



A family ice skates during the holidays

photo provided

Ice Skating Added To Festival Of Trees Activities

Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida will present the 13th annual Festival of Trees, an annual fundraiser that has become a holiday tradition in Southwest Florida for thousands of families. The four-day festival, from December 5 to 8, ushers in the holidays

at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center (SBDAC).

This year, there will be indoor ice skating on a synthetic ice rink located in the center of the tree display. Open to the public throughout the festival, skaters of all ages can enjoy a bit of that Rockefeller Center wintery feel here in Southwest Florida. On Friday, December 6, you can skate with Big Mama from B-103.9 from 4 to 6 p.m. during his live remote.

Throughout the festival, the public can

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Artist Reception At The Alliance



The Rapture of my garden by Ciro Quintana
images provided

The Alliance for the Arts will hold a closing reception for Confessions of a Cuban Artist: Ciro Quintana on Saturday, November 30 at 10 a.m. Quintana will be in the gallery for a conversational tour of his artwork. Complimentary coffee and pastries will be provided.



Drip Drop by Michele DiRocco

Step into a world like no other, where real and surreal blend into imaginative and colorful collages that both parody and realistically combine comic strips, art history, pulp art, scenes from old movies

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Cast members doing the Reindeer Dance

photo provided

Christmas Memories At Broadway Palm

by Di Saggau

Every year, I rely on Broadway Palm's Christmas show to get me in the spirit, and it came through for me again with the delightful production of *Sounds of Christmas*. The show is the creation of Amy Marie McCleary, who

is also director and choreographer. She said, "I was inspired by my own Christmas traditions with my family and friends. So many of our Christmas memories are colored by the music of the season, and I wanted to highlight all those special tunes in unique ways." And that she does as only she can.

The show begins with Mom (Katherine Walker Hill) and Dad (Troy Bruchwalski) telling their children about the story of Poindexter the Elf and his last minute efforts to put together a musical playlist

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Christmas Boat Parade Returns To Fort Myers Beach

The Fort Myers Beach Chamber is counting down to the 31st annual Fort Myers Beach Christmas Boat Parade, scheduled to depart Salty Sam's Marina on Saturday, December 7 at 6 p.m.

The dazzling lighted parade will be led by the chamber boat featuring Mr. and Mrs. Claus along with grand marshal and World War II veteran John Murphy, father of Fort Myers Beach Town Vice Mayor Ray Murphy. The event has been selected as a nominee for *USA Today's* Best Holiday Parades.

Participants are asked to register to enter boats by visiting www.fmbboatparade.com and filling out the official registration form. All sizes and types of boats are eligible to enter. There is a \$25 fee for boats and a \$50 fee for business-sponsored boats. You can pay online but you still must sign and submit an application. Check payment may also be submitted with your application.

"If you have a boat, I encourage you to decorate it and join us in the parade," said Janeen Paulauskis, event coordinator for the Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce. "It's a great way to get into the Christmas spirit, and it's the best party



A holiday-themed boat

photo courtesy www.fortmyersbeach.org

around town." Vessels will assemble in front of the docks at Salty Sam's Marina at 5:30 p.m. At 6 p.m., the boats will begin to leave Salty Sam's Marina and will proceed to pass Parrot Key Caribbean Grill heading northwest by Bonita Bill's Waterfront Café and Doc Ford's, then under the Matanzas Pass Bridge. They will travel in and out of Siesta Isles and toward Bowditch Point, turning in front of the Pink Shell Beach Resort and Marina. The boats will travel past Nervous Nellie's and Matanzas on the

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Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

Sears, Roebuck Comes To Town



by Gerri Reaves, PhD

For decades in the mid-20th century, Sears, Roebuck & Co. was one of the anchors of the downtown business district. Along with other nationally known chain stores like JC Penney, the retail store and mail-order business founded in 1886 introduced a different kind of retail experience to First Street. This historic photo of the Bradford Block show Sears during the Christmas season of 1948.

Zoom into those windows and you'll see not only Christmas decorations but the announcement that the shoppers can order from the 1948 Christmas catalog in the catalog sales department.

Sears, Roebuck has long been associated with Christmas shopping, particularly because of its famous catalog, a tradition begun in 1933. Some readers might remember it as "the Wish Book," as it was christened in 1968.

Early in 1937, *The News-Press* announced that retail giant and mail-order house Sears, Roebuck would be establishing a store in Fort Myers in the Heitman Building at First and Jackson. The 1897-98 building was to undergo a \$30,000 renovation and open in the fall.

Although the worst of the Great Depression was over by 1937, the addition of a major retail chain store was heartening. Only union labor was to be hired for the remodeling, and local people would be hired as employees. Fort Myers was destined to be an important trading center in Southwest Florida, news articles forecast.

The façade was given a moderne-style exterior with glazed black tiles and duralium trimmings. (Duralium is a strong lightweight alloy of aluminum.) Large plate glass windows were installed along First and Jackson streets.

The retail legend was to occupy the entire building, so every current tenant had to move out, including Foxworthy's Clothing and Shoe Store, which had been in residence since the building was constructed.

For the first time, the primary corner space would not be a grocery store, as it had been since Harvie E. Heitman built it as Heitman & Co. Tropical Market, as well



Sears, Roebuck opened at First and Jackson in 1937. This photo captures the entire Bradford Block during the 1948 Christmas season. Note the Arcade Theatre marquee mid-block.
photo courtesy SWFL Historical Society



The 1897-98 Heitman Building still stands, but long ago shed its Moderne architectural features
photo by Gerri Reaves

as a pool hall, upstairs photography studio and law offices, would have to find other accommodations.

Sears, Roebuck opened in Fort Myers on October 14, 1937 with a nine-day bargain festival in 20 departments on two floors. There was even a gas station to the rear on Bay Street. Such a breadth of merchandise anticipated one the best remembered of the store's many slogans in the late 1960s and early 1970s, "Sears has everything."

But back in those early years, the store had rather staid advertising phrases like "Shop with certainty at Sears, the greatest name in retailing."

Fast-forward to the 1960s, when the nation's traditional downtowns were declining and the economic focus shifted to malls and the suburbs.

In February 1964, developer George Sanders bought the land where the Edison Mall Sears now stands, later selling it to Sears. He convinced Sears to share a mall with rival JC Penney, which had opened on First several years before Sears. The Edison Mall was born.

The recent announcement that Sears at the Edison Mall will close early in 2020 calls for reflection on the store's long local history – and the remarkable fact that, between 1937 and 2020, it will have moved only once.

As for Sears's first location on First Street, the famous M. Flossie Hill Company, founded in 1905, moved into that vacated building in 1965. However, it wasn't long before that store also fled to the mall – and it didn't last for long.

Walk to First and Jackson and imagine when Sears set up shop in 1937. Then visit the following research centers to learn more about downtown's 20th century anchor stores that migrated south in the 1960s.

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 the Southwest Florida Historical Society, *The News-Press* and www.searsarchives.com.*

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Duo Beaux Arts is made up of internationally renowned husband-and-wife pianists Dr. Catherine Lan and Steinway Artist Tao Lin. Recent performances include concerts in France, Switzerland, Spain, Estonia, and the United States. The pair specializes in music from the Baroque era to the contemporary, mixing semi-classical and fun pop tunes, as well as playing tango and ragtime. **Tickets for this event cost \$30 and can be purchased online at www.shellpoint.org/concerts or by phone at (239) 454-2067.**



Friday, Dec. 13 at 7 p.m.

Southwest Florida Symphony Series: Holiday Pops

Celebrate the holiday spirit with the Southwest Florida Symphony, led by Music Director Nir Kabaretti. This Christmas concert will feature guest artist Tony DeSare, a dazzling pianist who will give Rat Pack flair to all the traditional holiday favorites. **To purchase \$25 tickets, visit www.shellpoint.org/concerts, or call (239) 454-2067.**



Tuesday, Dec. 24 at 6:15 p.m.

FREE

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

Everyone is invited to celebrate the "reason for the season" as Shell Point gathers for its annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. This special Christmas Eve service will include caroling, candlelight, music and a message from Andy Hawkins, senior pastor at The Village Church. **For more information, call (239) 454-2147.**

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For more information, please call (239) 225-6529.

SHELL POINT
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Shell Point is a nonprofit ministry of The Christian and Missionary Alliance Foundation

**Visit www.shellpoint.org/events
for full listings of this month's events!**

Shell Point is located in Fort Myers, 2 miles before the Sanibel Causeway.

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New Gardening Classes Offered At Estates

Gardening is becoming more popular every year and, as the number of people moving to Florida continues to escalate, the demand for education on growing and caring for plants increases. To help newcomers and anyone wanting to know more about gardening in Florida, Edison and Ford Winter Estates is offering several new gardening classes.

A great gift idea for someone new to Florida is the gift of education – gardening education. Building on the success of the monthly Garden Talks, gardening classes provide an in-depth look at different areas of gardening and an excellent opportunity to chat one-on-one with an experienced horticulture professional.

Edison Ford is the premier botanical garden in Lee County, featuring plants and trees from around the world – many were collected by Thomas and Mina Edison in the early 1900s. New plants and trees are regularly added to the gardens for visitors to enjoy.

The following are upcoming classes:
Designing a Potager: December 3 at 1:30 p.m. – A potager, or French kitchen garden, was not only a garden of beauty, but was one of necessity for the Edisons and Fords long before supermarkets appeared in Fort Myers. Cost: Edison Ford members \$35 and non-members \$50

Introduction to Florida Gardening (a two-part series): January 7 and January



Participants attend a gardening class at Edison and Ford Winter Estates in Fort Myers photo provided

14, 1:30 p.m. – These classes will be particularly educational for snowbirds and newcomers to Florida. While attendance in both classes is not required, it is encouraged as concepts taught in the second class will build on material presented in the first one. The material will include soil and plant nutrition, choosing plants for a specific yard or garden, understanding the difference between invasive and exotic plants, best practices, weed and other plant identification, and state and local regulations. This class experience will involve classroom and field exposure, so attendees should bring

a water bottle; wear comfortable walking shoes, a hat and sunscreen. Classes will last approximately two hours. Cost: Edison Ford members \$35 (or \$50 for both classes) and non-members \$50 (or \$75 for both classes)

Crazy for Caladiums: February 11 at 1:30 p.m. – This is a detailed class on planting, care and selection of caladiums for Southwest Florida gardens. Topics covered will include how to choose and enhance the bulbs to create dense plants, and which varieties to select for different garden situations. Caladiums are grown for stunning foliage and the variety of colors, patterns, sizes and vigor available. Participants will learn about the caladiums' interesting history and its introduction to Florida. To benefit snowbirds, tips for growing the plants in northern states will also be covered. The class will last approximately 90 minutes. Cost: Edison Ford members \$35; non-member: \$50.

All garden classes are held in the climate controlled and accessible classroom in the Garden Council Building at 2166 Virginia Avenue in Fort Myers. Parking is available on Larchmont Avenue, next to Edison and Ford Winter Estates. Blue directional signs will be posted. Advance registration is required at www.edisonfordwinterestates.org/education/adult-classes or in person at the ticket office. All classes are limited to 25 people. Participants will receive a 20 percent discount coupon toward plant purchases in

the Garden Shoppe. Edison and Ford Winter Estates is located at 2350 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. For more information, call 334-7419.*

Church Arts And Crafts Fair

Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Myers (UUCFM) will hold its annual Arts and Crafts Fair at Hobart Hall on church grounds on two Sundays, December 1 and 8, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The fair will feature a large selection of unique items donated by UUCFM members including one-of-a-kind Christmas decorations, jewelry, next-to-new items, handmade cards, local and foreign artwork and books by local authors. A luncheon featuring quiche, fruit, garden salad, beverage and dessert will be available for a \$5 donation. Door prizes will be awarded. Admission to the fair is free.

Universalist Church of Fort Myers is located at 13411 Shire Lane in Fort Myers.*

FSW Orchestra To Perform Concert

The Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) Symphony Orchestra will perform a fall concert titled A Night at the Symphony at Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall on Tuesday, December 3 at 7:30 p.m. The orchestra will offer movements from several different well-known symphonies, including Mozart's *Jupiter* symphony and Joseph Haydn's *Surprise* symphony.

After intermission, the orchestra will be joined by the FSW College Choir to perform A Holiday Potpourri, which will include Johann Pachelbel's *Magnificat in G*, Morten Lauridson's *O magnum mysterium*, a movement from the Mozart Requiem and a selection of contemporary holiday tunes.

Doors open at 7 p.m. The concerts are free and open to the public.

Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall is located at 13350 FSW Parkway in Fort Myers. For more information, contact Kelly O'Neil, FSW music department, at 432-5203 or koneil1@fsw.edu.*

Happy Thanksgiving

Sending you warm wishes for a wonderful Thanksgiving!

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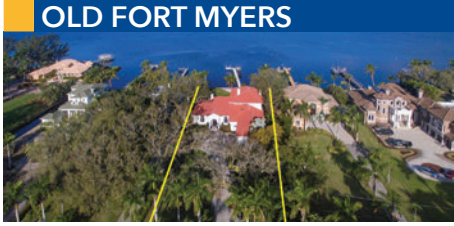
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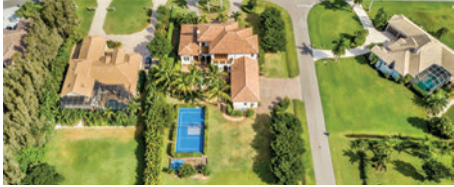
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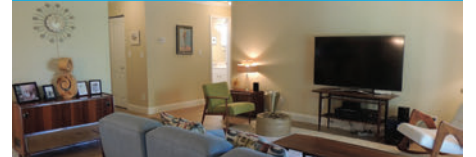
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Fort Myers Art:

Moon Museum Recall On Historic Apollo Milestone



by Tom Hall

November 19 was the 50th anniversary of the *Apollo 12* lunar landing. The mission was organized to collect seismologic, scientific and technical data from the moon, and deepen seismologic

observation. Although they did not know it at the time, Commander Charles "Pete" Conrad, Lunar Module Pilot Alan L. Bean, and Command Module Pilot Richard F. Gordon also became the first museum curators in space. That's because, unbeknownst to them, they had just transported artwork to the lunar surface created by Forrest "Frosty" Myers, Robert Rauschenberg, Andy Warhol, David Novros, John Chamberlain and Claes Oldenburg. The six called their unique collection The Moon Museum.

The Moon Museum was Myers' bright idea. "My idea was to get six great artists together and make a tiny little museum that would be [left behind] on the moon," Myers later explained.

Each artist created a drawing. The collection was then printed on a thin ceramic wafer roughly the size of a



An astronaut on the *Apollo 12* lunar landing
photo courtesy www.artswfl.com

thumbnail using thin film lithographic photo reduction similar to the micro-circuitry used in phones at Bell Labs at the time.

As many as 20 chips were imprinted with these drawings, and with the assistance of an unnamed Grumman employee, one of them was surreptitiously attached to one of the *Apollo 12*'s LEM-6 landing legs and sent to the moon. When the *Intrepid* landed in the Ocean of Storms on November 19, 1969, the lunar module established an ersatz art museum on the surface of the moon.

So here's how their plan unfolded.

Myers gave the drawings to two Bell Labs engineers he was working with

at the time. They promptly shrunk and etched the drawings onto between 16 and 40 ceramic chips. Then they secretly passed one of these chips to a Grumman employee known enigmatically as "John F." While *Apollo 12* was still sitting on the launch pad, John F sent a telegram to Myers stating, "You're on. A O.K. All systems are go."

But is this fact, fiction or some type of urban legend that the Moon Museum 6 concocted and perpetuated as an elaborate hoax or marketing campaign?

Bob Rauschenberg Gallery Director Jade Dellinger thinks that The Moon Museum is completely factual. In fact, Dellinger avers, it's just the type of techno-heavy clandestine affair that would have appealed to Bob Rauschenberg during his self-proclaimed "dude period."

One of his pet projects in the late 1960s, Dellinger points out, was the short-lived Experiments in Art and Technology (subsequently referred to as EAT). That's where Bob met and forged a strategic relationship with Billy Kluver, an imaginative engineer with a penchant for the avant-garde. With backing from IBM, EAT hosted nine evenings of theatre and engineering at the Armory on Lexington Avenue and 25th Street in lower Manhattan. Ten artists (including Rauschenberg), 30 engineers (including Kluver) and 500 volunteers took part.

