Chip Business Award

Pelican Wire was recently named the winner of the 25th annual Southwest Florida Blue Chip Community Business Award, which is given to for-profit businesses in Southwest Florida that have overcome adversity to achieve success.

Chosen by a panel of judges from eight applicants, Pelican Wire CEO Ted Bill has overcome personal and professional challenges to maintain, restructure and expand his family business.

Founded in 1969 by Larry and Theresa Bill, Pelican Wire originated in Hebron, Illinois as a small business operated out of the Bill's basement. The couple decided on the name "Pelican Wire" to coincide with their dream of someday moving to sunny Southwest Florida.

In 1976, that dream came true. The Bills and their young son, Ted, loaded two moving trucks and headed south for sun, fun and opportunity. Since their move in 1976, Naples has been home to Pelican Wire's headquarters and the company has grown rapidly becoming a globally recognized leader in the manufacture of fine-gauge, high-temperature resistance, and thermocouple wire.

Sadly, Larry Bill passed away in 2008 following a courageous battle with



From left, Pelican Wire employee-owners Gray Davis, Kevin Pearce, Jason Brewer, Trent Dunn, Scott Gregory, Don Dimauro, John Pollock, Frank Balsamo and Gary Trippe photo provided

cancer. At this time, Ted was well into a successful career with Disney in Orlando, but as a dedicated and loving son, he left it behind to move home and help his mother fulfill his father's wish of turning the company over to its employees. Throughout the next year, Ted, Theresa, and a team of lawyers, accountants and advisors worked together to restructure the company into an employee stock

ownership program.

Since the restructure, Pelican Wire has continued to grow both organically and through acquisition, obtaining multiple companies over 10 years and establishing a parent company, Pelican Holdings Group. Today, Pelican Wire and its sister company, Rubadue Wire, have more than 150 employee-owners and generate annual revenues that exceed

\$40 million.

"Pelican Wire's story truly exemplifies the ability to overcome adversity and achieve success," said Scott Gregory, vice president and business insurance agent of McGriff Insurance Services. "CEO Ted Bill, along with his mother, showed strength and perseverance as they worked to transform and grow their family business."*

FGCU Professor Named Among Influential Leaders

Molly Trendell Nation has been named to the Georgia Southern University Alumni Association's 40 Under 40 Class of 2019.

Nation is a Georgia Southern Double Eagle Society member who graduated with a bachelor's degree in biology in 2009 and a master's in science education in 2012. She is an assistant professor of environmental education at Florida Gulf Coast University.

"I'm lucky to be able to dedicate my life to educating young people about the importance of conserving this planet," said Nation. "I'm inspired by the students in my classes and feel optimistic about our future because of them."

The 40 Under 40 honorees were chosen by a selection committee that reviewed each individual's professional expertise, achievements, dedication to charitable and community initiatives and their commitment to Georgia Southern.

"We are excited to honor the 40 Under 40 Class of 2019," said Wendell Tompkins, director of alumni relations at Georgia Southern. "This is an impressive group of rising stars who will continue to inspire and lead their communities while demonstrating



Molly Trendell Nation photo provided

a lifelong commitment to Georgia Southern University. They represent the excellence of the university's alumni and exemplify the positive contributions and remarkable achievements for which Georgia Southern is known."

The class was recently recognized at an awards luncheon in the Nessmith-Lane Center Ballroom on the Georgia Southern University Statesboro Campus. In addition, the honorees will be featured in the fall 2019 edition of *Georgia Southern* magazine.*

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Frankly Speaking



by Howard Prager
It's getting interesting. Sort of like a no-hitter which you don't speak about until the end, college (and pro) football moves on and, with just a little bit of shuffling, the top teams remain the same.

Already, we have had a No. 1 vs. No. 2 game (or No. 2 vs No. 3, depending on which rankings you're reading). LSU at Alabama was a doozy, with the Tigers reigning supreme. The outcome thrusts QB Joe Burrow in as a leading Heisman candidate. It lived up to Game of the Century billing, at least, until the next big matchup.

Holy Gophers! The last time Minnesota was 9-0 was 1904, and the Wright Brothers had just taken their first flight. Minnesota took it to fifth ranked and previously unbeaten Penn State, driving home an exciting victory. If they can run the table beating rivals Iowa and Wisconsin and this year's no-show Northwestern, they can remain unbeaten and deserving of a Top 10 seed. Then the big challenge would be beating presumed Big Ten East champ and lock-for-a-playoff-bid Ohio State in the conference title game. That would be another matchup of the century (although not necessarily No. 1 vs. No. 2).

Speaking of unbeatens, the 49ers/Seahawks game was an instant classic on Monday night, with lead changes, defensive gems, offense and overtime. After a battle and miss kicks in OT, Seattle finally won, taking down the only unbeaten team in the NFL. Folks, don't miss the replay between them at the end of the season. It could be more exciting than the Super Bowl. The 49ers acquired wide receiver Emmanuel Sanders in a trade two weeks ago with Denver. San Francisco sent a 2020 third-round pick and a 2020 fourth-round pick to the Broncos for the 32-year-old receiver. Sanders isn't a top-tier player in his 10th season, but he immediately becomes the 49ers' top receiver. In his first two games, Sanders' impact has been felt, catching 11 balls for 137 yards and two touchdowns. He was particularly dominant during the

Niners' 28-25 Thursday night road win over the Arizona Cardinals, but only had two catches against the Seahawks due to injury.

Keeping it in San Francisco but switching it to the NBA, injuries have already fallen on preseason favorite Golden State with the loss of Steph Curry with a broken hand for much if not all of the season. As if that's not bad enough, the Warriors are in last place in the Western Conference. People have said that Steph Curry means as much or more to Oakland as Michael Jordan did to Chicago. We'll see how they adjust without their all-star and in their new home in San Francisco. Curry has played all of his 10-year career in Oakland.