It was a raucous affair.

EAT attracted a coterie of inspired engineers who came to share Rauschenberg's conviction that technological innovation could – and in time would – advance art. Kluver was far from alone in joining Rauschenberg in that belief. One of his contemporaries, Fred Waldhauer, shared this conviction. A lunar module engineer at Grumman Aerospace, Waldhauer appears to have been the mysterious John F.

Lending credence to this supposition is the fact that Waldhauer wound up with a copy of The Moon Museum chip, which his wife, Ruth, donated to New York's Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) following her husband's death. Today, The Moon Museum chip is the smallest item in MoMA's permanent collection.

While it may be impossible short of a return trip to ever definitively prove that The Moon Museum chip actually sits on the lunar surface, it is similarly impossible to prove that it doesn't – which adds to the aura of the remaining chips.

But one thing is certain. The Moon Museum chips actually exist. And you don't have to travel to MoMA to see one. Bob Rauschenberg Gallery Director Jade Dellinger has one.

"One of the chips surfaced on eBay one day," Dellinger disclosed. "I'd heard rumors of Bob Rauschenberg and Andy Warhol being the first artists in space, so I sent a quick email to the seller, who turned out to be a descendant of one of the engineers on the *Apollo 12* mission and we consummated the sale."

Dellinger displayed his chip in a "rather beautiful blue illuminated vitrine display case" that he designed for the Moon Museum Exhibition by Georgian artist Konstantin Mindadze in Georgia to commemorate the 44th anniversary of the *Apollo 12* moon landing, an exhibition that later landed at the Bob Rauschenberg Gallery in the auspices of The Moon Museum (1969): *Apollo XII's Secret Art Mission* from August 22 to September 27, 2014.

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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Mastersingers Holiday Season Concerts To Begin

The Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers and Artistic Director Shannon Arnold will be making the holiday season merry with concerts around Southwest Florida in the month of December.

The area's premier choral ensemble kicks off the season with its annual Readings and Carols concert at New Hope Presbyterian Church, 10051 Plantation Road, in Fort Myers on Sunday, December 1 at 3 p.m. They will perform an eclectic mix of holiday music featuring choral works, carol singing with the audience and short readings that speak to the spirit of the season interposed.

Joining the Mastersingers will be the Green Wave Treble Chorus, an auditioned group of female singers from Fort Myers High School under the direction of Mastersingers' tenor and Fort Myers High choral arts teacher Trevor Tran. The program will be accompanied by longtime Mastersingers' collaborative pianist Janet Carter, and New Hope organist Ben Ball on the church's new Allen organ. Admission to the performance is free with a collection taken up to benefit the South Fort Myers Food Pantry. Concert goers are

also invited to bring non-perishable food items to be donated to the pantry.

The Mastersingers will then hold a collaborative performance titled *Deck the Halls* with the Gulf Coast Symphony at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall on Sunday, December 8 at 7 p.m. Joining the fun-filled night of holiday music with the chorus and orchestra will be the Kellyn Irish Dancers, vocalist Mark Sanders and special guest Jazz Violinist Doug Cameron. Tickets for *Deck the Halls* can be purchased at www.mastersingersfm.com.

"If you have visitors from out of town, or you're trying to really set the mood for the holiday season, this is the one event that you should plan on attending," said Arnold. "You are sure to leave the Mann Hall with a smile on your face, humming a Christmas carol."

The chorus concludes their holiday performances with the always popular *Christmas on Sanibel* at Sanibel Community Church on Sunday, December 15 at 6 p.m. This concert will be accompanied by piano, organ and a brass quintet. Admission is free for this event that has become an island holiday tradition. The Community Church will take up a collection to benefit Community Housing and Resources on Sanibel.

For more information on the Mastersingers' holiday concerts and all of their season performances, visit www.mastersingersfm.com. ✨

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BEYOND EXPECTATIONS

Along The River

Edison and Ford Winter Estates will kick off the 44th **Holiday Nights** celebration with the annual tree lighting ceremony this Friday, November 29 at 6 p.m. The event will offer visitors an impressive light show with more lights, new displays and decorations, and additional areas of the property will be illuminated. This year's theme is River Reflection and will incorporate nautical elements.

One new display this year includes the mysore fig – one of the largest historic trees on the property. Santa and Mrs. Claus will be visiting and making their list on opening night and every Sunday night until Christmas from 6 to 8 p.m. Children will be invited to sit on Santa's lap in the Edison Caretaker's House. Adults and children alike can walk the Children's Tree Trail, a collection of more than 60 trees decorated with handmade ornaments from Lee County school children.

Through December 30, guided Holiday Tradition Tours will be offered at 6 and 7 p.m. every night and Inside-the-Homes Holiday Tours will be offered on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. The museum and the botanic research laboratory will be open nightly until 9 p.m. Live music performances include carolers and a pianist on select nights.

Holiday Nights tickets for adults are \$20, teens (age 13 to 19) are \$10, children (age 6 to 12) are \$2, and Edison Ford members get in free. Guided Holiday Tradition Tours are \$30 for adults, teens are \$25, children \$18 and \$10 for Edison Ford members. Inside-the-Homes Holiday Tours are \$50. Lee County residents with identification will receive \$5 off Holiday Nights admission every Monday and Tuesday.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates is located at 2350 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. To purchase tickets or view the nightly schedule, visit www.edisonford.org.



Scared Scriptless Comedy Lab Troupe

photo provided

After three back-to-back sold out performances, **Scared Scriptless Comedy Lab** returns to **The Laboratory Theater of Florida** this Saturday, November 30 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person.

The troupe brings a night of hilarious antics, musical comedy and on-the-spot jokes. Every facet of the uproarious improvised show is based on audience suggestions. With years of performance experience, Scared Scriptless Comedy Lab delivers a side-splitting, one-of-a-kind show every time.

Tim Soszko will be joining the group for this performance. He comes from Chicago's Second City and Improv Olympics. In Chicago, Tim Soszko performs with a musical improv group called The Deltones, as well as a news-based improv show called The Breakdown.

Scared Scriptless offers a unique mixture of both short- and long-form

improv, creating an entertaining evening of family-friendly laughter that is fast-paced, musical and completely improvised. While no two shows are the same, they are always packed with hysterically funny songs, sketches and jokes created instantaneously based on your suggestions. For the more adventurous, there are occasional opportunities to join the cast on stage.

The Laboratory Theater of Florida is located at 1634 Woodford Avenue in Fort Myers. For tickets and more information, visit www.laboratorytheaterflorida.com or call 218-0481.

Come view the complete set of sand art at the **33rd annual American Sand Sculpting Championship** this weekend on the beachfront in front of **Wyndham Garden Hotel** on Fort Myers Beach. The festival ends Sunday, December 1 at 5 p.m.

Presented By The Seminole Casino Hotel, this year's championship includes

world class master sand sculptors as well as amateurs. A total of 50 sculptures will be featured in the tented site, which also has Quick Sand Speed Sculpting, sand sculpting demonstrations, a kids activity area, music and a vendor village. There will also be food and beverages available for purchase. The final Saturday of the festival will feature a special viewing called Sand Under The Stars, where the sculptures will be illuminated in a spectacular display under the night sky from 6 to 9 p.m.

Cost for admission into the tented area is \$8 for adults, \$25 for a family pack of two adults and two children age 5 to 12, while children age 4 and younger are admitted free.

There will be free parking and shuttle service at Lovers Key grass lot, located at 8700 Estero Boulevard on Fort Myers Beach. Paid parking will also be available at businesses near the event.

Wyndham Garden Hotel is located at 6890 Estero Boulevard on Fort Myers Beach. For more information or a complete event schedule, visit www.fmbandsculpting.com.

Babcock Ranch Homes for the Holidays **model home tour** is offered 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.

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.✧

Library To Host Fandom Fest Downtown

The Lee County Library System (LCLS) is hosting Fandom Fest, a free celebration of fandoms and geek culture for teens and young adults at the Fort Myers Regional Library on Saturday, December 7 from noon to 5 p.m. Cosplay is encouraged.

The festival is broken down into multiple themed areas that offer a mixture of activities and fandom DIY makerspaces tailored for a teen and young adult audience. Fandom theme areas include Space; Sword & Sorcery; Superheroes & Villains; Asian Culture; and Princesses.

Festivalgoers can spend the day making Eye of Sauron pendants and lightsabers, learning origami, playing Quidditch, climbing a rock wall and challenging friends in Minute to Win It style games, among other free activities. A virtual reality tech hub and gaming by Game Guys will be offered along with character

meet-and-greets and photo ops. Fans of *Star Wars*, Disney, Minions and Marvel will have a chance to meet and take photos with their favorite characters.

Live entertainment will be available throughout the day at the outdoor Cornog Plaza Amphitheater and will include headliners such as nationally touring American rapper and YouTube star MC Lars and American nerdcore rapper Mega Ran. The festival will also feature a cappella group Geekapella and Japanese drumming by Tampa Taiko.

Food will be available for purchase and local gaming and comic book shops will sell merchandise and offer role-playing game tutorials and card trading.

A cosplay fashion show will be held at 2 p.m. Register to participate in the free fashion show at the Info Booth from noon to 1:30 p.m. Middle school, high school and college students are encouraged to strut their stuff on the catwalk or find inspiration in the creations of others.

To ensure everyone's enjoyment of this event, attendees must observe the following rules:

No real or realistic weapons are allowed;

Lack of clothing is not a costume; shirt, shoes and bottoms must be worn at all times;

Attendees will abide by the LCLS Patron Code of Conduct;

Fandom Fest representatives, library staff members or security personnel reserve the right to inspect costumes and/or accessories;

Attendees who do not comply with the rules and regulations will be asked to leave the premises.

The library recognizes the importance of providing relevant and engaging programming for teens and young adults, while supporting the library's mission. Attendees of the festival can learn more about library services that support their academic and personal goals while interacting in a creative and fun environment. Volunteer opportunities at the festival are available. Interested teens can apply at www.leelibrary.net/volunteer.

The Fort Myers Regional Library is located at 2450 First Street in downtown Fort Myers. For more information about Fandom Fest, including the schedule of events and volunteer opportunities, visit www.leelibrary.net/fandomfest.✧

From page 1

Festival Of Trees

view the trees, purchase raffle tickets and vote for their favorites. Area businesses decorate the trees with a retail value in décor and gifts between \$1,500 and \$2,000. Many in the past have even surpassed those minimums.

On the last day of the event, one winning ticket from each tree raffle box is selected. The trees are then wrapped with all their gifts and goodies, and delivered to the winner's home.

In addition to the tree raffle, Festival of Trees participants can take part in the Holiday Stroll down First Street and official tree lighting by the mayor, a free outdoor concert with the Nowhere Band, Santa's Block Party including a holiday vendor showcase, food trucks, entertainment, pictures with Santa and a children's' workshop.

SBDAC is located at 2301 First Street in downtown Fort Myers. Tickets can be purchased in advance at www.sbdac.com. For more information and raffle tickets, visit www.goodwilltrees.com.✧



Front row from left, Todd Lyman, Scott Davis, Kristen Wilson, Amanda Collins and David Cooley; back row from left, Danielle Channel, Holly Zammerilla and Kenneth Johnson

photo provided

Florida Premiere Of Comedy At Lab Theater

The Florida premiere of *Let Nothing You Dismay* will open Friday, December 6 at The Laboratory Theater of Florida. There will be an opening night reception with hors d'oeuvres by The Gathering Place starting at 7:15 p.m.

Set during Christmas in a hospital waiting room, this fast-paced comedy focuses on a couple about to adopt its first child... and then the entire extended family decides to make a surprise visit.

Eight talented comedic actors portray 22 different roles.

Artistic Director Annette Trossbach adds, "This fast-paced comedy show features 22 wild family members and hangers-on who descend upon a maternity ward on December 25. With lightning-fast costume changes, our eight actors will have you in stitches in this snazzy, new, madcap farce that, in the end, shows that family is what it's all about. It's heartfelt, wild, fast-paced fun for the whole family."

The play features Amanda Collins, David Cooley, Danielle Channell, Scott Davis, Kristen Wilson, Todd Lyman, Holly Zammerilla and Ken Johnson. It is co-directed by Trossbach and Steven Coe with stage management by Margaret Cooley,

set design by Michael Eyth, light and sound design by Jonathan Johnson and costume design by Wilson.

For teens on Saturday, December 7 at 6:30 p.m., there will be a cast and crew meet and greet with pizza generously donated by Downtown House of Pizza. That will be followed by a complimentary performance for the teenagers. Reservations are required.

Let Nothing You Dismay plays through December 22. Performance dates are December 6, 7, 12, 13, 14, 19, 20, 21 at 8 p.m. and December 8, 15, 21, 22 at 2 p.m.

The Laboratory Theater of Florida is located at 1634 Woodford Avenue in Fort Myers. For tickets, visit www.brownpapertickets.com or call the box office at 218-0481.*

Giving Tuesday To Help Students During Holidays

Blessings come in special packages for almost 4,800 Lee County school children each week. Without the blessings of food provided by Blessings in a Backpack of Southwest Florida, these children and their families would go hungry on the weekends.

During the holidays, the need grows as kids are home from school. Blessings in a Backpack once again needs your help and has designated Tuesday, December 3 as Giving Tuesday. People are asked to go to the local organization's website at www.blessingsinswfl.org where there is a donate

button and make a contribution. Giving Tuesday follows the holiday buying themes of Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday.

A donation of \$100 can feed one child for an entire school year. Blessings in a Backpack focuses on children in kindergarten through fifth grade who qualify for the free and reduced meal program at Title 1 schools because "that is the group growing brain wise," said Cecilia St. Arnold, national program manager and executive director of Blessings in a Backpack SWFL. "The goal has always been the educational component. We want the children to come back to school not depleted and ready to learn."

Targeting Title 1 schools is important because those schools are primarily made up of children from low income families, and they need the help the most. Hungry children is a country and county epidemic. Consider that approximately 62,000 children in the School District of Lee County are food insufficient. Currently, funding only allows Blessings in a Backpack to help only a small portion of them. St. Arnold's goal is to one day be able to help at least half – or 31,000 – of those children.

"It's our own kids, our own backyard," she said. "This is our future workforce. We have to take care of our own kids."

Donations from a generous community are making a difference. St. Arnold said Blessings in a Backpack is feeding 3,000 more children than it did five years ago.

Nationally, the number of hungry children is staggering. According to Blessings in a Backpack statistics, more than 13 million children live in food

continued on page 10



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A recent Starlight Auction

photo provided

Benefit Auction Set For Animal Refuge Center

The Animal Refuge Center’s 25th annual Starlight Auction will be held at the Marriott Sanibel Harbour Resort and Spa on Saturday, November 30 at 6 p.m. As the ARC’s Signature event, the Starlight Auction is an opportunity to gather and celebrate the year’s successes and support ARC’s efforts to help homeless pets in need.

The evening will include dinner, music, a silent auction with more than 100 items up for bid and a live auction with 18 items available. The silent auction baskets feature artwork, jewelry, hotel stays, golf outings, dog treats, cat toys and much more. The

live auction features a four-hour cruise on a 76-foot Lazarra yacht, a Napa Valley Wine Tour, a \$5,700 14K beaded white gold mesh necklace, a Darryl Pottorf painting valued at \$15,000, two-night stays at the South Seas Island Resort and Useppa Island, and a skybox at the Everblades with a chance to drop the ceremonial puck to start the game.

Tickets are \$100 per person and sponsorships start at \$300.

A central feature of this year’s auction will be fundraising for a planned cat building. Guests will have the chance to donate directly to the project during the auction. The unique design features two, 2,000-square-foot “pods” that provide the cats a screened in safe space to roam outdoors and indoor kitchen, living room and laundry room.

The Animal Refuge Center, Southwest

Florida’s largest no-kill shelter, has a 31-year history of rescuing, rehabilitating and re-homing cats, and this new home will ensure the mission continues.

Marriott Sanibel Harbour Resort and

Ostego Bay Fish Fry And Auction

Bonita Bills Waterfront Café will host the annual Old Fashioned Fish Fry and Silent Auction to benefit the Ostego Bay Foundation Marine Science Center on Friday, December 6 from 5 to 8 p.m.

Cost is \$12 for the fish fry. There is no cost to participate in the silent auction. Tickets will be sold for 50/50 raffles.

The Ostego Bay Foundation Marine Science Center supports and educates the public about the unique local marine environment. For more information on the foundation, visit www.ostegobay.org.

Bonita Bills Waterfront Café is located at 702 Fishermans Wharf on San Carlos Island. For more information, call 765-8101 or email info@ostegobay.org.

Photos With Santa

Operation Pet Rescue’s (OPR) Pet Photos with Santa will be available outside City Tavern on Friday, December 6 from 6 to 10 p.m. Cost is \$10 for the professional photograph provided by Al Larson Photography. Participants will be able to access the photo for printing at www.allarsonphoto.com.

Spa is located at 17260 Harbour Pointe Drive in Fort Myers. For more information and tickets, visit www.animalrefugecenter.com/all-upcoming-events/the-starlight-auction.

com a few days after the event.

Ask the Trainer from Rescue Dog Trainers will also be available during the event. Rescue Dog Trainers teaches people how to train their dogs so they can build long-lasting, mutually beneficial relationships.

“This is a great way to enjoy an evening out with your pet to kick off the holidays. OPR is happy to be able to provide this enjoyable event while bringing attention to our organization as we help pets that are in need of rescue,” said Jen Buffington, OPR co-director.

City Tavern is located at 2206 Bay Street in downtown Fort Myers. For more information on OPR, visit www.operationpetrescueus.com.

Giving Tuesday

From page 9

insecure homes. Three out of four teachers say they have children in their classrooms who regularly come to school hungry. One in six children do not get the food they need each day.

Business support, especially in delivering food to the children, is essential for the non-profit. Sysco has stepped up to deliver the bags of food to each of the schools. From there, the kid friendly, nutritious, ready-to-eat meals are placed in the children’s backpacks on Fridays.

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.fpcfmyers.org, 2438 Second Street, 239-334-2261

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

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

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

LAMB OF GOD
Sunday 7:45 and 10 a.m., [\[church.net\]\(http://church.net\), 19691 Cypress View Drive, 267-3525.

NEW BEGINNINGS CENTER
Friday 6:30 and 7 p.m. \[nbcministry@embarqmail.com\]\(mailto:nbcministry@embarqmail.com\), \[facebook.com/nbcministry\]\(https://facebook.com/nbcministry\), 8505 Jenny Cae Lane, 656-0416.

NEW COVENANT EYES
Monthly 9 a.m., \[www.newcovenanteyes.com\]\(http://www.newcovenanteyes.com\), 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., \[www.newhopefortmyers.org\]\(http://www.newhopefortmyers.org\), 10051 Plantation Road, 274-1230.

PEACE COMMUNITY
Sunday 10:30 a.m. \[www.peacecommunitychurch.com\]\(http://www.peacecommunitychurch.com\), 17671 Pine Ridge Road, 267-7400.

PEACE LUTHERAN
Sunday 8 and 10 a.m., \[www.peaceftmyers.com\]\(http://www.peaceftmyers.com\), \[peace@peaceftmyers.com\]\(mailto:peace@peaceftmyers.com\). 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. \[www.MeditationInFortMyers.org\]\(http://www.MeditationInFortMyers.org\), 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,](http://www.lambofgod</p></div><div data-bbox=)

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.

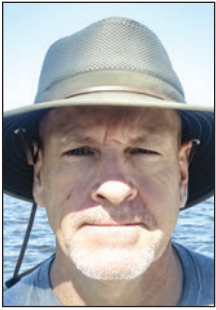
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sunday 9:30 and 10:45 a.m., 9065 Ligon Court, 481-2125.

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:

Eastern Screech Owl



by Bob Petcher

The eastern screech owl (*Megascops asio*) is known as a tree owl and is only five inches in height on average. It does have a big spooky call to go with its diminutive size. However,

despite its name, this particular owl does not screech. It produces sounds more like a whinny or a trill.

These nocturnal birds of prey are more often heard than seen. They camouflage themselves in tree nooks or dense cover throughout the day. They often forage from their perch, eyeing prey before swooping down to capture it from the ground or other foliage.

At CROW, an adult eastern screech owl was admitted from Cape Coral. The owl was found stuck to a glue trap, and the finder was able to free it from the trap. In its struggle to be freed from the glue trap, the owl had damaged its primary feathers and other feathers, and its feet were covered in glue.

The veterinary team at CROW used chinchilla dust to gradually remove the glue over the course of about five days. The use of chinchilla dust is a reliable



Patient #19-4539 needs to grow perfect feathers in order to have silent flight for hunting

photo by Brian Bohlman

product for CROW veterinarians.

"It is easily applied and binds to and dries adhesive substances on the feathers, allowing it to be manually removed without the use of a soap, which would require the stress of bathing the animal, and also avoids the potential for hypothermia following a bath with soap," said Dr. Robin Bast, CROW staff veterinarian, about chinchilla dust. "We typically reach for chinchilla dust first when it comes to glue removal."

Dr. Bast said glue was covering both of the poor owl's feet as well as the feathers along the right wing. After a tense five days for the patient, the glue was fully removed, and the owl was moved to an outdoor enclosure until its feather condition improved.

"The screech owl was able to perch comfortably after removal of the glue from its feet, and it was given pain medication for mild discomfort related to struggling to free itself from the adhesive," said Dr. Bast. "After its

initial stay in ICU (intensive care unit) to remove the majority of the adhesive, it was moved to an outdoor enclosure until it can molt its feathers."

That feather-growing process may take some time.

"The feathers on the right wing are damaged from the glue even though that has been removed. If the bird does not go into a natural molt soon, a procedure may be performed to pull some of the feathers and encourage new ones to grow back in faster. This owl needs perfect feathers in order to have silent flight for hunting," said Dr. Bast. "Prognosis remains guarded as it will be quite some time until the owl's feathers grow back in weeks to months."

The use of glue traps is often called one of the cruelest methods of killing animals. Many innocent critters get caught up in glue traps, even though they are not the intended target.

"Glue traps often catch animals other than those it was intended for. Additionally, they are not a humane method of pest control as the animals caught up in them often struggle for prolonged periods of time, becoming further injured and often leading to fatality," said Dr. Bast.

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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Wrecking Reds



by Capt.
Matt Mitchell

Over the past month, the redfish bite has been as good as I can remember it has been for the past few years. Clients have been catching 20 to 40 redfish per trip with this bite

being on almost every cast. Live shrimp have been hard to beat, and even when I've put in the extra time to catch shiners, the bite has still been better on shrimp.

Cooler water temperatures are the main reason for this crazy shrimp bite. With so many shrimp being found throughout the sound, these fish are just dialed in to them as the main part of their diet. Healthy grass flats are the main reason for all these shrimp.

This proliferation of redfish I don't think can't be attributed to one factor. A few reasons that come to mind include the release of thousands of redfish by the Coastal Conservation Association (CCA) after last summer's ride tide along with the closure to harvest for the last year. Most of these redfish we are catching appear to be around two years old and range in size from 16 to 20 inches. Redfish in Florida can live to be over 30 years old.

Keeping our redfish fishery closed for another year can only help these fish continue to rebound.

Some of the places these redfish have been most predictable are around Blind Pass including the Roosevelt Channel and Dinkens Bayou. Creek mouths and



Redfish doubleheaders have been common

channels that butt up to the mangroves on the eastern side of the sound have also been a good choice. Further north docks by Captiva Pass and on the south end of Cayo Costa have also had great numbers of these redfish.

These redfish they have been moving

a little bit from day to day, so if you don't find them where you found them previously, work the same area and they may be as close as the next dock or point. Watching multiple redfish follow in your hooked fish is a sure sign you have located them.

photo provided

Capt. Matt Mitchell has been fishing local waters since he moved to Sanibel in 1980. He now lives in St. James City and works as a back country fishing guide. If you have comments or questions, email captmattmitchell@aol.com.✪

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Dave Doane



Shrub wooly croton is a larval host for two endemic butterflies: the Florida leafwing and Bartram's scrub-hairstreak. Creamy white flowers bloom all year. photo by Gerri Reaves

Plant Smart

Shrub Wooly Croton

by Gerri Reaves

Shrub wooly croton (*Croton linearis*) is an evergreen clumping shrub of the spurge family.

A native semi-woody perennial, it grows naturally only in the south part of Florida, its habitat being open coastal pinelands and pine rocklands.

Shrub wooly croton is also called grannybush, pineland croton and wooly croton. Bushy and branching, it grows three to six feet tall.

The alternate narrow linear leaves are dark green with gold or silvery undersides. They are up to two inches long but only an eighth to a fourth of an inch wide.

Racemes of creamy white flowers bloom throughout the year. However, the shrub is dioecious, meaning that male and female flowers appear on separate plants.

It produces a smooth-rounded yellowish fruit.

Give this moderate to fast grower full sun and moist but well-drained sandy or limestone soil. It is highly drought tolerant and will tolerate nutrient-poor soil.

Use it in a natural landscape or in a butterfly garden. It will attract bees and butterflies, and birds and mammals will eat the seeds.

It is the larval host and a nectar plant for two endemic butterflies, the Bartram's hairstreak and the Florida leafwing.

The species' natural pineland habitat has been drastically reduced by

development, and because these two butterflies depend solely on shrub wooly croton for reproduction, the butterflies' fate is threatened.

Butterflies such as the Baracoa skipper, Bartram's scrub-hairstreak, cassius blue, and Florida duskywing visit the plant for nectar.

Tea made with the leaves have two medicinal uses, as a post-childbirth treatment and as a rheumatism treatment.

Sources: *Everglades Wildflowers* by Roger L. Hammer, *Florida Wild Flowers and Roadside Plants* by C. Ritchie Bell and Bryan J. Taylor, *The Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida* by Gil Nelson, www.efloras.org, and www.regionalconservation.org.

Plant Smart explores the diverse flora of South Florida.✱

From page 1

Boat Parade

Bay on the return. The parade will end at Salty Sam's Marina for the Winners Circle Party and awards presentation.

VIP judges will ride along in the parade and will choose and announce the winners in each category. Prizes will be awarded to the winners in respective categories. To vote for the People's Choice Award the night of the parade, visit www.10best.com/awards/travel/best-holiday-parade-2019/fort-myers-beach-christmas-boat-parade-fort-myers-fla.

For more information and sponsorship opportunities, contact the Fort Myers Beach Chamber at 454-7500 or visit www.fmbboatparade.com.✱

Lee Parks To Offer Holiday Events

Lee County Parks & Recreation will offer holiday events throughout December.

Events include:

Santa Fest: 3 p.m. Saturday, December 7; Wa-Ke Hatchee Park, 16760 Bass Road, Fort Myers – The evening involve games, bounce houses, food trucks, photos with Santa, face painting and a movie in the park - 2018's *The Grinch*. Admission is free. Toy donations for Golisano Children's Hospital are welcome. For more information, call 432-2154.

Light Up Estero: 4:30 p.m. Saturday, December 7; Estero Park, 9200 Corkscrew Palms Boulevard, Estero – This free community event will include a canned food drive to benefit Interfaith Charities of South Lee County, local food trucks, a wreath raffle, caroling and an official tree lighting with Mr. and Mrs. Claus. A Christmas-themed craft project sponsored by Lee County Parks & Recreation will be held inside the Estero Recreation Center. This is a free event hosted by the Estero Rotary Club. For more information, contact Christen Pittman at 444-5486 or Meagan Pierce at 317-3247.

North Fort Myers Community Christmas: 4 p.m. Saturday, December 7; North Fort Myers Park, 2000 North Recreation Park Way, North Fort Myers – Don't miss this holiday tradition for the entire family brought to you by the North Fort Myers Civic Association and Lee County Parks & Recreation. This free community event, emceed by NBC-2 Chief Meteorologist Allyson Rae, will include caroling, the official tree lighting ceremony and a movie in the park - 2018's *The Grinch*. Admission is free. For more information, call 533-7200.

Lakes Park Holiday Express: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., December 13 through December 23, and December 26 through December 30. The Express is closed December 24 and 25; Lakes Park, 7330 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers – The annual Holiday Express miniature train transports you through a winter wonderland with lights

and decorations. For more information and pricing, visit www.rmsf.org or call the Railroad Museum at 267-1905.

Breakfast with Santa: 9 a.m. Saturday, December 14; North Fort Myers Park, 2000 North Recreation Park Way, North Fort Myers – A continental breakfast with the jolly ol' man himself. Stay and make a holiday craft, write a letter to Santa and take home a picture with him. \$3 per child. For more information, call 533-7200.

Breakfast with the Kringles: 10 a.m. Saturday, December 14; Veterans Park, 55 Homestead Road South, Lehigh Acres – A continental-style breakfast with holiday crafts and a special visit with Mr. and Mrs. Kringle. Children will receive a present with their visit. Be sure to bring a camera for your child's holiday photo shot. \$5 per child and \$3 for any adults eating breakfast. For more information, contact the Veterans Park Recreation Center at 369-1521.✱

Morning Bird Walk At Bunche Beach

Experience the beautiful birds of Bunche Beach with a bird patrol guide on Saturday, November 30 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.✱

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Photography Exhibit Now Open At Refuge

by Jeff Lysiak

Kicking off what is sure to be a memorable 75th anniversary season of celebration, the JN “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge hosted world renowned photographer Clyde Butcher for a book signing appearance as well as the launch of his four-month photographic exhibition at the Visitor & Education Center.

Shortly after 9 a.m. on November 13, refuge guests began to fill the center, standing in line to get their Clyde Butcher books, calendars, note cards and prints signed by the iconic large format photographer, whom many have dubbed “the Ansel Adams of Florida.” While awaiting his arrival, many people strolled through the venue to view Butcher’s American Everglades Collection, a series of 35 black-and-white photographic images of the Florida Everglades, coastal islands and other unspoiled areas of the Sunshine State.

“Wilderness, to me, is a spiritual necessity,” Butcher explained in his artist statement on display at the exhibit. “When my son was killed by a drunken driver, it was to the wilderness that I fled in hopes of regaining my serenity and equilibrium. The mysterious spiritual experience of being close to nature helped restore my soul.”

It was also during this time that Butcher



Photographer Clyde Butcher greeted fans and signed autographs during last week’s exhibition opening at the JN “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge photos by Jeff Lysiak

discovered the intimate beauty of the environment.

“My experience reinforced my sense of dedication to use my art form – photography – to show people that there is unity between all undisturbed natural places, whether a peak of a renowned mountain range or a stream-bed in an urban watershed,” he added. “My hope is to educate... to let people know our land is a special place, and to inspire others to work together to save nature’s places of spiritual sanctuary for future generations.”

In addition to the large scale photographs displayed throughout the center, refuge guests can take a look

through one of Butcher’s most valuable tools: his Wisner 12 x 20-inch view camera. “The camera, lenses, film holders and the rest of the gear totals around 120 pounds,” a sign posted next to the camera reads, in part. “Because of the unusual effort it takes to carry this large and heavy gear into the wilderness, there are only a few special images created from this camera.”

The Clyde Butcher American Everglades Collection exhibition – which is being sponsored by the DDWS and Mark and Gretchen Banks – will be on display at the free admission Visitor & Education Center through February 5. It is open from



The photographer’s 12 x 20-inch view camera

9 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

“We are the second location to host this exhibit and will most likely be the last in the state of Florida because they have plans to travel around the country telling the story of the Everglades,” said DDWS Executive Director Birgie Miller. “It is a great honor for the refuge and the society to be hosting this exhibit because of its ability to tell the story about the beauty and fragility of the Everglades, and the importance of protecting water everywhere.”

For more information on the exhibition and 75th anniversary calendar of events, visit www.Ding75.org.✧



Artist Marie Dyer teaches how to create a one-of-a-kind painted silk scarf at the Estates photos provided

Estates To Offer New Art Classes

Edison and Ford Winter Estates offers many educational opportunities throughout the year for both children and adults. In partnership with local artists, the site is offering several art classes for adults. Classes are taught by Marie Dyer and Megan Kissinger.