And two similar stories on the same night is the good news story of the day. Basketball game challenges have been the rage during timeouts. This week, two students lived up to that challenge, earning free tuition at Oklahoma and Nevada-Reno respectively by making half court shots. The odds of one person doing it is one in 100. What are the odds of two people doing it, and on the same day?!

Howard Prager is the son-in-law of longtime columnist Ed Frank. Prager is a sports enthusiast from the Chicago area who also writes and blogs about leadership. Email comments or questions to press@islandsunnews.com.

Hodges Offers CPR Course

Hodges Connect, a professional education and training initiative at Hodges University, is offering a Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) class on the Fort Myers campus on Saturday, November 30 from 9 to 11 a.m. Fee for the class is \$65 per person and includes course materials, training and an electronic course completion card.

"Knowing CPR saves lives," said Andrea Fortin, director of Hodges Connect. "Most heart attacks happen outside the hospital, and when someone performs CPR, the chances of that person surviving doubles or triples."

Hodges University is located at 4501 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers. For more information about Hodges Connect and upcoming workshops and courses, visit www.pathways.hodges.edu/event/cpr-course or email afortin@hodges.edu.

Sanibel Resident Makes Seventh Hole In One

by Jeff Lysiak

Sanibel resident Patsy C. Whitaker hit a hole in one last week while playing at Shell Point Golf Club in Fort Myers. The 87-year-old accomplished the feat from the green tees on the 136-yard hole #4 on November 6.

"It's my seventh hole in one," said Whitaker. "I've hit two at The Dunes and this is my third one at Shell Point."

Witnessing Whitaker's single stroke shot was her husband, Hubert, along with fellow golfers Donna Oberhill and Maxine Shevlin.



Patsy C. Whitaker photo by Jeff Lysiak

Golf Fundraiser Breaks Profit Record



A golfer putts towards the hole

photo provided

The 30th annual Go Green golf fundraiser benefitting Keep Lee County Beautiful, Inc. (KLCB) at The Plantation Golf & Country Club was the most profitable ever with a net profit of just over \$35,000. The sold out tournament involved 128 golfers for friendly competition and fun-filled course contests.

Proceeds will be used to enhance KLCB's Classroom in a Box program. This program offers teachers complete, week-long educational "boxes" for their classrooms. The box contains all of the materials, curriculum (and some even offer field trips) to complete their lessons. Lessons include: microplastics testing, reducing the carbon footprint and the importance of trees. These educational modules will be offered at no cost to educators and are available on a first come, first serve basis. The hands-on engagement opportunities will reach thousands of Lee County students and help educate them on the importance of protecting our environment.

Keep Lee County Beautiful sends thanks to all of the golfers, supporters and volunteers who made the event possible. This includes presenting sponsor Nextran, VIP sponsors Advanced Disposal and Waste Pro, and other sponsors 3rd Eye, EZ-Pack, Trailers to Trash, Callaghan Tire, Covanta, McNeilus, Toter, Trucks & Parts, Wastequip, Iron Container, Southwest Disposal, Petersen Industries, Truck Pro, All Florida Truck & Equipment, Autocar, Cascade Cart Solutions, Palm Truck Center, Port Consolidated, TruStar Energy, West Coast Custom Cabinetry, Impact Innovates, Big Truck Rental, PRT Lids, Wheeler Bros., Inc., Barraco & Associates, Big Truck Transportation, Lane Insurance, and Sea Gypsy Vacation Rentals.

Keep Lee County Beautiful, Inc., established in 1989, is the county's largest volunteer-based community action and education organization. For more information, call 334-3488 or visit www.klcb.org.

SPORTS QUIZ

- 1. Name either of the two major-league players to have caught four no-hit games.
- 2. Who was the only person elected to the National Baseball Hall of Fame and the U.S. Senate?
- 3. Name the only NFL starting quarterback to win Super Bowls for two different teams.
- 4. When was the last time before 2019 (Virginia, Texas Tech) that both Division I schools in the men's basketball NCAA Championship game were there for the first time?
- 5. Name either of the two NHL defensemen to record four power-play points in a Stanley Cup Final game.
- 6. In 2019, Carli Lloyd of the U.S. set a record for most consecutive Women's World Cup matches with at least one goal. How many was it?
- 7. Sugar Ray Robinson holds the third-longest unbeaten streak in pro boxing history. How long was the streak (number of fights)?

ANSWERS

- 1. Boston's Jason Varitek and Philadelphia's Carlos Ruiz. 2. Jim Bunning. 3. Peyton Manning, with Indianapolis and Denver. 4. Michigan State and Indiana State, in 1979. 5. Denis Pottin of the New York Islanders (1980) and Boston's Torey Krug (2019). 6. Six matches (starting in 2015). 7. It was 91 bouts -- he went from 40-1 in 1943 to 128-1-2 (with a no-contest) in 1951 before losing.



Tommy Bohanon

photo provided

Festivities For All Star Classic Set For December

The Rotary Club of Fort Myers South will present the 31st annual All Star Classic (ASC), supported by title sponsor Acentria Insurance, from December 2 through December 4. This organized countywide game recognizes players and cheerleaders from Lee County high schools. Proceeds from the game will benefit the Rotary Club of Fort Myers South Foundation, Inc., which supports various local community programs and scholarships for those in need.

Former NFL fullback and current XFL player Tommy Bohanon, will be the keynote speaker for the ASC Banquet at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre on Monday, December 2 from 6 to 9:30 p.m. During the event, participating student athletes and cheerleaders will be recognized. The 31st annual All Star Classic game will be held at Fort Myers High School on Wednesday, December 4.