Upcoming classes include:
Silk Scarf Workshop: November 30



Artist Megan Kissinger instructs students on drawing botanicals at the Estates

at 9:30 a.m. – Dyer teaches a variety of techniques to create a one-of-a-kind scarf that can be worn or displayed as art. All skill levels are welcome. Edison Ford members: \$95 per class; non-members: \$105 (materials are included). Class will also be offered on December 14 and 28, January 11 and 25, February 15 and 29 and March 21 and 28.

Landscape Painting: January 4 at 9:30 a.m. – Dyer teaches how to paint a landscape using acrylics. Class takes place in the River Pavilion. All skill levels welcome. Edison Ford members: \$90; non-members: \$100 (materials included). Class will also be offered on February 22.

Botanical Drawing Basics: January 26 at 9:30 a.m. – Kissinger will teach how to

draw botanicals from the Estates. All skill levels welcome. Class will take place in the River Pavilion. Edison Ford members: \$40, non-members: \$60

Drawing and Making Valentine Mandala Cards: February 8 at 9:30 a.m. – In this class, Kissinger teaches how a mandala is formatted as participants draw in the gardens. Edison Ford members: \$40; non-members: \$60.

Zen Drawing in the Succulent Garden: March 1 at 9:30 a.m. – No experience is required for this creative class. Students will be inspired by nature as they stroll through the gardens with Kissinger. Edison Ford members: \$40; non-members: \$60.

Advance registration is required online at www.edisonfordwinterestates.org/

education/adult-classes or in person at the ticket office. Class size is limited to 25.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates is located at 2350 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. For more information, call 334-7419.✧

Artist Reception

and icons from pop culture.

Born in Havana and a resident of Miami, Quintana is considered one of the most iconic Cuban artists of the ‘80s generation and is referred to as the Cuban Renaissance or New Cuban Art. He has had solo and group exhibitions in Cuba, the United States, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Peru, Venezuela, Switzerland, France, Germany and Russia. His work is part of major collections including the National Museum of Fine Art in Havana, Pori Taiden Museum in Finland, Lowe Art Museum in Miami, Museum of Modern Art in Santo Domingo, the Nina Menocal Collection in Mexico and at the Ludwig Forum for International Art in Germany.

Michele DiRocco will exhibit in the Alliance member gallery. As an abstract fluid artist, she works mainly on canvas with acrylic and resin.

Receptions are open to the public and do not require tickets or reservations. While gallery admission is free, a \$5 suggested donation keeps Alliance programming affordable and accessible.

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

Foundation Presents Grant



From left, Foundation Administrator Betsi Jones, Foundation Board member Jim Jessee, Hodges University President Dr. John Meyer, CEO Dan Lavender and Scholarship Committee Member Liz Jessee photo provided

Hodges University accepted an \$18,000 grant from Moorings Park Foundation. The grant will benefit Hodges University students in the form of scholarships.

"We greatly appreciate the support and kindness of The Moorings Park Foundation," said Dr. John Meyer, president of Hodges University. "This grant will help our nursing and clinical

mental health counseling students reach their educational and career goals."

The Moorings Park Foundation, through the generosity of individuals, supports its mission through philanthropy and charitable giving. The foundation also works with and supports outside organizations in ways that benefit both Moorings Park and the participating organization.✱

The Water School Breaks Ground On New Facility

Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) broke ground on the new home for The Water School Thursday morning. The 117,000-square-foot facility will be the largest academic building on campus. Half of the space will be research labs dedicated to the school's vital work on water quality issues in Southwest Florida.

"This building and The Water School will be a place where investments can be made and solutions can be found," said FGCU President Mike Martin. "We can interact with partners from across the state, from across the nation and around the world. It's not just water in the most direct way, but also health implications of water, community development implications of water, long-term impacts on the environment, and, clearly, the impact on the economy."

Slated to open in the fall of 2021, the building will simultaneously support research and the professional preparation students need to tackle real-world problems. In addition to 58,600 square feet of research lab space, the four-story structure will also provide classrooms (23,400 square feet) and teaching labs (15,000 square feet). The new academic center will also bring most of The Water School's core faculty and staff under one roof.

"This building is an exciting new resource for the university," said Greg Tolley, executive director of The Water

School at FGCU. "We want it to be a public space. There will be meeting rooms where we can invite people from local communities to come in and talk about issues of importance here in Southwest Florida. We want people to think of this as being Southwest Florida's building as well."

Since it was announced March 22, The Water School has focused on the region's water problems and what's required to solve them. From pioneering work with ciguatera fish poisoning to the study of bacteria and algae in local waters, the impact of climate change on Florida's shores to the implementation of educational programs in local middle schools, The Water School's influence is far reaching. But it's just the start as The Water School is adding to its faculty expertise in a number of subjects and disciplines.

"This space is more than just a space," said Tolley. "It will also be the people who will be working there. They are interdisciplinary faculty and staff from across the university looking at water issues from a variety of approaches. This will allow us to have an integrated approach to solving our water issues."

The Water School's new home is the campus' ninth academic building. It will be built next to Parking Garage 1, a stone's throw from Sugden Hall. The project budget is \$57.9 million.

Dozens of dignitaries attended the groundbreaking. In addition to members of the FGCU Board of Trustees, state senators Lizbeth Benacquisto and Kathleen Passidomo and state representatives Heather Fitzenhagen and Ray Rodrigues celebrated the new building. Community partners – Daniel Andrews, Captains for

Clean Water; Amelia Horadam, Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve; Catherine Bergerson, Conservancy of Southwest Florida; Ryan Orgera, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation – also welcomed the new facility.

"Students will get exposed not only to laboratory work, where they can do the science, but they will learn about policy and education with respect to water in the region, and they will be interacting with local partners through internships and senior projects," Tolley said. "So the building is a laboratory for students to get hands-on experience."

To learn more about The Water School, visit www.fgcu.edu/thewaterschool.✱

Coalition Workforce Survey For Employers

The FutureMakers Coalition of Southwest Florida has launched their latest employment survey at www.surveymonkey.com/r/futuremakersemployersurvey and is asking for the region's help in completing the online form.

The survey is designed to capture the views and values of employers doing business in Southwest Florida.

"The goal is to get as many employers as possible to take the survey," said Tessa LeSage, social innovation and sustainability director for the Southwest Florida Community Foundation, the backbone organization

of the FutureMakers Coalition. "At larger organizations, the human resources professional would be the best person to take it, and at small organizations someone high up on the leadership team would be ideal."

The Southwest Florida Community Foundation administers this survey on behalf of the FutureMakers Coalition. FutureMakers is a regional initiative with the goal of transforming the workforce by increasing the number of degrees, certificates and high-quality credentials to 55 percent.

"In order to grow a regionally strong workforce in our communities, we need to further understand the needs and perspectives of employers," LeSage said.

The survey is divided into three sections including a company's future workforce; most desired workforce skills; and current state of a company's workforce.

The survey takes about 15 to 20 minutes to complete. The survey is open now and will close on Monday, December 8 at 5 p.m.

Aggregated results of the survey will be available after analysis on the FutureMakers website and as part of the annual outcomes reporting for the coalition. Data collected will be used by the Southwest Florida Community Foundation and the FutureMakers Coalition to guide regional collective impact around post-secondary attainment and workforce development. Individual responses will be completely anonymous.

"Understanding our local employer's efforts to support the development of their workforce helps the coalition forge

continued on page 18

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Florida Senate Delegation Visits Cypress Cove

Florida State Senate President-elect Wilton Simpson (R-Trilby) led a recent leadership delegation on a tour of the Cypress Cove life plan community at HealthPark Florida.

Joining Majority Leader Sen. Simpson was former Majority Leader, Sen. Lizbeth Benacquisto (R-Fort Myers). Touring the state leaders were Cypress Living President and CEO Troy Churchill, Cypress Living Board of Directors Chairman Charles Edwards, and interim Cypress Cove Executive Director Tim Ficker.

Members of the Senate leadership delegation took time Tuesday during their visit to meet with Cypress Living and Cypress Cove administrators, board members and resident leaders to discuss concerns and positions on several legislative items of interest.

Cypress Living is the management and support organization for the Cypress Cove community. The campus tour included a visit to Cypress Cove model



From left, Lee Healthcare Resources (LHR) official John Noland, Chuck Gagnier, Cypress Cove official Tim Ficker, Cypress Cove official Charles Edwards, Florida Senate President-elect Wilton Simpson, Cypress Cove Director Donna Miceli, Sen. Lizbeth Benacquisto, LHR official Richard Aikin and Cypress Living official Troy Churchill photo provided

smart home that incorporates many new technologies and conveniences in resident living options.

"We are extremely honored to have such an illustrious team of leaders stop

and tour our campus," said Churchill. "The Senate president-elect's interest and support of not only our life plan community but others throughout the great state of Florida is greatly

appreciated."

Cypress Cove is located at 10200 Cypress Cove Drive in Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.cypresscoveliving.org ✨



From left, Uncommon Friends Foundation board member Brian Rist, Priority Marketing President Teri Hansen and Dr. Eric Dent, FGCU chair of business ethics photo provided

Marketing Firm Awarded For Business Ethics

Priority Marketing was named Business Ethics Award recipient during the Uncommon Evening gala of the Uncommon Friends Foundation. The event at the Burroughs Home & Gardens included finalists Allyn International and Sanibel Captiva Community Bank.

Priority Marketing was established in 1992 by Teri Hansen. It is a full-service marketing, advertising, public relations, social media, and digital marketing firm with a reputation for achieving results. Today, Priority Marketing

serves a diverse array of businesses, nonprofits, government agencies, and individuals throughout the U.S. with a comprehensive array of marketing services.

The business ethics award is presented annually to a business who exemplifies a high standard of ethical leadership in today's business. The finalists and CEOs of Lee and Collier businesses participated in a business ethics roundtable at Florida Gulf Coast University on October 30.

During the Uncommon Evening, Alexander (Alex) Bremner was presented with the Honorary Life Membership/Lifetime Achievement Award, Julia Parada was recognized as the champion teacher, and 26 students received scholarships. ✨

Calusa Blueway Speaker Series To Begin Tuesday

A program called Kayaking Southwest Florida will kick off Lee County Parks & Recreation's annual Calusa Blueway monthly series this season. The talk will be presented by longtime Southwest Florida paddlers Mike Devlin and Jay Rose at the Wa-Ke Hatchee Recreation Center on Tuesday, December 3 at 6:30 p.m.

Devlin, owner of Paradise Coast Kayak Tours, and Jay Rose, owner of Paddle Sports of Naples, will co-share their decades of adventures paddling in Southwest Florida and information about the upcoming Paradise Coast Paddling Festival.

"Mike and Jay are two of the most experienced kayakers I know," Calusa Blueway Coordinator Mike Hammond said. "They know everything about kayaking from traditional skills to repairing high-end Kevlar boats. Having these two present together is going to be a lot fun."

Calusa Blueway Speaker Series schedule:

December 3 – Mike Devlin and Jay Rose – Kayak Touring in Southwest Florida

January 7 – Lynette Brown – Circumnavigating Florida with the Grandchildren

February 4 – Joanne Semmer – Curious Tales of Lee County Waterways

March 3 – Victoria Burgess – Cuba to Key West on a Standup Paddleboard
Note: Programs will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Wa-Ke Hatchee.

Wa-Ke Hatchee Recreation Center is located at 16760 Bass Road in Fort

Myers. For more information, contact Wa-Ke Hatchee Recreation Center at 432-2154. For trail information, visit www.calusablueway.com or www.leeparks.org/blueway. ✨

Airport Reports Record-Breaking October

During October, 638,922 passengers traveled through Southwest Florida International Airport in Fort Myers, Fla., an increase of 12.2 percent compared to October 2018. Year-to-date, passenger traffic is up 8.8 percent compared to last year.

The traffic leader in October was Delta Air Lines with 139,527 passengers traveling to and from Fort Myers. Rounding out the top five airlines were American (111,139), Southwest (104,141), JetBlue (85,919) and United (72,512).

Southwest Florida International Airport had 5,451 aircraft operations, an increase of 1.3 percent compared to October 2018. Page Field saw 10,692 operations, a 16.6 percent increase from October 2018. In addition, more than 3.3 million pounds of air freight moved through Southwest Florida International Airport in October 2019.

Southwest Florida International Airport served nearly 9.4 million passengers in 2018 and is one of the top 50 U.S. airports for passenger traffic. No ad valorem (property) taxes are used for airport operation or construction.

For more information, visit www.flylcpa.com or www.facebook.com/flyrsw. ✨

Book Review

The Chelsea Girls

by Di Saggau



The *Chelsea Girls* by Fiona Davis is about a friendship between two women who meet while in Naples in 1945 performing in a USO show during World War II. Hazel Ripley is

an aspiring playwright, and Maxine Mead is an acclaimed actor and eventual movie star. The two don't get along at first but soon form a connection that becomes a lifelong bond.

When they return statewide, their friendship is tested as the country descends into the madness of the McCarthy-era. Hazel moves into the Chelsea Hotel, which is known as a haven for actors, writers and other creative sorts. She meets an eccentric older actress, who agrees to read her play. By 1950, Hazel's play is being performed on the Great White Way.

As the Red Scare picks up steam, the entire entertainment industry is holding its breath, waiting to see whose name will be next to appear in *Red Channels*, a pamphlet that lists suspected communists who should be blacklisted. "Because of this, we lost a generation of talented screenwriters who became typists to earn a buck. Brilliant actors sold shoes to make a living," Hazel said. "This is how a society is corrupted from the inside out."

As the pressure builds to name names, Hazel and Maxine grapple with the

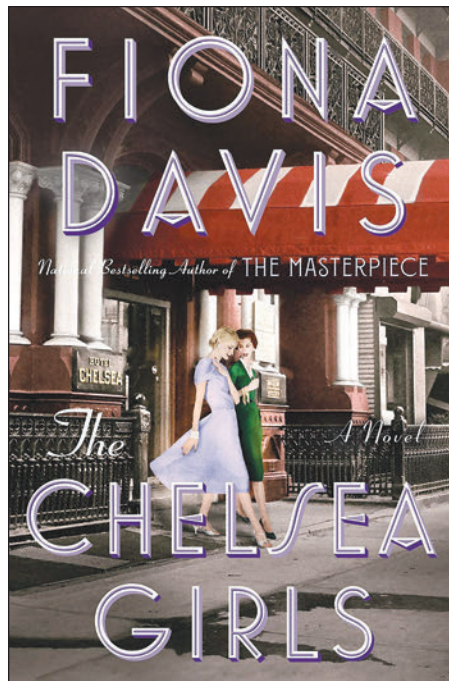


image provided

terrible consequences that affect their livelihood, their friendship and even their freedom.

The novel is a fascinating celebration of love and loyalty, the complicated bonds of female friendship and the siren call of the uninhibited Chelsea Hotel. It's an emotional tale about the aftermath of war and how fear-mongering can divide us and how art can bring us back together.

The Chelsea Girls is a spell-binding tale of a decades-long friendship involving international secrets and theatrical triumphs. Several survivors of the McCarthy era blacklist talked to Davis about their experiences during this turbulent time.✧

deeper connections with people or the community and on pursuing experiences that pique their interest and help them achieve growth, it's much more likely to foster gratitude.

Give them a hand in lending helping hands – Encourage your child to look for opportunities to help others, again role modeling it yourself as a closely held value. This is one of the most direct routes possible towards encouraging gratitude.

Help them find what matters to them – When kids find something that's important to them, something bigger than themselves, like a social issue, cause, or form of service, they realize they're a part of something more important. Gratitude comes from an appreciation of that larger picture and what they can do to affect it.

As parents, we can only do so much to influence our children the way we want. We try to give them roots and wings. I do believe however that engraining gratitude will be one thing both you and your children will be thankful for always.

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

Republican Women Luncheon

Carole Green will be the featured speaker at the December 10 luncheon meeting of the Fort Myers Republican Women's Club (FMRWC), held in The Helm Club at The Landings Yacht, Golf and Tennis Club. A social hour begins at 11:15 a.m. The noon lunch will be followed by the business meeting and program.

Green is a past president of the Republican Women's Club and served many years in the Florida legislature. She represents Bonita Springs, the Lee County School District and Salus Care among other organizations. She served on the Lee Memorial health board for many years. She will discuss current legislation being considered in the 2020 Florida legislature. A question-and-answer session will follow her presentation.

Green will also install the FMRWC's 2020 officers: President, Angela Pruitt; 1st Vice President, Kathy Smith; 2nd Vice President, Erin Casey; Recording Secretary, Diane Kinser; Corresponding Secretary, Claudia Zambor; Treasurer, Nancy Campbell; and Assistant Treasurer, Tina Laurie.

The public is invited to attend the luncheon and the program. Cost is \$20. Reservations are required by Thursday, December 5, and may be made by contacting Tina Laurie at 489-4701.✧

School Smart



by Shelley M. Greggs, NCSP

Dear Parents,
As we approach our national holiday for thankfulness, I'd like to share an excellent article with you by author Scott Mautz. He

has provided valuable information about gratitude from Hofstra and Cal State universities where psychologists have identified evidence-based strategies for encouraging gratitude in children. Thankfulness and gratitude are highly correlated behaviors and important for adults and children.

Research shows that when children exhibit gratitude, it's the behavior that most closely correlates with life satisfaction and happiness for that child. It's also linked to less stress and depression and more optimism, critical attributes for all children to develop.

Further, with gratitude comes more engagement in school and the surrounding community, better social support offered and received, and less envy and materialism exhibited by the

child. Below are some suggestions that will help you to cultivate gratitude with your children.

Role model gratitude and teach your kids to think gratefully – Express gratitude often by speaking it, writing it, gifting it. Make sure your children know that demonstrating gratitude is an important value of yours. You can help your child think gratefully by encouraging him/her to consider the benefits they get from others' kindness and gestures, and what those acts cost the giver.

Be present and empathetic with your child – Spend time when you're fully present, enjoying each moment, and ready to express empathy and understanding. Demonstrate empathy. Research says empathy is "the most important emotion for developing gratitude."

Nurture their strengths – Doing so builds confidence. Confidence builds self-appreciation, which makes it easier to see and appreciate things around you. You may want to encourage your children to directly use strengths like writing, speaking well, being kind-hearted to show gratitude.

Encourage them to accumulate growth, not gadgets – Materialistic goals, when met, rarely lead to genuine gratitude. When you encourage a child to focus on developing

EPIC FIRES OF FORT MYERS

How a Series of Early Fires Influenced the Town's Development

THOMAS P. HALL
ROBIN C. TUTHILL, EDITORAvailable at
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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

Will Power

Double Whammy



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

Who we name as our agent under a Durable Power of Attorney (DPOA) document is more than important, it's vital to our financial, legal and tax well-being. I engage in serious conversations with my clients about who they should name in the important roles of Trustee and Durable Power of Attorney.

Typically, DPOAs are not used unless the person who created it is incapable of conducting her own financial affairs, although the document is legal and valid at the time that it's signed.

I've had several conversations with clients about the importance of selecting the proper person to act. I'm not exaggerating when I tell you that some clients name their eldest son or daughter simply because they are the oldest and would be offended if they're not named in this important role. Sometimes that same oldest child has no business acting as a DPOA since they're not responsible with money, not responsive, or for a variety of other reasons.

Most importantly, you never want to give legal authority over your legal and financial affairs to someone who'll take advantage of you. Most of us trust our children, but a recent case demonstrates what can go wrong.

Mary Ellen Nice, a resident of Louisiana, granted a DPOA to her son, Chip. She did this after her husband of 61 years died. A few years after granting Chip the DPOA, Mary Ellen slid into Alzheimer's, after which time Chip exploited his mother financially, diverting her income (largely from Individual Retirement Account (IRA) distributions) for his own personal use. Chip filed his mother's tax returns, and paid her income tax from her funds even though the monies he withdrew from the IRAs were not largely used for mother's care but for his own.

The IRA distributions went into Mary Ellen's checking account, but because she had Alzheimer's, Chip controlled that account. He had the authority to sign her checks. Unfortunately, many of those checks were to him or were payments for his benefit and not hers.

Upon discovering Chip's malfeasance, Mary Ellen's daughter Julianne filed an action in Louisiana Court to remove Chip. She also filed amended tax returns seeking a refund of over \$519,000 on the theory that Mary Ellen didn't benefit from the IRA distributions, rather her son did.

Julianne relied on a prior case, *Roberts v. Commissioner of the IRS*, where an ex-spouse stole IRA distributions on similar facts but the taxpayer was found not to have received the income. In *Roberts*, the IRA distributions went into a joint account with the taxpayer controlled by the ex-spouse.

Mary Ellen Nice's court rejected the argument. While it seems completely unfair to tax someone on funds they arguably never benefited from, the U.S. District Court in Louisiana found the theft of Mary Ellen's IRA amounts to be irrelevant and the evidence regarding the theft inadmissible at trial. The court reasoned that the IRA distributions were paid to Mary Ellen's checking account, so what happened thereafter is irrelevant. The decision did not discuss whether a theft loss deduction would be permitted.

Theft losses, incidentally, will not reduce the tax dollar for dollar.

The court differentiated Mary Ellen's case from *Roberts* because the monies went into Mary Ellen's individual account, this despite the fact that she had Alzheimer's and was at the mercy of her son, Chip. The court also reasoned that Chip didn't steal all of the income, as some parts were used for Mary Ellen's care.

The lesson learned is that sometimes you can't even trust your own children.

Trusts and DPOAs are vehicles used to avoid the expense and time related to court supervision over our personal legal, tax and financial affairs. But because there is no court supervision, fraud is much easier to commit. Be sure that the parties you name to help you when you are most vulnerable will only have your interest at heart, and not their own.

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Early Childhood Workgroup Campaign

In 2019, the Early Childhood Communication Project Team of the FutureMakers Coalition utilized survey results of the Southwest Florida region to develop tools for community outreach to parents of upcoming Voluntary Pre-K (VPK) eligible children.

The free tools will be used to increase engagement with parents on the importance of obtaining quality, early childhood education. They will also serve as a resource to employers for their employees as well as area pediatricians who also have a high cross-section of pre-VPK-aged children as patients.

The Power of Pre-K tools were recently unveiled and include children's books, posters and rack cards written by the Early Childhood Parent Communication Workgroup and illustrated by local cartoonist Doug MacGregor that highlight the importance, availability and access to free, quality VPK.

The materials feature kid-friendly, colorful illustrations showing a year in the life of a Pre-K student, information on the success rates of children who accessed quality VPK versus those that began education at kindergarten and how to find out more information and enroll children in VPK.

"The Early Childhood Coalition is always trying to reach families about the opportunity to send their children to VPK. It is free and widely available," said Susan Block, convener of the FutureMakers Early Childhood Communication Project Team and chief executive officer of the Early Learning Center of Southwest Florida. "Participating in this project as a FutureMaker exponentially expands our ability to communicate the message."

The materials will be distributed and available through targeted pediatrician's offices, onsite health clinics and break

rooms where available at the area's largest employers and local health facilities that provide annual shots for children under the age of four.

"Our kindergarten teachers can tell the difference between children who have attended prekindergarten programs and those who haven't," said Scott Bass, superintendent of Schools Glades County School District. "The free Florida VPK program offers all children that opportunity to be prepared for school."

The FutureMakers Coalition provided a \$33,000 grant for development of the books, posters and rack cards, including funds for printing, content creation and curators.

The FutureMakers Coalition has two teams focused on a regional outcome to increase kindergarten readiness. The early childhood project teams, have been working together for more than a year to develop a program plan around this campaign to increase demand for quality early childhood education.

In addition to Block, the early childhood communication project team members responsible for the development of the campaign include the Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida, Kristi Biffar, Jennifer Black, Nancy Coker, and the Southwest Florida Community Foundation.

"Research supports the value of early childhood education as it relates to children's health," said Michele King, director of child advocacy programs for Lee Health. "For full-day programs, children are often taught healthy eating habits and encouraged to be active which promotes life skills that prevent obesity. At preschool, children learn important social and emotional skills, which are needed throughout their lifetime. We are excited to distribute the Power of PreK and hope it encourage families to enroll in the state's free prekindergarten program VPK."

For more information about the Power of Pre-K campaign, visit www.schoolreadyswfl.org, call 274-5900 or email Tessa LeSage at tlesage@floridacommunity.com.✱

Discount Admissions Due To Partnership

Pure Florida Fort Myers and IMAG History & Science Museum are offering an opportunity for visitors to purchase discounted Pure Florida Fort Myers cruise tickets with the purchase of IMAG tickets. Pure Florida is offering \$25 Sightseeing and Sunset Cruise tickets for adults and \$15 child tickets with the purchase of IMAG tickets. All tickets must be purchased at the IMAG History & Science Museum.

"This is an excellent partnership that aligns children and families' interest in learning about our area, here at the museum and on the river. Both provide unique opportunities to inspire and educate," said Matt Johnson, executive director of IMAG.

Visitors who purchase discounted Pure Florida tickets through IMAG will be able to choose any date or cruise time and will be able to book online or with the Pure Florida reservation team. Learn interesting and entertaining narration on the history of Southwest Florida and the Caloosahatchee along with views of native wildlife, river islands, bird rookeries, The Edison & Ford Winter Estates and Downtown Fort Myers.

The IMAG History & Science Museum is located at 2000 Cranford Avenue in Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.theimag.org.✱

Ransomware To Be Discussed

It's the new and growing computer fear where one is denied access until a ransom is paid. That alarming issue will be the topic of discussion during the Above Board Chamber meeting at the

Crowne Plaza Fort Myers at Bell Tower Shops on Thursday, December 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Ransomware typically spreads through emails or entering an infected website. The panel of experts discussing Ransomware for Today's Technology include Carrie Kerskie, nationally recognized identity theft, fraud and data privacy expert, as well as a national speaker and author; Rachel Busch, director of sales for Cigent Managed Services, which offers cybersecurity solutions; James Bryan Caudill-Ritter, founder and CEO of Pulse Technology Solutions, which provides IT support to small and medium-sized businesses; and Lee Noriega, chief operating officer and co-founder of Inceptus, which provides management, monitoring and cyber capabilities to small and medium-sized businesses. NBC2 evening news anchor Peter Busch will be the emcee.

Cost is \$30 for members and \$38 for non-members on or before December 6. After that date, the cost is \$35 for members and \$40 for non-members. Lunch is included in the price. The meeting sponsor is Conditioned Air.

Crowne Plaza Fort Myers at Bell Tower Shops is located at 13051 Bell Tower Drive. For more information or to register, visit www.aboveboardchamber.com or call 910-7426.✱

From page 15

Workforce Survey

successful business-education partnerships," said Colleen DePasquale, CEO of the Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce.

The FutureMakers Coalition encourages residents to join and support this community-changing initiative. For more information, visit www.futuremakerscoalition.com, call 274-5900 or email Tessa LeSage at tlesage@floridacommunity.com.✱



Bing Gems at #1 New York Nails Spa in Bonita Springs

photos provided

Jewelry Sales To Benefit Hope Pet Program

To benefit Hope's Pet Program, Hope Healthcare volunteer Margot Hill is donating half the proceeds from sales of her handcrafted

Bing Gems earrings, necklaces and bracelets available at #1 New York Nails & Spa in Bonita Springs through Thanksgiving.

Bing Gems is named after Hill's dog Bing, one of the beloved Jack Russell Terriers she brings to visit and warm the hearts of patients and families both at the Hope Hospice Joanne's House in Bonita Springs and in their homes for more than six years.



From left, Bing, Amelia, Cammy and Nellie

"It is truly rewarding work," said Hill, who retired from the Boston Police Department after 30 years of service. Since 2014, Hill has raised more than \$1,500 for the pet program through her jewelry sales.

Through the generosity of donors and community grants, Hope's Pet Program helps keep hospice patients and their pets together and offers services including supplies, exercise and

walks, transportation, veterinary care and temporary boarding.

Hope Healthcare is a not-for-profit health care organization dedicated to providing care and comfort to every individual and their loved ones as they fulfill life's journey.

#1 New York Nails & Spa is located at 25987 South Tamiami Trail in Bonita Springs. For more information, visit www.hopehcs.org.

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"Will Power" Columnist, *The Island Sun*



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Financial Focus

New At Investing? Follow These Suggestions



by Jennifer Basey
If you're fairly new to investing, you might be wondering what sort of rules you should follow or moves you should make. And while everyone's situation is different, there are indeed

guidelines that make sense for all investors. Here are some to consider:
Learn the basics – The investment world can seem confusing, but the more you know about the basic components, the more confident you'll be when you begin to invest. For starters, you'll want to be familiar with the essential types of investments: stocks, bonds, mutual funds, government securities and so on. And it's also important to know that some investments are designed to provide growth – an increase in the investment's value – while others provide income in the form of dividends or interest payments, and still others may offer growth and income.
Set your goals – You need to know why you're investing... and that means you must clearly define your goals. Do you want to retire early? When you do retire, what kind of lifestyle would you like to have? Are you planning on helping your children (or grandchildren) pay for college? Once you've established your goals, you can create the appropriate investment strategy for achieving them, taking into account your time horizon and risk tolerance.
Invest regularly – At first, you may only be able to afford to put in small amounts to your investment accounts, but even so, try to contribute regularly. You'll get into the habit of investing and, later on, when you earn more money, you can ramp up your contributions. If you have a 401(k) or similar plan at work, the money can come out of your paycheck before you even see it.
Think long term – As you begin investing, it's important to have the right attitude. Specifically, don't look for the "hot" investments that will make you a "bundle" in a matter of weeks. Investing just doesn't work that way. Instead, it's a decades-long process of carefully choosing, managing and adjusting a diversified portfolio that's suitable for your individual needs. And by maintaining a long-term focus, you'll be less susceptible to making ill-advised moves in response to short-term market events.
Don't get scared off by downturns – If you invest for many years, it's inevitable that you will experience sharp drops in the financial markets. But these declines are actually a normal part of investing. If you overreact to them by selling investments just because

their price has dropped, you'll not only be breaking a cardinal rule of investing – to buy low and sell high – but you'll also be disrupting the type of cohesive, continuous investment strategy that's necessary to help you achieve your goals.
Get some help – You may find it easier to navigate the investment landscape if you get some help from a professional advisor – someone who understands your goals and family situation and who can make appropriate investment recommendations. A financial advisor can also suggest changes to your portfolio in response to changes in your life (new job, child graduating college, etc.) and in your goals, such as a new date for retirement.
When you invest, there aren't many guarantees. But by following these suggestions, you will know, at the very least, that you're taking the steps that can lead to success.
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.✴

Health Director Joins LARC Board

Lee Association of Remarkable Citizens (LARC) has appointed Stephanie Wardein to its board of directors.
Wardein is the system director of community affairs for Lee Health. She is responsible for all community relations activities, community health strategies, outreach, education and collaboration with other community organizations to develop working solutions to address local health-related needs.