"The All Star Classic has been a long-standing tradition that supports not only our students, but our community," said Kerri Goldsmith, president of the Rotary Club of Fort Myers South. "This

featured event allows the players and cheerleaders opportunities to collaborate with other students and come together as a team, while raising funds to support others in need in our community."

The event was the first countywide high school football all-star game in Florida when it was founded in 1989. John Carrigan, a Sanibel resident, teacher and referee, wanted to provide a showcase for talented players who weren't getting their due. Since then, it's grown into a hotbed of top-level prospects, and nearly two dozen players who have taken part in the game have gone on to NFL careers.

The game features the best seniors, chosen by their head coaches, from Lee County public and private high schools. Cheerleaders from each school are also selected to participate. The contest pits a North team against a South team, and each player and cheerleader receive a customized commemorative ring or charm.

The Rotary Club is seeking donations and sponsors to help cover the cost of the event. Businesses and individuals can sponsor the event, a team, player or cheerleader. Advertising opportunities in the event program are also available. Visit www.rotarysouthallstarclassic.org or contact event chair Suzi Ward at 834-8643 or szward22@gmail.com for more information.✪

Red Sox Spring Training Tickets

Tickets for the 2020 Red Sox Spring Training exhibition season go on sale at JetBlue Park at Fenway South and online at www.redsox.com on Saturday, December 7 beginning at 10 a.m.

The team will play a total of 18 home games, including 17 Grapefruit League games and a game against the Northeastern University Huskies. Red Sox Spring Training is presented by CVS Health.

Fans needing ADA accessible seating or those who may not have a computer may call 877-REDSOX9. Hearing impaired fans may call the Red Sox TTY line at (617) 226-6644. Mastercard is the preferred payment of the Boston Red Sox.

The Red Sox' equipment truck will

depart from Fenway Park on Monday, February 3. Truck Day is presented by JetBlue.

Pitchers and catchers are scheduled to hold their first workouts on February 12 and position players are scheduled to hold their first workouts on February 17. Workouts are free and open to the public.

The club will once again hold an Open House at JetBlue Park on Saturday, February 15 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The free event, open to the public, welcomes fans to walk around the park and the grounds, while enjoying concessions and entertainment on Fenway South Drive – a street festival inspired by Jersey Street in Boston.

The 2020 season is the Red Sox' ninth at JetBlue Park at Fenway South. All day games are scheduled to begin at 1:05 p.m. Only one night game is scheduled for March 21 at 6:05 p.m. when the Red Sox host the Baltimore Orioles.✪

Registered Nurse Earns Lactation Certification

Angela Frink, APRN, of Physicians' Primary Care of Southwest Florida has earned certification as a certified lactation counselor. The certification is awarded by the Academy of Lactation Policy and Practice to professionals who have demonstrated the necessary skills, knowledge and attitudes to provide clinical breastfeeding counseling and management support to families who are considering breastfeeding or have questions about lactation.

Frink completed 52 hours of training and passed an examination based upon her workplace competencies. She assists pediatricians in the Cape Coral office of Physicians' Primary Care of Southwest Florida at 1261 Viscaya Parkway.

Frink is a graduate of Florida Gulf Coast University, where she received a bachelor of science degree in nursing and a master of science degree as a family nurse practitioner. She has more than 12 years of nursing experience,



Angela Frink

photo provided

including two years in management positions prior to earning her degree as an advanced practice registered nurse, which is the new title for what was formerly known as advanced registered nurse practitioner.

For more information, visit www.ppcswfl.com.✪

Pediatric Care To Benefit From Hospital Affiliation

Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital and Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida have entered into an agreement to expand care for kids across Florida's west coast. The new agreement officially takes effect immediately, and will give providers at both locations access to medical privileges to admit and treat patients. Golisano Children's Hospital will also be able to take part in pediatric research studies and protocols through Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital.

This innovative relationship provides a process for collaboration between the two hospitals, with a focus on increasing access to specialized pediatric care. Through this agreement, Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital and Golisano Children's Hospital will work together to deliver the highest quality care, leverage resources and create better value for families.

"Joining forces between Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital and Golisano Children's Hospital will allow each institution to do more of what they were intended to do – provide the highest quality care to the children in our regions," said Armando Llechu, chief administrative officer of Golisano Children's Services at Lee Health. "In addition to enhancing consultative services between the two hospitals, this agreement opens up many possibilities for future collaboration, programs and activities that will enhance the excellent care we are already providing to our patients. Simply put, we are better

together."

The two hospitals also agreed to promote best practices at both locations with the goal of tracking and improving patient outcomes, lowering costs and promoting patient care closer to home.

Over the past several months, the two hospitals have been working together to advance patient care through a variety of activities, including:

Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital providing genetics telehealth counseling to patients at Golisano's Children's Hospital;

Golisano Children's Hospital participating with Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital on Phase I research protocols on brain tumors;

More than 25 clinical staff members at Golisano Children's Hospital participating in the Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital Brain Symposium, a three-day educational conference about caring for patients with disease and injury of the brain and spine;

Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital providing advanced training in pediatric dialysis to Golisano Children's Hospital staff, as well as ongoing mentoring and shadowing of its multidisciplinary team.

"Our mission has always been to provide excellence in pediatric care and this agreement broadens our reach to help patients in more ways than before," said Thomas D. Kmetz, president of Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital. "Location should never be a barrier to finding the best health care for your child, and this relationship not only helps to expand care for young patients across the west coast of Florida, but also builds upon the pediatric research underway to find cures for childhood diseases."✪

Doctor and Dietician

Do You Spiralize?