Stephanie Wardein

Wardein has been with Lee Health since 2012. In 2018, she was named one of Southwest Florida's "40 under 40" by *Gulfshore Business* magazine. She earned a bachelor of arts degree in liberal arts-theology from Franciscan University and a master's degree in theological studies from the Institute for Pastoral Theology at Madonna University. Wardein is an active leader and volunteer in a number of local organizations.
"Our board of directors help guide the work of LARC, to empower and support individuals with disabilities and their families to reach their full potential," said Kevin Lewis, LARC executive director. "Stephanie's passion for collaborating for impact and equitable health care for all makes her an invaluable addition to our board."
To learn more about LARC, visit www.larccleecounty.org or contact Angela Katz at 334-6285 ext. 229.✴

Superior Interiors

A Convenient Bar Cart For Game Day



by Trinette Nelson
Whether you love sports or simply need a reason to throw a party, football Sunday is your chance. It's an ideal time to get your friends together, dish out your best appetizers

and gather in your freshly designed entertainment room.
Looking to add a sophisticated twist to the celebration? Perhaps your own bar cart can make your party unique and keep the guests coming back every week of the season. If you're interested in treating your friends and making a fun and exciting statement at your house, consider this... keep BYOB off the invitations and try creating your own convenient bar cart for game day.
Decide what type of piece you want to use for displaying your beverages. Some may be looking for a vintage barrel, while others are more interested in a modern cart. Think about how this statement piece will flow with the rest of the room's design and decor before making your decision. Make sure it has wheels – a mobile cart is more functional and convenient for everyone.
Just as you decorate rooms with eye-catching and functional accessories, your bar cart will make an unforgettable impression when it's adorned with just the right accessories. Color, pattern

and texture are all important when designing your cart. Keep this in mind when choosing your glassware, napkins, coasters, mixing utensils and other accessories needed to craft the perfect game day cocktail. Search for packaging that will express your style seamlessly. Don't forget to fill in the blanks with non-beverage related adornments. Perhaps a small, modern globe follows your home's decor. Or, a trendy vase of seasonal flowers brings everything together.
Don't forget the refreshments. Since you're creating this bar cart for game day, make sure to reach out to your guests about what they want to drink. Consider asking your friends to RSVP with their favorite cocktail or mocktail. Then, you can be prepared and have all the ingredients needed to keep everyone satisfied for each game day get-together. Add a unique touch to the party by creating a signature house drink that is routinely served at your events.
You can't just throw glassware, liquor bottles and accessories on your cart and call it a day. Remember to stay organized by placing trays on your cart for a seamless and functional touch. Use trays to help you divide the bar cart into zones and dedicate each zone to a specific essential, whether it's glassware, bottles or other useful barware. You'll be simultaneously stylish and organized.
The level of organization will unite the look and show your guests you paid attention to style and detail in creating this unique entertainment piece. Your bar cart should flow with the overall theme and style of the room in which you choose to entertain your guests. While we're a couple of months into the football season, there are plenty more game days left until it comes to a close.
Trinette Nelson is an interior designer on Sanibel/Captiva Islands and can be reached at linda@coindceden.com.✴

Police Program Feeds Elementary School Children

The Fort Myers Police Department's Community Outreach Against Child Hunger (COACH) program, which distributes food to Franklin Park Elementary School students and families in need, has expanded with increased food distribution and upgraded methods of delivery.
The program, founded in August of 2018 by Sgt. Jacquelyn Garrett, issues students a backpack of food items on Fridays to take home. On Monday, they return the backpacks to the school so that COACH volunteers can seek new donations to refill them in two weeks.
"Currently, we are able to fill 50 bags for Franklin Park Elementary students," said volunteer Jennifer Caves. "Some of the items are peanut butter and jelly, cereal, snacks, soup, fruit cups, applesauce, ravioli, just to name a few," she added. The current goal is to expand the program to weekly distributions, by seeking more donations and support from the community and local businesses.
"We've held collection parties, special events and established business relationships to help us grow, but the



Students with backpacks photo provided
reality is the need is growing faster than we are," said Sgt. Garrett.
COACH started as a once-a-month project and has grown to a bi-weekly distribution. The goal is to expand to more students and reach a weekly distribution schedule, to help ensure young students do not go hungry.
For more information or to donate, contact Sgt. Garrett at jgarrett@fmpolice.com or Caves at jcaves01@hotmail.com.✴



From left, Amanda Lehrian, Dr. Jeff Allbritten and Dr. Eileen DeLuca accepting the Florida College System Chancellor's Promising Practice Award photo provided

FSW Institute Wins Practice Award

The Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) has received the 2019 Florida College System Chancellor's Best Practice/Promising Practice Award for its Collegiate Institute at Clewiston High School (CI).

The Chancellor's Best Practice Awards provide Florida College System institutions the opportunity to promote exemplary initiatives to statewide and national audiences. The Division of Florida Colleges annually recognizes colleges in the Florida College System that have established innovative practices or have enhanced existing programs.

FSW's CI program provides dual enrollment courses taught by FSW faculty to Clewiston High School juniors and seniors on the high school's campus. The program allows for students who rely on traditional school transportation to attend college courses during their regularly scheduled school day with built-in academic support, office hours and other college-readiness programming in a supervised, supported learning environment. Students have the opportunity to earn an associate in arts degree by high school graduation at no cost to them.

"There were multiple reasons why Clewiston High School was selected as a site for FSW's Collegiate Institute," said Dr. Eileen DeLuca, FSW provost. "The first consideration is Clewiston High School's location being 33 miles from the nearest post-secondary center. The second consideration is the student demographics of the targeted population. The population is 80 percent minority with

73 percent identifying as first-generation in college. Over 75 percent are eligible for free and reduced lunch, and 42 percent of the 2020-21 cohort were identified as English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) at some point in their kindergarten through 12th grade enrollment. The third consideration was the lack of eligible credentialed instructors to teach college coursework. Less than nine percent of the county has a bachelor's degree or higher. As a resource to the region, FSW is currently providing full instruction for the CI program while sharing information on credentialing with area stakeholders to encourage high school faculty to seek advanced degrees."

The first graduating class of 2019 showcased the strength of the program with increased levels of student achievement that had never been seen before within the county. Out of the original cohort, 99 percent of attempted courses earned college credit with 94 percent of students earning an associate in arts degree at high school graduation.

Clewiston High School also saw its Florida Department of Education Acceleration Rate increase by seven percent, and 43 percent of the students earned Bright Futures scholarships. More than 86 percent of the CI students are pursuing post-secondary education, while the school average is 35 percent. Out of the dual enrollment/early admission population, the CI students have proven academically more successful with higher college grade point averages of 3.38 and higher rates of earned credit.

For more information about FSW CI program, contact Amanda Lehrian, director of FSW Hendry/Glades Curtis Center at 863-674-6010 or amanda.lehrian@fsw.edu.✱

Fundraiser For Mariner High Students

At Mariner High School, it's pancakes and pallet projects that bring lessons alive. The Technology Student Association (TSA) is raising money to attend the state competition early next year in Orlando. Students recently served pancakes at Applebee's and sold student-designed and built pallet projects to restaurant guests.

The students then competed in a regional competition in Bradenton on November 16 to prepare for the state competition in February. The team's goal is to raise \$10,000. This month, they are selling custom-made key chains.

In TSA, students are self-motivated to learn how to bring their designs in robotics, flight endurance, fashion design, video game design, dragster, architecture, structural design and many more to life. Students compete and test their abilities to innovative prompts of engineering problem-solving. They work alongside teachers, classmates and special guest volunteers to engage in project-based learning. TSA provides students a co-curricular opportunity that gives them experiences that better prepare them for their postsecondary education or career after high school.

TSA's membership includes more than 250,000 middle and high school students in approximately 2,000 schools across 48 states and is open to students enrolled in or who have completed technology education courses. The diversity of projects and opportunities for students to collaborate with each other is limitless. Educators, parents and business leaders who believe in the need for a technologically literate society support TSA. TSA is the true definition of cross-curricular collaboration to ensure

continued on page 24



A Mariner High student hands a customer a student-built pallet photo provided

May the only
pain
you have
this holiday
season be
cham-pagne!

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Wishing you all the best of health
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Frankly Speaking



by Howard Prager

Let's talk about gratitude, Thanksgiving and football. I'm grateful for your reading and following this column. Thank you. Your comments and ideas are always appreciated, and one suggestion I received for a future column is about baseball players that should be in the Hall of Fame. Writing this column was one of the favorite activities of my late father-in-law, Ed Frank, and I can see why. I'm so thankful for him and my wonderful family and friends. Being together and appreciative of one another is what the holiday is all about. I hope you feel that way, too.

My idea for this column came from Ed's grandson, Ben Azriel, as I was reflecting on what to write about. He suggested writing about Thanksgiving and football. Indeed, let's reflect on the long history between the most popular American sport and Thanksgiving Day

from several sources, including the NFL Hall of Fame, Wikipedia and the blog *Mental Floss*. The first football game on T-day was played in Philadelphia in 1869. According to that year's November 17 edition of the *Evening Telegraph*, "a foot-ball match between twenty-two players of the Young America Cricket Club and the Germantown Cricket Club will take place on Thanksgiving Day at 12 1/2 o'clock, on the grounds of the Germantown Club." The Young America-Germantown game occurred six years after President Lincoln declared the first fixed national Thanksgiving holiday in 1863. That game was played two weeks after Rutgers defeated Princeton on November 6 in New Brunswick, New Jersey, in what is considered to be the first ever football game.

Since its inception in 1920, the NFL has played on Thanksgiving based on the success of the many college football rivalries this time of year. But a permanent host? That occurred in 1934 when the Lions moved to Detroit. The biggest crowd the new Lions could draw was only about 15,000. Desperate for a trick to get Detroit excited about its new football franchise when people were still talking about the Tigers winning the World Series with a franchise-best 101

wins earlier that year, owner George Richards had the idea of playing a game on Thanksgiving. Since Richards's WJR was one of the bigger radio stations in the country, he had considerable clout with his network and convinced NBC to broadcast a Thanksgiving game on 94 stations nationwide. The move worked brilliantly.

The undefeated Chicago Bears came to town as defending NFL champions, and since the Lions had only one loss, the winner would decide the NFL's Western Division. The Lions sold out their 26,000-seat stadium and had to turn fans away at the gate. Even though the mighty Bears won the game, the tradition took hold and the Lions have been playing on Thanksgiving ever since. This year, the Lions again will host the Bears, but neither team is playing for a championship with their mediocre records.

The NFL wanted to add to its Thanksgiving lineup in the mid-60s, and the Dallas Cowboy were struggling. Even though they had been around for several years, GM Tex Schramm thought that playing on Thanksgiving would raise their popularity. Hard to believe this, but the NFL thought it would be risky to have a game later in the day when people may be eating dinner. So when Schramm agreed to host the game, he asked that the

Cowboys also host a holiday game every year. The fans showed up in droves, and the team broke its attendance record as 80,259 jammed the Cotton Bowl. The Cowboys under young head coach Tom Landry beat the Cleveland Browns, 26-14, and a second Thanksgiving tradition was created.

The NFL agreed to continue this second tradition, although twice they tried to alternate the Cowboys with the (then) St. Louis (Football) Cardinals after two Cowboy losses and a close win the previous three years. The Cardinals lost their first Thanksgiving home game in 1975 and, in 1977, were clobbered by the Miami Dolphins. The rotation was scrapped. In 2006, the NFL added a third game at night to the Thanksgiving lineup. This game is not assigned to a specific franchise.

So, as you reflect on the Thanksgiving holiday and the freedom to watch and cheer for your favorite teams, I'll keep bringing you my perspective and thoughts on the wide world of sports.

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.✧

All-Star Classic Festivities Begin Next Week

It's one last chance to see some of Lee County's most talented high school football players before they move on to college. The Rotary Club of Fort Myers South will present the 31st annual All Star Classic (ASC), supported by title sponsor Acentria Insurance, from Monday, December 2 through Wednesday, December 4. This organized countywide game at Fort Myers High School on Wednesday welcomes 68 players from Lee county high schools, kicking off at 7 p.m.

The all-stars aren't just the players on the field. Each school is sending two cheerleaders as well, for a total of 38. Every all-star participant gets a customized commemorative ring or charm. Game tickets are just \$5 and available at the gate. Parking is \$5 per

vehicle and includes a complimentary game program.

Tommy Bohanon, a fullback from the NFL who was drafted in the 2013 draft by the New York Jets, is the keynote speaker for the ASC Banquet at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre on Monday from 6 to 9:30 p.m. During this event, participating student athletes and cheerleaders will be recognized.

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 including Sammy Watkins, Phillip Buchanon, Nate Allen and Jevon Kearse.

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. Visit www.rotarysouthallstarclassic.org or contact the event chair Suzi Ward at 834-8643 or szward22@gmail.com for more information.

Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre is located at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers. Fort Myers High School is located at 2635 Cortez Boulevard in Fort Myers.✧

Free Autism Screening

Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida, in partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwest Florida, will offer a free monthly autism spectrum disorder screening for toddlers 18 months to age 5 on the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile at Miromar Outlets on Friday, December 6 from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

It is estimated that one in every 59 children is diagnosed with some form of autism spectrum disorder, making it more common than childhood cancer, juvenile diabetes and pediatric AIDS combined.

Medical consultants for the project stress that an early diagnosis can make a vast difference for toddlers and their families. They say early intensive behavioral intervention can make an immense difference not just in the development of the child, but in their families as well.

The ASD screening is conducted by the Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida. The screenings are administered by an advanced practice registered nurse, who has extensive training and experience in typical child development and developmental disorders. A physician referral is not required.

Miromar Outlets is located at 10801 Corkscrew Road in Estero. To schedule a screening, call 343-69838.✧

From page 1

Broadway Palm

for Santa's Christmas Eve flight. Poindexter (Joel Libed) forgot about the list and only has an hour and a half to make things right before lift off. After all, it's the sounds that make Christmas the best holiday, and the clock is ticking as he sets out to create the best playlist ever.

This takes a lot of help from all the elves in Santa's workshop. They travel to various locations that include a jazz club where Poindexter not only sings the blues but plays them on an alto sax. Mrs. Claus (Shannon Connolly) sings a rousing sentimental number about how she misses her man, Mr. Claus, when he is on his rounds. Santa (the inimitable Victor Legarreta) soon joins her, and they make beautiful music together.

Songs include *Silver Bells, I Love the Bells on Christmas Day*, along with some lovely bell ringing, *Winter Wonderland, Let it Snow, Oh Holy Night* and a lovely rendition of *The Little Drummer Boy*, sung by Poindexter, who is now called Dex. He has somehow gone through a transformation from a bit of a nerd to a handsome, sophisticated gentleman. Dex and Candy Cane (Danielle Poznanovic) also treat us to a pretty duet in *All I Want For Christmas Is You*.

The choreography in this show is outstanding. I especially loved the reindeer dance with all the elves and their energetic tap-dancing. The entire cast deserves a shout out for what they add to the show. *Sounds of Christmas* is a fun-filled celebration that is perfect for all ages and brings back memories as to why this is a wonderful time of the year. It plays through December 25 at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre, located at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers. Tickets are available by calling 278-4422, visiting www.broadwaypalm.com or at the box office. Bring your family and friends to celebrate the season with this festive production.✧

SPORTS QUIZ

1. Who was the last Cincinnati Reds pitcher before Anthony DeSclafani in 2018 to hit a grand slam?
2. How many times has Oregon State's men's baseball team won the College World Series?
3. Who was the MVP of the first two AFL Championship Games?
4. Princeton's Pete Carril is the winningest coach in Ivy League men's basketball history (514 victories). Which two coaches entered the 2019-20 season tied for second?
5. How many Stanley Cups did the Edmonton Oilers win with Glen Sather as head coach?
6. Which two drivers hold the NASCAR record for most Cup wins at New Hampshire?
7. Who was the last men's tennis player to win the U.S. Open after being down two sets to one?

ANSWERS

1. Bob Purkey, in 1959. 2. Three times (2006, '07, '18). 3. Billy Cannon of the Houston Oilers (1960 and '61 seasons). 4. Yale's James Jones and Penn's Frank Dumphy, with 310 wins apiece. 5. Four Stanley Cups (1984, '85, '87, '88). 6. Jeff Burton and Kevin Harvick, with four wins each. 7. Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina, in 2009.

Arts On Tap Fundraiser Raises Funds For Alliance

The Alliance for the Arts recently welcomed more than 300 artists, arts supporters, beer lovers and cultural philanthropists to its Arts On Tap Fundraiser. Arts On Tap, now in its third year, is a lively fundraiser for the Alliance for the Arts featuring the craft of local brewers and culinary artists.

Shattering internal goals, the event raised over \$64,000. All funds directly support the Alliance's mission to transform lives and improve our community through the arts. Since 1975, the Alliance's year-round schedule of events have become a staple for the community through engaging gallery exhibitions, inspiring art classes from fine art life drawing to the art of beer-making and stimulating theatre productions that range from the classics to the cutting edge. Proceeds support a creative hub that spurs and supports self-expression, access and equity, imagination and individuality by connecting our community through the arts.

Partygoers enjoyed live entertainment



Barbara German and Dena Galyean
photos provided

from musician Jenny Ve as well as unlimited tastings from participating breweries and restaurants, Ciro Quintana's Confessions of a Cuban Artist gallery exhibition, twisted pub games, a silent auction and a raffle.

Participating crafters included Big Blue Brewing, Coastal Dayz Brewery,



Chandra Cole Briers and Mike Briers

Eight Foot Brewing, Fort Myers Brewing Company, Millennial Brewing Company, Momentum Brewhouse, Palm City Brewing and Point Ybel Brewing Company.

Tasty treats were provided by The American Grilled Cheese Kitchen, Downtown House of Pizza, KiKi's Desserts, Kings Kitchen, Nice Guys Pizza,



Rob Green and Cantrella Canady

Seminole Casino Hotel and The Standard.

Arts on Tap was sponsored by Briers CPA, Custom Packaging and Products, Dorsey Law Firm, EnSite, GMA Architects & Planner, Owen-Ames-Kimball Company, Priority Business Solutions, Megan & Jon Romine, Seminole Casino Hotel and Winged Foot Title.✪



From left, Don Gurule, Phil LeBoutillier, Darrel Lieze-Adams and Chuck Lieze-Adams



Marilyn Mecca and Dori Steele



Tessa LeSage and Lydia Black



From left, Joyce Dixon Clark, Jim Clark and Jillian Clark



From left, Marilyn Mecca, Norah Miller, Jenn Resnick Robinson, Brianna Day and Stephanie Schultz

dearRPharmacist

Recipe Tweaks For A Healthier Thanksgiving



by Suzy Cohen, RPh

Dear Readers: This time of year is when families gather and eat a lot of food. And shop! Today's focus is how to indulge without increasing the bulge. My intention is to give you some recipe

tweaks to make your meals healthier. Here are my best tips:

Turmeric – A quarter teaspoon of this spice added to your green bean casserole will go virtually unnoticed from a taste perspective, but it adds some anti-cancer and anti-inflammatory benefits. It also reduces the build-up of brain plaque according to some mice studies.

Shiitake Mushrooms – Using these mushrooms in your stuffing adds some biologically active compounds that may protect against cancer and inflammation. A 2015 study in the *American Journal of Clinical Nutrition* concluded that regular consumption of these mushrooms resulted in improved immunity and a reduction in the pro-inflammatory compound C-Reactive Protein.

Cauliflower – Most people know about making cauliflower mash, as a substitute for the high-carb regular mashed potatoes. This also prevents a big blood sugar spike. But what about cauliflower macaroni and cheese? I have the recipe posted at my website and it's awesome for both children and adults.

Coconut Water – In my cranberry sauce recipe, I always replace the plain water with a high quality coconut water, and it doesn't alter the flavor at all. Coconut water is hydrating and it contains compounds that are anti-fungal

and antioxidant in nature. It may help if you are prone to kidney stone formation or if you have diabetes. You can substitute coconut water in any recipe that calls for water.

Tea Seed Oil – Tea seed comes from the seeds of *Camellia sinensis*. That's the plant that gives us green tea. The tea seed oil is cold-pressed and very popular in other countries. With a mild, neutral flavor, this would be great to substitute for another inferior oil such as vegetable or canola. It has anti-fungal, antioxidant and anti-inflammatory benefits.

Pumpkin Seed Oil – Add two teaspoons to your pumpkin pie filling before cooking it for a profoundly richer flavor and powerful medicinal benefits. Its rich in vitamin E, zinc, omega fatty acids and is well known to support prostate and breast health.

Dried tart cherries – Instead of cranberries (or in addition to), you can cut some dried tart cherries into your stuffing. These are known to contain natural melatonin, which is deeply relaxing. They've been studied for their ability to support gout. Tart cherries reduce muscle breakdown and speed up recovery during fitness, according to studies. They have virtually no fat or sodium and taste very satisfying and not too sweet.

Almond Flour – To get the pain-relieving benefits of almonds, use ground almond flour instead of all-purpose flour for your gravy. If you want to reduce the sodium content commonly found in traditional gravy that starts with chicken broth, just substitute plain water. To avoid compromising flavor, you'll want to add spices like onion and garlic powder, smoked paprika and fresh rosemary.

Avocados – Instead of mayo, you can use crushed avocados as a spread. This might be something you do with leftover turkey subs.

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.✽

Lee Hospitals Honored For Quality

Safe, high-quality care is the hallmark of an outstanding health system and Lee Health, once again, is at the head of the pack in Florida.

The Florida Hospital Association (FHA) recently awarded three Lee Health hospitals with Hospital Improvement Innovation Network (HIIN) awards. The FHA award honors outstanding achievement in creating a culture of patient safety, delivering value and executing evidence-based practices as part of day-to-day operations.

"We're proud to be recognized for the dedication and teamwork that goes into building a culture of safety and quality," said Scott Kashman, Lee Health chief officer of hospital operations.

"Safety is our top priority, and it requires engaging teams of employees, physicians and volunteers to constantly strive for improvement in order to provide the highest quality care to our patients."

Cape Coral Hospital received the HIIN Chasing Zero Award (250 beds and over) for outstanding work to reduce patient harm and readmissions. The Chasing Zero Award is presented for achieving significant reductions in hospital-acquired infections, resulting in some of the lowest rates in the project. This is the second year in a row FHA has honored Cape Coral Hospital.

Gulf Coast Medical Center and HealthPark Medical Center received HIIN Achievement Awards for outstanding work to reduce patient harm and readmissions. The HIIN Achievement Award goes to those hospitals that meet the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) improvement goals on at least 80 percent of measures tracked as part of the program.✽

Doctor and Dietician

Healthy Happy Thanksgiving



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

Do you love Thanksgiving? Family, friends, traditions and, of course, food! Unfortunately, it often starts the holiday weight gain cycle.

Our friend group has been participating in a local 5k Turkey Trot for many years – with costumes too. Last year, we dressed in turkey tu-tus. It's fun! We create a calorie deficit by burning some calories prior to dinner. For non-runners, take a walk, swim or bike ride. Dress in orange to get in the mood.

Lighten up a little and reduce the amount of food provided at your Thanksgiving dinner. We are so blessed in this country. We made a pact with our friend group to lessen the food supply at

the meal. We do not need three kinds of potatoes, four kinds of sweet potatoes, 10 desserts, etc. You get the picture. It's not necessary. Keep it simple, fresh and limit the items. Give the rest to a food pantry.

If you strive to stay active, exercise, be fit and prevent disease, then trying not to go nuts at Thanksgiving should be a goal.

Intentional tips for a healthy Thanksgiving:

1. Reduce portion sizes, taking a small amount of each item versus huge portions.
2. Drink a full glass of water before the meal and after the meal to stave off going for a third plate.
3. Reduce the sugar called for in dessert recipes, cranberries, or other sweet treats. You won't miss it.
4. Avoid recipes with lots of added sauces and calories. For example, make fresh green beans versus green bean casserole or roasted mashed sweet potatoes versus marsh mellow-butter-sugar sweet potatoes.
5. Take a walk before and/or after the big meal of the day.
6. Invite someone who does not have a place to go and share your abundance. Give thanks. Amen!

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.✽

Lee Health Tool To Help Patients Avoid The Wait

When you're sick, waiting to see a doctor is the last thing you want to do. At Lee Health, we understand, which is why we're proud to announce a new tool to help patients get the care they need without the wait.

On My Way is a new feature within My Chart on the Lee Health app that allows patients to check wait times, make an appointment and secure a place in line at certain urgent care clinics, all from the comfort of home. The feature is currently available at the Lee Convenient Care locations at 1682 NE Pine Island Road in Cape Coral and at 4771 South Cleveland Avenue in Fort Myers with plans to expand to all four clinics in coming months.

"On My Way is a helpful tool for patients with minor sicknesses and injuries, especially those with busy lives who might otherwise struggle to find time to wait at a doctor's office," said Kris Fay, chief administrative officer of Lee Physician Group, Home Health and Physician Services. "This new feature is one of several programs that uses technology to help patients receive care at a time and place that conveniently fits into their schedules."

Lee Convenient Care offers quality, walk-in medical care for adults and children in a cost-effective, comfortable environment. While urgent care clinics typically function on a first-come, first-served basis, On My Way allows patients to mark their place in line, minimizing their

time in the waiting room. Lee Convenient Care also accepts most insurance.

In addition to using technology to improve the experience while waiting at a doctor's office, Lee Health recently launched www.leetelehealth.org, which allows patients to use the camera on their phone, tablet or computer to see a physician with the push of a button. This is a great alternative for busy parents and professionals to receive a diagnosis and prescription for a variety of common ailments and injuries without leaving their home or office.

Technology is changing the landscape of health care, and Lee Health continues to lead the way in innovating the delivery of urgent and walk-in care. Lee Convenient Care and Lee TeleHealth are helping patients spend less time in a doctor's office so that they can have more time to spend with their families, and finish everything they need to get done on their daily to-do lists.

For more information, visit www.leehealth.org or call 343-9800.✽

From page 21

Mariner High

students are enthusiastic about STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, mathematics).

The Platinum Sponsor of Mariner's TSA team for the last eight years is Jet's Pizza. They have also received support from PureSource, Go Mulch and Florida Torque Converter. Businesses or individuals wishing to support the team should contact Pamela King at 772-3324 or pamelabk@leeschools.net.✽

PETS OF THE WEEK

photos provided

Lee County Domestic Animal Services

Sara And Argyle



Sara ID# A799029

Hello, my name is Sara. I am an 8-year-old female pit bull terrier mix who is one of the "Super Seniors," but I act more like a teenager. My previous family let me put on a few too many pounds, so the volunteers at Animal Services have me on a workout regimen. I love it. I go for walks and play in the play yard. I have energy that I never knew I had. I would be the ideal companion if evening walks are part of your routine.

My adoption fee is \$10 through November 30, and \$25 in December.

Hi, I'm Argyle. I am a 1-year-old male domestic shorthair who, at first sight, appears to be your average house cat. But I am not your average Joe. I have personality for days and will keep you amused just watching my antics. Put a few toys around, and it will keep me busy for hours. I will pose for the camera as soon as I see it because I obviously know I have the good



Argyle ID# A797510

looks to go with the personality.

My adoption fee is \$10, with a buy-one-get-one kitty through November 30, and \$50 with a buy-one-get-one kitty in December.

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.✧

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

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

American Legion Post #38	239-332-1853
Angel Flight	1-877-4AN-ANGEL
Animal Refuge Center	731-3535
American Business Women Association	357-6755
Audubon of SWFL	339-8046
Audubon Society	472-3156
Caloosahatchee Chapter DAR	482-1366
Caloosahatchee Folk Society	321-4620
Cape 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

CURRENT
OPTIONS

- ACROSS
- 1 One-sixth of a fl. oz.

4 Fess (up)

7 Hikers' trails

12 — Lankan

15 Suffix with 83-Down

18 Alternative to a barrette

20 Moral code

21 One getting toasted, e.g.

23 Waldorf — (New York hotel)

24 1970s TV spinoff

25 Clingy mollusk

26 Start of a riddle

29 RSVP card encl.

30 Saudi export

31 Sup in style

32 Farrow of "Alice"

34 Indian kings

38 Buy and sell

41 Nonstandard contraction

42 Riddle, part 2

47 Casino stake

48 Claimed psychic gift

49 Engraving tool

50 Germany's Merkel

51 Clothing
- 53 Skylights?

55 Vigor, muscially

56 Riddle, part 3

60 Tachometer inits.

63 Cuts down with an ax

64 Furiousness

65 Stein quaff

66 Giga- times 1,000

67 Eon division

68 Riddle, part 4

75 Rationalist Descartes

76 Render blank

77 Japanese condiment

78 Eye in awe

81 Comic actress Oteri

83 Devour

84 Grassy tract

85 End of the riddle

90 Ever so slightly

91 Directed (at)

92 Pasta tube

93 Yang go-with

94 White bird

96 Really good bud, in brief

97 Zeus' mother

101 Riddle's answer

109 Like the Dalai Lama
- 110 Filch

111 Babka nuts

112 Shoulder bone

113 Bitterly pungent

114 Rider not in a seat

115 Always, in verse

116 Submitted texts: Abbr.

117 Rotor noises

118 Chicken — (varicella)

119 Carders' requests
- DOWN
- 1 Becomes liquid

2 Younger Obama daughter

3 "For — sake ..." (start of an urgent appeal)

4 Other, in Zaragoza

5 Nintendo console released in 2012

6 Patricia of "Hud"

7 Not let up

8 Playwright — Fugard

9 — McAn shoes

10 Camouflage
- 11 Healing sign

12 Blocking more

13 Actress Lively or musician

14 Dumbstruck

15 Nickname for boxer Tyson

16 Watchman

17 Golf ball prop

19 Regatta athletes

22 Ending for Motor or Rock

27 Capital of Qatar

28 More quirky

33 "— girl!"

35 "No man is — to his valet"

36 Composer Franz — Haydn

37 Extra for an iPhone

38 Pre-1917 despots

39 Word after ballet or charlotte

40 Big primate

41 2012 film set in Iran

42 Canine chain
- 43 Canada's capital

44 "What a shame"

45 Actress Kate or Rooney

46 Blue dye from a plant

47 Wash oneself

52 "— in there!"

53 Vassal of old

54 Beech, e.g.

55 Certain sib, in dialect

57 Marcher's flute

58 Big tanks

59 River in Germany

60 Junk dealer's transaction

61 Takes a close look at

62 Group in "GoodFellas"

66 QBs' stats

68 Numb

69 Misfires from QBs: Abbr.

70 Actor Christopher

71 Made a misplay, say

72 Hammering target

73 Pulitzer, e.g.

74 Related to birth

75 Marsh stalk

78 Aussie "Hi"
- 79 Clever trick

80 Lounge featuring ivory-ticklers

81 "Hear ye!" shouter

82 That dude

83 Swelled head

86 Cigars from Cuba

87 Wraps around

88 Tip, as a cap

89 Human being

94 Piece of information

95 Flattened circles

96 Via a flight

98 Language akin to Urdu

99 Finished up

100 Obstinate equines

102 Agent, informally

103 "— Mommy kissing ..."

104 Cut with acid

105 Garr of "Tootsie"

106 Scraping tool

107 Choir part

108 Big-screen film format

109 China's Mao — -tung

King Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Netting

5 Personal question

8 Grouch

12 Liniment target

13 Chop

14 Firetruck need

15 Barbecue fuel

17 One side of the Urals

18 Glutton

19 Prune

20 Skill

21 Police officer

22 Has potential

23 Should, with "to"

26 Assail persistently

30 Entreaty

31 "Delish!"

32 Small wagon

33 Breastbone

35 "It's mine!"

36 Diving bird

37 Two, in Tijuana

38 Pamphlet

41 Raw rock

42 Pair of performers

45 Laugh-a-minute

46 Entrancing

48 Teen's woe

49 Ginormous

50 Eastern bigwig (Var.)

51 Equal
- 52 "Help!"

53 Maravich of basketball lore
- 10 "Yeah, right"

11 Defeat

16 Coagulate

20 Rotating part

21 Role

22 Oft-tattooed word

23 Chances, for short

24 Last (Abbr.)

25 "Gosh!"

26 Vagrant

27 Upper limb

28 Aries

29 Coloring agent

31 Opposite of 31-Across?

34 Eccentric
- 35 No stay-at-home

37 Hauls

38 Snare

39 Kind of pudding

40 Top-rated

41 Major U.S. river

42 FDR's on it

43 One

44 Shrek, for instance

46 Letterman's employer

47 Paper equivalent of a GPS?
- DOWN
- 1 Jet speed measure

2 Reverberate

3 Carpet type

4 The girl

5 Shout

6 Jalopy

7 It gives a hoot

8 Monstrous whirlpool of myth

9 Parks of civil rights fame

MAGIC MAZE ● APPEND A "T" TO MAKE A NEW WORD

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

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

- Ankle

Basemen

Budge

Burn
- Complain

Deal

Die

Diploma
- Flee

Handcar

Rabbi

Radian
- Regimen

Spine

Though



"Well, how much did it cost me to get you
out of the _____ this time?"
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!