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

Spiralization is the art of turning veggies into “noodles” using a spiralizer. Many people are turning to spiralizing to find healthier ways to consume more vegetables, reduce carb intake and include a more paleo, veggie-filled, gluten-free, healthy substitute for pasta, rice, or even fries.

We have been spiralizing for quite some time now, and it’s not only nutritious but tons of fun. It only takes a few minutes and you save time because you don’t have to wait for water to boil like you do with pasta.

Why spiralize? Many of us spiralize to increase veggies and decrease calories. This simple switch can really make a difference in your weight loss goals. Vegetables contain water and are loaded with nutrients, dietary fiber and

help stabilize metabolism.

Spiralizing your veggies and fruits will increase the volume of that food, thus making them go a long way. For example, one zucchini is enough for two people to enjoy. Kids love spiralizing! My niece visiting last summer could not wait to spiralize anything she could get her hands on. She learned about healthier eating options, as well as had fun.

You may be thinking, “What can I spiralize?” Well, funny you should ask. My favorites right now are zucchini, beets, carrots, sweet potatoes, regular potatoes, peppers and apples. Not only can you use these spiralized veggies for “pasta,” but you can also eat them as a side dish, use them in soups, add to baked goods such as muffins and quick breads, or make delicious salads with them.

A great website for how-to’s as well as recipes is www.inspiralized.com. I use the Paderno World Cuisine 4-Blade spiralizer from Amazon. Another great option is the Inspiralizer. They all contain different blade sizes for personalization. Let’s get inspiralized. You can do it!

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.✱

Four Hospitals Earn A Grades For Patient Safety

Patient safety is a top priority at Lee Health and, for the second straight report card, all four of its adult acute care hospitals have earned the highest national marks for safe care. The Leapfrog Group recently announced its Fall 2019 Hospital Safety Grades, awarding Cape Coral Hospital, Gulf Coast Medical Center, HealthPark Medical Center and Lee Memorial Hospital each “A” grades; the highest possible ranking.

In addition to all four campuses receiving “A” grades, each hospital also improved its overall score from May’s report card.

“Every patient should feel confident they are receiving safe health care when they visit the hospital, and we are thrilled to not only repeat our ‘Straight A’ report card, but also improve our overall safety score at all four adult hospitals,” said Larry Antonucci, MD, MBA, Lee Health president and CEO. “This recognition demonstrates the amazing work our doctors, advanced providers, nurses and support staff do to provide safe and compassionate care. Leapfrog is a national leader in driving quality health care and it is an honor to be recognized for our commitment to patient safety.”

Since 2000, The Leapfrog Group has promoted improved health care

safety, quality and affordability in the United States through a commitment to transparency. The non-profit organization releases its hospital safety grades twice a year, rating hospitals on 27 measures of safety data. Only 32 percent of the approximately 2,500 acute care hospitals Leapfrog graded received an “A.” To earn a top grade, hospitals must receive a raw score of at least 3.151.

“‘A’ hospitals show us their leadership is protecting patients from preventable medical harm and error,” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. “It takes genuine commitment at every level – from clinicians to administrators to the board of directors – and we congratulate the teams who have worked so hard to earn this A.”

Cape Coral Hospital received a raw score of 3.4714, a 0.1484 score increase.

Gulf Coast Medical Center notched a raw score of 3.4294, a 0.015 score bump.

HealthPark Medical Center earned a raw score of 3.2366, a 0.0725 score increase.

Lee Memorial Hospital collected a raw score of 3.1982, a 0.1275 score bump.

Leapfrog also publishes an annual list of the top children’s hospitals in the United States and has named Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida one of the 10 best in the country for the past three years. To learn more about Leapfrog’s Fall 2019 Hospital Safety Grades, visit www.hospitalsafetygrade.org.✱

dearRPharmacist

Bitter Melon Is Useful For Oral Cancer



by Suzy Cohen, RPh

Dear Readers: There’s a famous quote by Hippocrates that underpins today’s article: *Let food be thy medicine and medicine be thy food.*

Bitter melon is a food that has a new potential use for an unusual cancer. It’s a gourd that belongs to the pumpkin and zucchini family. You’ll likely be told by your doctor that this is just a folk remedy and not “approved” for anything important.

I disagree. As you know, my life’s work is devoted to researching natural foods and extracts that work along the same pathways as drugs. I’m a pharmacist so I understand all of that. FYI, I happen to also formulate dietary supplements and, to be fully transparent, I have included bitter melon in one of them. But it’s in there for blood sugar and insulin sensitivity concerns. Today’s article isn’t about any of that. It’s about mouth cancer.

Early signs of oral cancer are easy to ignore and include chronic mouth sores, white or red patches in your mouth, numbness, pain, difficulty swallowing, jaw swelling or voice alterations.

Bitter melon is a food, and its constituents have been studied for the past few years for fast-growing malignancies, especially mouth cancer which many smokers get. Tobacco is a risk factor, among others.

The latest news is solid and suggests that bitter melon extracts can slow down the growth of oral dysplasia and squamous cell cancer in the mouth and throat. This makes me think it could help with stomach and colon cancer too. This also makes me think all smokers should read today’s article.

Certain inflammatory pathways and pain-causing cytokines rise during the development and progression of oral cancer. If bitter melon can control the cytokines (and again, research proves that it does), then oral cancer progression and spreading is blocked.

Your oncologist might be interested in evaluating certain immune checkpoints that bitter melon is known to suppress. I list the specific pathways and cytokines in my extended article, which I can email to anyone who wants it. Just join my online community at www.suzycohen.com

In a brand new study published in October 2019, researchers proved that bitter melon inhibited both glycolysis and lipogenesis, which is hugely beneficial to oral cancer patients. This should be making headlines everywhere but since it’s not heavily funded, and foods don’t make people money, you won’t hear about it after today.

A paradigm shift needs to occur in your mind if you’re being treated for cancer. Please tell yourself that many malignancies have natural, proven treatments that can help. Of course, you want to be prudent

but keep an open mind. I hope today’s article gives you renewed hope and a new therapy to consider. Bitter melon is considered a food, but it’s also sold as a tea and dietary supplement. My intention is to help improve or extend the life of someone you know and/or augment their chemotherapy. This is purely educational, so please ask your doctor what is right for you.

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.✱

Alzheimer’s Center Grant From United Way

The United way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee has chosen The Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer’s Resource Center as a recipient of a grant in the amount of \$2,000. The grant will be used to proactively provide information, education, referrals and counseling for caregivers and loved ones of individuals with Alzheimer’s disease and other related memory disorders in Hendry County.

“We are proud to be a United Way Partner Agency and a recipient of the grant for Hendry County. Together, the partner agencies, with the support of the United Way, make a positive impact in our surrounding community. Together we make the difference,” said Robin Goldstone Garcia, executive director of the Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer’s Resource Center.

The United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades, and Okeechobee is a volunteer organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for all people in the community. United Way is a community collaborator bringing people and organizations together to create powerful partnerships that address issues and solve problems.

The Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer’s Resource Center, a United Way partner agency, provides information, support and education for individuals with Alzheimer’s disease or related memory impairment and their caregivers in Lee and Hendry counties. For more information, visit www.alzheimersswfl.org.✱

From page 1

Boat Show

by the Southwest Florida Marine Industries Association. The association, whose membership includes virtually every boat dealer and marine related company in Southwest Florida, has protected the rights of boaters and promoted boating and the marine industry in Southwest Florida for more than 40 years.

For a complete list of boats on display, exhibitors, show layout and more information, visit www.goboatingflorida.com/boating-shows/2019-fort-myers-boat-show.✱

PETS OF THE WEEK

photos provided

Lee County Domestic Animal Services

Cranberry And Sanderson

Hello, my name is Cranberry. I am an 8-year-old female pit bull mix who is part of our "Class of 2019." It is National Adopt a Senior Pet Month, and we have a fabulous class of seniors at Animal Services. Our volunteers have voted me "Most Likely to Become a Zen Master!"



Cranberry ID# A796465

This is thanks to my laid back demeanor and the way I make people feel relaxed whenever they spend time with me. I am very well-trained and am looking for the perfect home to spend my golden years. With all senior dog adoptions this month, you receive a free bed, bag of food, toy, fuzzy blanket and unconditional love and kisses.

My adoption fee is \$10.

Hi, I'm Sanderson. I am a 2-month-old male domestic shorthair who was just sprung out of foster care and is finally ready for adoption. I came in with my litter mates a bit too small for neutering, so they spent some time being well-cared for by one of the

fabulous fosters. This means I am already litter box trained and social. I play well with the other kids in the kitten room too. And, with the adopt-one-get-a-feline-friend at no additional charge, I'm a great pick.

My adoption fee is \$10 and get a feline friend free.

Pick your own "purr-fect" companion from the pet "pup-kin" patch in November. There are plenty of pets to "fall" in love with at Lee County Domestic Animal Services when visiting with the many cats, kittens, dogs and rabbits currently available. Adoption fees will be reduced for the entire month of November. Adult dogs more than six months of age are just \$30 to adopt; cats and kittens are \$10. In addition, cats and kittens are two-for-one; adopt one and take home a second feline friend at no additional charge.

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.*



Sanderson ID# A798996

PAWS Of Sanibel

Alex

This is Alex, who is looking for his forever home. Alex is approximately 6 months old. He has been combo tested, had his immunizations, been wormed, treated for fleas, and neutered. He is an exceptionally sweet little guy. A purrrrrre joy to be around. He would be great with school-aged, kind children, and everyone else above that age. Kitties this wonderful don't come around too often. Call Pam at PAWS at 472-4823 if you want to meet Alex.*



Alex

Haven on Earth Animal League

Baby Grey And Peloton



Baby Grey

Hi There! We are Baby Grey (grey and white) and Peloton (black and white tuxedo). While we aren't biological siblings, we've spent our entire lives together so we would really like to get adopted together. Baby Grey is a 6-month-old male, and Peloton is a 5-month-old female. We've been neutered and spayed and have all of our vaccinations. We are very playful and sweet.

Baby Grey likes to give kisses, and will cuddle and sleep with you – just like a human child. Baby Grey needs a lot of attention and really needs to have another kitty around to help keep him company and play with him. Peloton is very easy going. They both get along great with other cats and would do well in a multi-cat household. Baby Grey has extremely soft fur and feels like a marshmallow, while little Peloton is sleek and shiny. Peloton has a white tip at the end of her tail.

Come see us at the PetSmart on Six Mile Cypress Parkway in Fort Myers.