Hubris
DIPER

Believe
DIRECT

Great
PURES

Despair
MOGOL

TODAY'S WORD

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

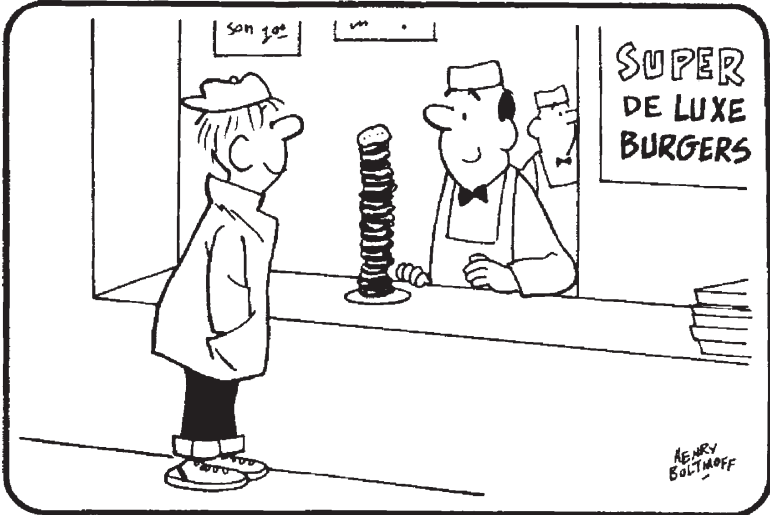
SUDOKU

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.

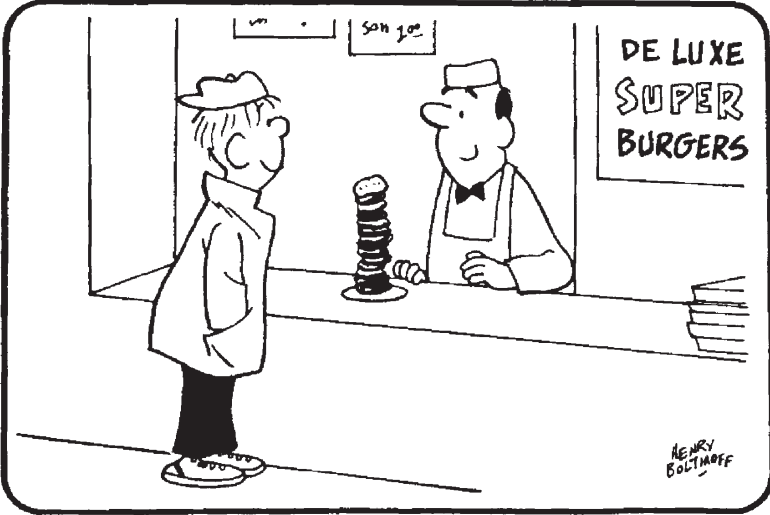
Answer on page 28

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



FIND AT LEAST SIX DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS



Differences: 1. Burger stack is shorter. 2. Man in background is missing. 3. Slacks have no cuffs. 4. Large sign is different. 5. Customer's nose is smaller. 6. Two small signs are reversed.



Vegetable Quiche

- Servings 6
2 medium squash, thinly sliced
2 medium zucchini, thinly sliced
2 tomatoes, diced small
4 cups arugula
1 lemon, juiced
1 large onion, thinly sliced
1 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
1 cup sharp cheddar, grated
3 eggs, beaten
2 tablespoons plain Greek yogurt
2 tablespoons unsalted butter, cubed
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoon fresh thyme, chopped
1 tablespoon all-purpose seasoning (your favorite)
Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste
Preheat oven to 375 degrees. In a standard pie plate start by layering squash on bottom. Next sprinkle with Parmesan and cheddar, followed by a drizzle of beaten eggs. Season with thyme and a dash of all-purpose seasoning, salt, and pepper. Continue layering until three quarters full. Finish with a layer of cheese and cubes of butter. Place in oven and bake for 20-30 minutes, depending on thickness of squash (should be slightly soft in middle).

Fresh tip: This dish can be served warm, room temperature, or chilled.✧



Vegetable Quiche

photo courtesy Fresh From Florida



FRIDAY
Partly Cloudy
High: 79 Low: 67



SATURDAY
Partly Cloudy
High: 75 Low: 63



SUNDAY
Sunny
High: 78 Low: 65



MONDAY
Sunny
High: 76 Low: 64



TUESDAY
Sunny
High: 79 Low: 66



WEDNESDAY
Mostly Cloudy
High: 77 Low: 65



THURSDAY
Cloudy
High: 73 Low: 61

Redfish Pass Tides					Point Ybel Tides					Punta Rassa Tides					Cape Coral Bridge Tides				
Day	High	Low	High	Low	Day	High	Low	High	Low	Day	High	Low	High	Low	Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	12:58 am	8:50 am	4:50 pm	6:44 pm	Fri	12:03 am	8:52 am	3:55 pm	6:46 pm	Fri	1:00 am	8:58 am	3:31 pm	8:35 pm	Fri	3:08 am	12:06 pm	7:00 pm	10:00 pm
Sat	1:36 am	9:36 am	None	None	Sat	12:41 am	9:38 am	None	None	Sat	1:31 am	9:39 am	4:17 pm	9:13 pm	Sat	3:46 am	12:52 pm	None	None
Sun	2:19 am	10:24 am	6:48 pm	8:36 pm	Sun	1:24 am	10:26 am	5:53 pm	8:38 pm	Sun	2:10 am	10:21 am	5:05 pm	9:50 pm	Sun	4:29 am	1:40 pm	8:58 pm	11:52 pm
Mon	3:10 am	11:15 am	7:30 pm	10:26 pm	Mon	2:15 am	11:17 am	6:35 pm	10:28 pm	Mon	3:02 am	11:06 am	5:57 pm	10:38 pm	Mon	5:20 am	2:31 pm	9:40 pm	None
Tue	4:15 am	12:08 pm	8:02 pm	None	Tue	3:20 am	12:10 pm	7:07 pm	None	Tue	4:05 am	12:04 pm	6:49 pm	None	Tue	6:25 am	1:42 am	10:12 pm	3:24 pm
Wed	5:47 am	12:24 am	8:31 pm	1:00 pm	Wed	4:52 am	12:26 am	7:36 pm	1:02 pm	Wed	5:38 am	12:32 am	7:37 pm	1:10 pm	Wed	7:57 am	3:40 am	10:41 pm	4:16 pm
Thu	7:34 am	1:56 am	8:57 pm	1:48 pm	Thu	6:39 am	1:58 am	8:02 pm	1:50 pm	Thu	7:12 am	1:57 am	8:21 pm	2:02 pm	Thu	9:44 am	5:12 am	11:07 pm	5:04 pm

PUZZLE ANSWERS

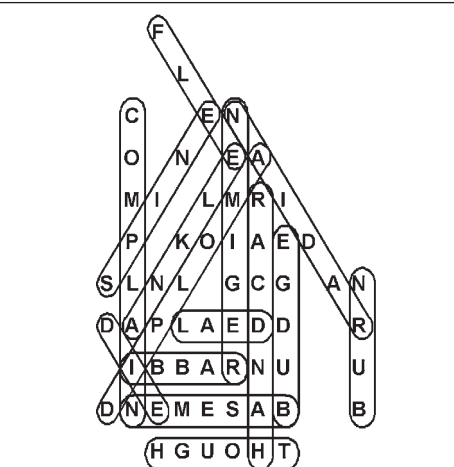
SUPER CROSSWORD

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				B	E	T		E	S	P				L	A	S	E	R		A	N	G	E	L	A			
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KING CROSSWORD

M	E	S	H			W	H	O			C	R	A	B	
A	C	H	E			H	E	W			H	O	S	E	
C	H	A	R	C	O	A	L				A	S	I	A	
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R	I	O	T			C	H	A	R	M	I	N	G		
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MAGIC MAZE



SUDOKU

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

TRIVIA TEST

- Music:** Who composed the 1812 Overture?
- General Knowledge:** What was the sixth gift in the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*?
- Science:** What is the softest mineral?
- Government:** Which amendment to the U.S. Constitution abolished slavery?
- Entertainment:** Who are the only two people to receive an Oscar award and a Nobel Prize?
- U.S. States:** How many states border Oklahoma?
- Literature:** Which 20th-century novel features a place called Shangri-La?
- U.S. Presidents:** Which president's famous speech included the line, "Tear down this wall"?
- Geography:** Which country lies directly south of Venezuela?
- Famous Quotations:** Which filmmaker and author once wrote, "Don't you love New York in the fall? It makes me want to buy school supplies. I would send you a bouquet of newly sharpened pencils if I knew your name and address"?

TRIVIA ANSWERS

- Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky
- Geese
- Talc
- 13th
- George Bernard Shaw and Bob Dylan
- Six
- Arkansas, Missouri, Kansas, New Mexico, Texas and Colorado
- Lost Horizon
- Ronald Reagan, urging Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to destroy the Berlin Wall
- 9
- Brazil
- 10
- Nora Ephron

My Stars ★★★★★ FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 2, 2019

Aries (March 21 to April 19) While it seems that chaos is taking over, you get everything back to normal, even if it means being more than a little assertive with some people. Expect to hear more job-related news soon.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) Expect to be able to move ahead with your workplace plans now that you have a good idea of what you might have to face. You also can anticipate a welcome change on the home front.

Gemini (May 21 to June 20) A quieter period settles in, giving you a chance to catch your breath, as well as allowing for more time to handle some important family matters. The arts dominate this weekend. Enjoy them.

Cancer (June 21 to July 22) The frustrations of last week have pretty much played themselves out. You should find things going more smoothly, especially with those all-important personal matters.

Leo (July 23 to August 22) Once again, you find a creative way to resolve a pesky problem in short order. However, a matter involving a possible breach of confidence might need a bit more time to check out.

Virgo (August 23 to September 22) Reuniting with an old friend could lead to the sharing of some great new experiences. But be careful you don't find yourself once again being super-critical or overly judgmental.

Libra (September 23 to October 22) You should be seeing some positive results following your move toward

repairing that unraveling relationship. There might be some setbacks, but staying with it ultimately pays off.

Scorpio (October 23 to November 21) Encouraging a friendlier environment in the home could go a long way to help dissipate anger and resolve problems, especially those affecting children. It won't be easy, but you can do it.

Sagittarius (November 22 to December 21) A recent act of kindness is beginning to show some unexpected (but very welcome) results. On another note, expect to hear more about a possible move to another locale.

Capricorn (December 22 to January 19) The good news is that the sure-footed Goat can rely on his or her skill to get around obstacles in the workplace. The not-so-good news is that new impediments could turn up later.

Aquarius (January 20 to February 18) A change of pace is welcome but also confusing. Before you make decisions one way or another, be sure you know precisely what it is you're being asked to do.

Pisces (February 19 to March 20) Don't fret if you don't get the gratitude you think you're owed for doing a nice thing for someone. There might be a good reason for that. In any event, what's important is that you did it.

Born This Week: You have a way of making the sort of wise decisions that ultimately shed new light on dark situations.

MOMENTS IN TIME

- On Dec. 4, 1783, George Washington, commanding general of the

Continental Army, informs his officers that he will be resigning his commission and returning to civilian life. In 1789, he was coaxed out of retirement and elected as the first president of the United States.

- On Dec. 7, 1805, explorers Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, having made a difficult trip across the rugged Rockies, set up winter camp near the mouth of the Columbia River. They named it Fort Clatsop, after the local Indian tribe.
- On Dec. 6, 1865, the 13th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, officially ending the institution of slavery, is ratified when Georgia votes to ratify. Mississippi, however, would not submit documentation to abolish slavery until 2013.
- On Dec. 5, 1945, five U.S. Navy Avenger torpedo-bombers take off from Florida on a routine three-hour training mission near the Bahamas. Two hours later, the planes disappeared. Mariner aircraft, sent to locate the planes, also disappeared. No trace of the men or aircraft were ever found.
- On Dec. 2, 1954, the U.S. Senate votes 65 to 22 to condemn Senator Joseph R. McCarthy for conduct unbecoming a senator. The censure was related to McCarthy's controversial investigation of suspected communists in the U.S. government, military and civilian society.
- On Dec. 3, 1979, 11 people are killed when a crowd of general admission ticket-holders to a Who concert surge forward in an attempt to

continued on page 30

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From page 28

Moments In Time

enter Cincinnati’s Riverfront Coliseum and secure prime unreserved seats. The glass entrance doors shattered as the 8,000-strong crowd pushed forward.

• On Dec. 8, 1980, John Lennon, a former member of the Beatles, is shot and killed by Mark David Chapman, an obsessed fan, in New York City. Chapman was sentenced to 20 years to life, and he remains behind bars at Attica Prison in New York.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

- It was 19th-century German poet

Johann Peter Eckermann who made the following sage observation: “Invention requires an excited mind; execution, a calm one.”

- Those who study such things say that if you want to know if someone is likely to keep your secrets, you should look at their birth order in the family. First-born children tend to be better at keeping secrets than kids born later.
- According to biologists, young giraffes have been known to grow up to half an inch per hour.
- You might be surprised to learn that in addition to being the father of our country, George Washington was quite a successful purveyor of alcohol. According

to the U.S. Distilled Spirits Council, he operated one of the largest whiskey distilleries in early America, producing 11,000 gallons in 1799.

- You may be familiar with the famous scene from Shakespeare’s *Hamlet*, in which the title character picks up the skull of an erstwhile acquaintance and declares, “Alas, poor Yorick!” It’s an icon of the stage – and the screen, with more than 50 known film versions of the play. Of course, it’s also been published too many times to count, and in too many different formats. One in particular stands out, though; in 2009, Czech bookbinders and artists Jan and Jarmila Soboda created their own unique edition.

It’s a tiny script tucked inside a plastic skull housed in a small metal casket with a hinged lid.

- If you’re planning a holiday in Paris this year, keep in mind that in that city it’s against the law to spin a top on a sidewalk.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“One does not advance the swimming abilities of ducks by throwing the eggs in the water.” – Eduard Douwes Dekker

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Heights Party Band Rocks Out At Harlem Center

The Heights Foundation recently hosted The Heights Party Band concert at The Heights Center. The evening included familiar and forgotten favorites, classic rock, blues and a little “chaotic spontaneity.”

The party band is a group of rotating high-quality local musicians who call The Heights Center home for several concerts each year.

The event was sponsored by CRE Consultants and entech.

The concert featured well-known local musicians including Grammy-award winning songwriter (Butterfly Kisses, Why'd You Come in Here Lookin' Like That?) Randy Thomas and his wife Lori, Rob Robinson, Kevin Kenworthy, Willie Miller and Nashville's Matthew Chapman.

“The Heights Center is a great venue for us. We bring together high-quality musicians for a fun, casual evening,” said Randy Thomas. “We played our versions of some of our favorite classic rock, blues and country-rock songs.”

The Heights Center is located at 15570 Hagie Drive in Fort Myers. For more information, call 482-7706 or visit www.heightsfoundation.org.

Repairing Relationships After Addiction

Narconon reminds addicts and alcoholics that those relationships that you managed to destroy with your addiction can be repaired. You must stop talking about it and making broken promises to those affected and start making a change. This is where the saying “actions speak louder than words” comes into play. Getting treatment and making a change that those affected can see themselves is the start to mending those relationships.

For more information on repairing relationships, visit www.narconon-suncoast.org/blog/repairing-relationships-damaged-by-addiction.html.



The Heights Party Band Kevin Kenworthy, Randy Thomas, Willie Miller, Matthew Chapman and Rob Robinson photos provided

HORTOONS

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Top 10 Real Estate Sales

Subdivision	City	Year Built	Square Footage	Listing Price	Selling Price	Days On Market
Bonita Beach	Bonita Springs	1962	1,408	\$5,100,000	\$4,900,000	4
Quail West	Naples	2015	4,463	\$3,100,000	\$2,850,000	0
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	2017	4,156	\$2,395,000	\$2,250,000	220
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	2019	3,304	\$1,395,000	\$1,300,000	66
Shell Harbor	Sanibel	1986	3,012	\$1,295,000	\$1,250,000	0
Grand Ole Man	Fort Myers Beach	1976	1,881	\$1,287,500	\$1,212,500	209
Pointe Santo de Sanibel Condo	Sanibel	1977	1,326	\$1,050,000	\$1,050,000	0
Pennyroyal	Bonita Springs	1992	3,664	\$1,095,000	\$975,000	50
Chapel Ridge	Estero	2001	3,273	\$949,900	\$862,500	179
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	2019	2,280	\$739,900	\$742,500	8

Courtesy of Royal Shell Real Estate

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Randy Wayne White ©

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