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



Peloton



| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| 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 Symphonist Mastersingers | 288-2535 |
| Gulf Coast Symphony | 489-1800 |
| Harmony Chorus, Charles Sutter, Pres | 481-8059 |
| Naples Philharmonic | 239-597-1111 |
| The Schoolhouse Theater | 472-6862 |
| SW Florida Symphony | 418-0996 |
| Theatre Conspiracy | 936-3239 |
| Young Artists Awards | 574-9321 |

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| American Legion Post #38 | 239-332-1853 |
| Angel Flight | 1-877-4AN-ANGEL |
| Animal Refuge Center | 731-3535 |
| American Business Women Association | 357-6755 |
| Audubon of SWFL | 339-8046 |
| Audubon Society | 472-3156 |
| Caloosahatchee Chapter DAR | 482-1366 |
| Caloosahatchee Folk Society | 321-4620 |
| Cape Coral Barbershop Chorus | 1-855-425-3631 |
| Cape Coral Stamp Club | 542-9153 |
| duPont Company Retirees | 454-1083 |
| Edison Porcelain Artists | 415-2484 |
| 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

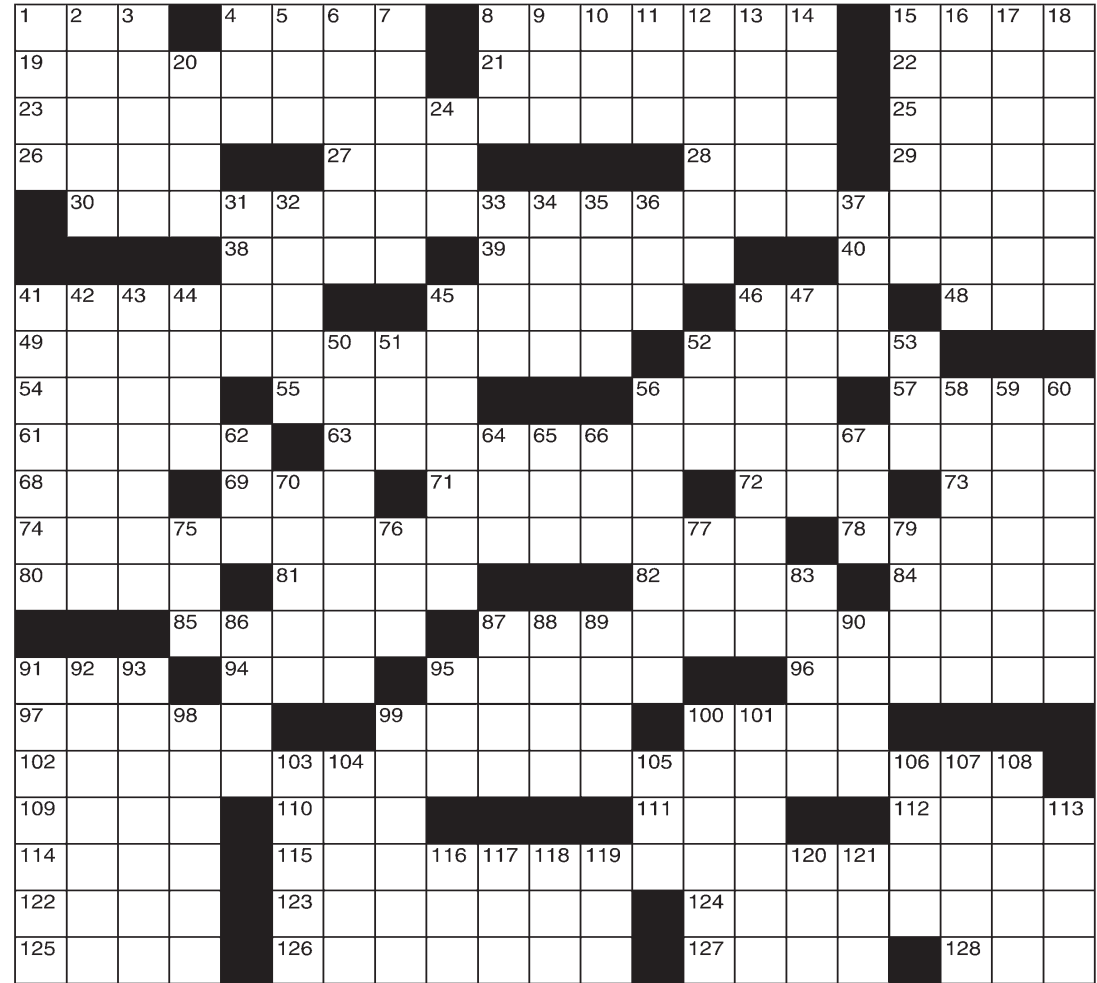
PUZZLES

Answers on page 28

Super Crossword

WHAT SINGERS DO

- ACROSS**
- 1 "All seats sold" abbr.
4 Wound coverer
8 Course outlines
15 Jessica of "The Veil"
19 Really revealing
21 At some future time
22 Appear as though
23 "Take Me Home Tonight" singer picks from the menu?
25 Drawn-out drama
26 Tiny parasite
27 Pucksters' org.
28 Parasite egg
29 Big stirs
30 "Hot Stuff" singer takes a pleasure trip?
38 God of love
39 Cultural credo
40 1967 Dionne Warwick hit
41 Small vise
45 A Great Lake
46 Sahara viper
48 Vogue thing
- 49 "Walk on the Wild Side" singer plays a droning instrument?
52 Get a laugh out of
54 War unit
55 Wet blanket
56 Fast-running birds
57 Trapped like —
61 Choir garb
63 "I Walk the Line" singer trims a photo?
68 Follower of Benedict?
69 Galoot
71 Art stand
72 Aunt, to Juan
73 IRS hiree
74 "It's Too Late" singer grumbles?
78 Hog lover
80 Canadian oil company
81 Group of two
82 Slushy drink brand
84 "—, vidi, vici"
85 Choir song
87 "Let's Stay Together" singer checks IDs at the door?
91 Day, to Juan
94 Entirely
- 95 Writer Nin
96 Queen, e.g.
97 Go inside
99 Nonviolent protest
100 Novelist Oz
102 "Them There Eyes" singer has fun at a bash?
109 Just slightly
110 Brooklyn loc.
111 Assoc.
112 La — Tar Pits
114 Rake prong
115 "Song Sung Blue" singer telephones someone?
122 Snacks on
123 Serving to help
124 Matter of little interest
125 Crate piece
126 Noteworthy
127 Attack like a turtle
128 Tisane, e.g.
- DOWN**
- 1 Cherry part
2 Fixed up
3 "You're never too — learn"
4 Beatified Fr. woman
5 Engine part
6 Ballet great
Alicia
- 7 Lew Wallace novel
8 Like a sneak
9 NBAer Ming
10 P.O. piece
11 Was a guide
12 Sporting spots
13 Of element #5
14 Popular photo-sharing app, for short
15 Lay into
16 Make the first play
17 Petalless showy flower
18 Racked up
20 Bank claim
24 Tall tree
31 Designate
32 Excited, informally
33 "You crack —!"
34 To be, in French
35 Fraternity letters
36 Wernher — Braun
37 Bugle tune
41 Jodie's role in "The Silence of the Lambs"
42 Sun or moon circlers
43 Moves heavily
- 44 "Ellen" actor Gross
45 Upscale
46 Something not to be missed
47 Fish-on-rice food
50 Mr. Hyde's other half
51 Kung — chicken
52 Drs.' gp.
53 Corn serving
56 Custard-filled treats
58 Musical period that began in the 1950s
59 Tacks on
60 Like Russia, once
62 "Dino" star Mineo
64 Persist, as an injury
65 Gp. advising the president
66 "— out!" (ballpark cry)
67 Fleet vehicle
70 Piano part
75 Alley- — (court play)
76 What "je suis" means
77 Abbr. after old dates
79 Author Turgenev
- 83 Forest moon where Ewoks live
86 Hindu dress
87 Prefix with 99-Down
88 Installed, as carpet
89 Gershon of "Cocktail"
90 Sac in anatomy
91 Wars of words
92 First
93 Georgia State locale
95 Feel awful
98 Like firstborn children
99 Extroverted
100 Wear for grill masters
101 Cro- —
103 1930s-'50s bandleader
Skinnay —
104 "Laughing" carnivore
105 Lead-in to Kippur or tov
106 Stork cousin
107 Dadaist Max
108 Smooth shift
113 Out of port
116 Caesar's 52
117 1950s prez
118 Little charged bit
119 Rearward
120 Cellular stuff
121 Fabric flaw



King Crossword

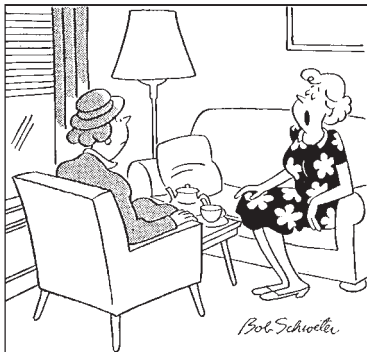
- ACROSS**
- 1 Lehar's "Merry" one
6 "Nonsense!"
11 In one's dot-age
12 Keyless
14 Squirm
15 Multitask, maybe
16 Before
17 Clio nominee, maybe
19 Antiquated
20 Dutch export
22 Customizable computer character
23 Diver
Louganis
24 Doughnut, geometrically
26 Tell the tale
28 Scale member
30 Witness
31 Curve cutter
35 Diamond corners
39 Photog's choice
40 Fish eggs
42 Tick follower
43 Singer
DiFranco
44 "Ivanhoe" author
46 "— on parle francais"
47 Word-finding
- game
49 Seek a bargain
51 Ape
52 Kitchen gadget
53 Having great scope
54 Monica of tennis
- 6 Sleepwear
7 Dazzle
8 Use unduly
9 Wool variety
10 Billfold
11 Saccharine
13 Sill
18 Hr. fraction
21 Indispensables
23 Wonderful
25 "Mayday!"
27 Civil War soldier
29 Theft
31 Dieters' targets
32 Film director
- whose father was a painter
33 Baffler
34 Wine and dine, maybe
36 Elegantly maintained
37 Bk. after Prov.
38 Vacationer at Vail, probably
41 Group character
44 Metal refuse
45 Recording
48 Martini ingredient
50 Solidify
- DOWN**
- 1 Eccentric
2 Ready to roll
3 Understand
4 — podrida
5 Unwanted plants

MAGIC MAZE ● RETREAT

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

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

- | | | | |
|------------|---------|-----------|----------|
| About-face | Go back | Retract | U-turn |
| Back up | Recoil | Run away | Undo |
| Backward | Regress | Set back | Withdraw |
| Fall back | Retrace | Turnabout | |



"I haven't been myself lately —
I even _____
that my husband was right!"
Answer on page 30

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!

Gang
BABLER _____

Vision
SITHING _____

Simple
TODEMS _____

Center
MAIDEN _____

TODAY'S WORD

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

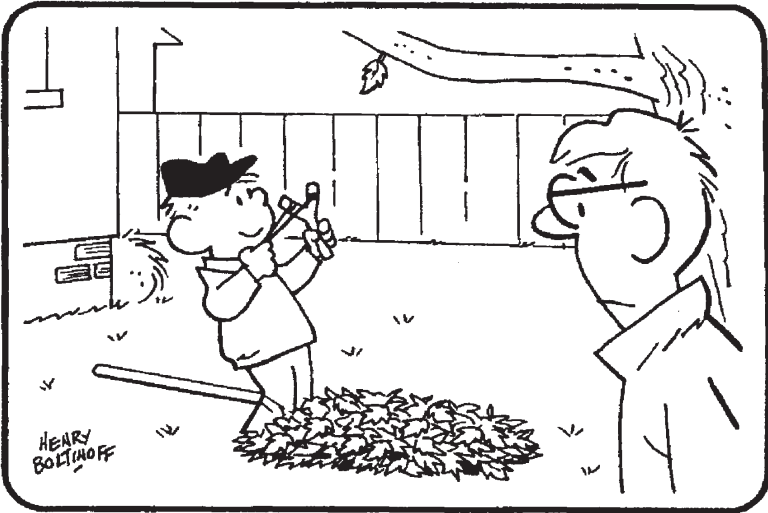
SUDOKU

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 28

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



FIND AT LEAST SIX DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS



Differences: 1. Eyeglasses are missing. 2. Man's collar is different. 3. House has been added. 4. Fence slat is missing. 5. Rake is missing. 6. Bricks have been added.



Sweet Corn and Sausage Stuffing

- 1 ear sweet corn, kernels removed
 - 3 cups cornbread, crumbled
 - 1 pound ground sausage
 - 3/4 cup carrots, chopped fine
 - 3/4 cup celery, chopped fine
 - 1 medium onion, chopped fine
 - 2 tablespoons fresh herbs (such as parsley, thyme, sage)
 - 1 tablespoon all-purpose seasoning (your favorite)
 - 1 egg, beaten
 - 1 cup vegetable broth
 - Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste
- Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Preheat a large cast iron skillet (or other oven-safe pan) over medium-high heat. Brown sausage then add in corn, carrots, celery, onion, all-purpose seasoning, fresh herbs and sauté for 5 minutes or until vegetables begin to soften. Remove from heat and pour mixture into large bowl. Add crumbled cornbread and toss to combine. Add vegetable broth until mixture is moistened. Taste and adjust seasoning with salt and pepper if needed before adding the beaten egg. Pour back into cast iron skillet and bake for 45 minutes or until golden brown. Serve warm.✧



Sweet Corn and Sausage Stuffing

photo courtesy Fresh From Florida

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Secure Trash: Bears Are More Active In The Fall

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) is reminding people to help prevent

conflicts with bears by securing garbage and other items that might attract these animals.
In the fall, Florida black bears begin preparing for the winter by consuming extra calories to pack on fat. During this time, they will eat anything that's convenient and feeding on garbage provides more calories and less effort than

foraging in the woods.
By securing your trash and other food attractants, you can help keep both people and bears safe.
To keep bears wild and away from your home, follow these simple tips:
Secure household garbage in a sturdy shed, garage or a wildlife-resistant container.

Put household garbage out on the morning of pickup rather than the night before.
Secure commercial garbage in bear-resistant dumpsters.
Protect gardens, bee yards, compost and livestock with electric fencing.
Encourage your homeowner's association or local government to institute

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ordinances to require trash be secured from bears.

Feed pets indoors or bring the dishes in after feeding.

Clean grills and store them in a secure place.

Pick ripe fruit from trees and remove fallen fruit from the ground.

Remove wildlife and bird feeders or make them bear-resistant. See the new "Bears and Bird Feeders" video in the "Brochures and Videos" section at www.myfwc.com/bear.

It is illegal in Florida to intentionally feed bears or leave out food or garbage that will attract bears and cause human-bear conflicts. If you see or suspect someone is feeding or attracting bears, please call the FWC's Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-3922.

You also can help people and bears stay safe by remembering to watch for bears while driving. This time of year, bears are traveling across more roads in search of food, which results in more vehicle-bear collisions. The FWC advises drivers to be aware of their surroundings as they drive in bear country, especially around dusk and dawn, and when there is forest on both sides of the road. The FWC works with Florida Department of Transportation to post bear crossing signs in areas that receive particularly high levels of vehicle-bear collisions and plan locations for wildlife underpasses to allow bears and other animals to cross safely under roadways. To learn more about how to keep people and bears safe on Florida roadways, see the "Vehicle Collisions with Bears" video at the "Brochures and Videos" section of www.myfwc.com/ear.*



A Florida black bear looks for food before winter arrives photo provided

Shore Fishing:



Don't Harm The Fish
by Capt. Matt Mitchell

Landing a big fish from the beach can be hard on the fish. Dragging a fish up onto the sand if you're going to release it is not an option as it usually damages or kills the fish.

Hold the fish in the water while you unhook it if you're going to release it.

The less you can touch a fish before release the better for the fish.

If you want a picture with the fish, support it as you lift it out of the water – and do it quickly.

Before releasing, revive the fish while holding it in the water; moving it slowly back and forth so water goes over its gills. The fish will let you know when it's ready to swim off.

Florida residents as well as out of state visitors need a fishing license to fish from shore.

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| Town And River | Fort Myers | 1997 | 6,452 | \$2,095,000 | \$1,800,000 | 242 |
| Edgewater | Fort Myers | 2018 | 3,584 | \$2,095,000 | \$2,032,150 | 691 |
| Town And River | Fort Myers | 2012 | 3,979 | \$1,595,000 | \$1,550,000 | 27 |
| St. Charles Harbour | Fort Myers | 2009 | 6,507 | \$1,579,000 | \$1,539,000 | 289 |
| Sanibel Shores | Sanibel | 1991 | 3,868 | \$1,295,000 | \$1,220,000 | 53 |
| Cape Coral | Cape Coral | 2008 | 2,345 | \$998,725 | \$950,000 | 4 |
| Fairview | Estero | 2003 | 3,118 | \$995,000 | \$895,000 | 207 |
| Fairview Isles | Fort Myers Beach | 1969 | 1,678 | \$938,000 | \$870,000 | 329 |
| Mcphie Park | Fort Myers Beach | 1990 | 1,783 | \$829,000 | \$795,000 | 281 |

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