

Colors Of Christmas Shine At Holiday House

The Colors of Christmas display offers a festive kaleidoscope for visitors that visit the 63rd annual Holiday House at the historic Langford Kingston Home and Burroughs Home. Self-guided tours of Holiday House 2019 will run through Sunday, December 22. Hours are 5 to 9 p.m., with the last tour guests admitted at 8:30 p.m.

Presented by the Fort Myers Woman's Community Club, Colors of Christmas is inspired by the artistry of Christmas designers Christopher Radko and Jim Marvin, while the gardens will showcase vivid hues of emerald green, peacock blue, plum, orange, fuchsia and red, layered with gold and silver accents, and adorned with iconic Shiny Brite ornaments of the 1940s and '50s.

Every year since 1956, hundreds of members and volunteers of the Fort Myers Woman's Community Club spend



Historic Langford-Kingston Home and Burroughs Home

hours planning creative designs to transform the interior and exterior of the Langford-Kingston and Burroughs

photo provided

homes, including the lawns, gardens and grounds, into magical displays of holiday design and décor.

"Holiday House is a wonderful tradition our members take great delight in sharing with our community every year," said Paige Anne LeBoutillier, 2019 Holiday House chair. "Every detail of the elaborate and beautiful decorations is carefully planned to ensure our guests are filled to brimming with the holiday spirit. The Colors of Christmas promises to be every bit as sparkly, cheery and joyful as the holiday season itself."

Admission is \$5 for adults and no charge for children under age 10. Veterans and active military service members are admitted at no charge with identification.

In addition to touring both festive historic homes, children may visit with Santa at the Langford-Kingston home during each night of Holiday House, and a variety of local musical performers will provide entertainment each evening.

The Historic Langford-Kingston Home and Burroughs Home are located in downtown Fort Myers at the corner of First Street and Fowler Street. Advance tickets are on sale and may be purchased online at www.fmwcc.net.✱



Morgan Hester, wildlife rehabilitator, with animal ambassador Talon, a red-tailed hawk

photos provided

Fundraiser For CROW At Burroughs Home

Tickets are on sale now for the Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) inaugural fundraiser, WILD About CROW, to be held on Saturday,

January 18 from 6:15 to 9:30 p.m. at the historic Burroughs Home and Gardens in downtown Fort Myers.

Edison National Bank is the Golden – Bald Eagle sponsor for the "animal print optional" event which will feature a sit-down dinner, appearances by CROW's animal ambassadors, and plenty of surprises for guests. The night will also include a live auction sponsored by



Sydney, an American alligator

Spivey Law Firm, craft brews sponsored by Millennial Brewing Company, spirits sponsored by Huxter's Market, Deli & Liquors and Global Event Marketing, wine sponsored by Superior Title, desserts sponsored by Lady Cakes Bakery, and music, sponsored by Azul Cosmetic Surgery & Medical Spa, will be provided by Southwest Florida native DJ Robert McDonald from New Beginnings Events.

"In 2019, CROW has admitted over 5,000 wildlife patients and only 20 percent come from Sanibel and Captiva Islands where we are located," said Alison Charney Hussey, executive director for CROW. "The other 80 percent come from throughout Lee County, which is

why we are very excited to be hosting this event off-island for the community to learn more about CROW's work and show their support for native and migratory wildlife."

Tickets are \$125 per person through the end of 2019. On January 1, the price will increase to \$150 per person. Guests also have the option to be an Awesome Opossum Host by purchasing a table and filling it with seven of their closest friends or colleagues for \$1,500. Host sponsors will receive entry for two for the Virginia Opossum VIP reception inside the Burroughs Home before the event with an exclusive meet-and-greet opportunity with CROW Animal Ambassador Mina, the

continued on page 18

Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

Billy's Christmas, 1935



by Gerri Reaves, PhD

On Christmas morning in 1935, 14-year-old Billy Nalle received one of the best gifts a boy can receive – a bicycle.

Nalle, shown in the photo with the bicycle, presumably found it waiting for him by the Christmas tree pictured in the other photo. That pine tree is obviously not a store-bought one but one gathered from the wild, a typical practice in those days.

By today's glitzy standards, the tree is rather plain – decorated only with a few glass balls and some tired garland – but for Nalle, who had an eye for detail and a talent for documenting from an early age, it was a tree worth photographing and remembering.

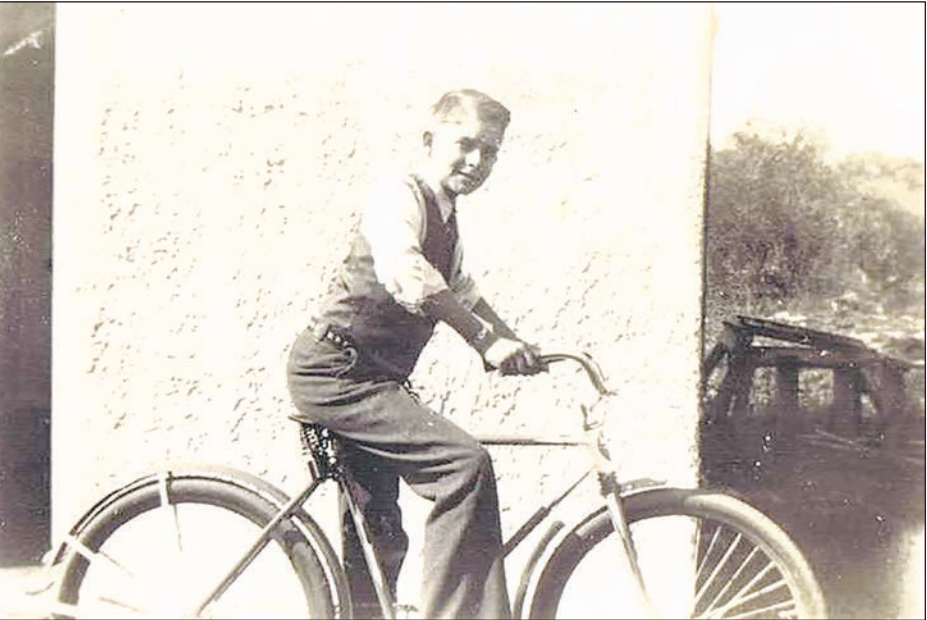
At the end of 1935, Billy wasn't the only person in Fort Myers with reason to be thankful. There was a definite sparkle in the air.

For sheer Christmas fun, children could look forward to the annual post-season appearance of Santa Claus in the City Park decorated with a large tree. Those under the age of eight would receive presents and candy, and there would be singing and general merriment.

Christmas charity was also alive and well. The Elks, acting as Santas themselves, had delivered nine tons of groceries in the form of Elks Christmas Baskets to needy families in Lee and Hendry counties.

On the economic front, signs of hope appeared after several years of the Great Depression. According to the front page of *The News Press* on Christmas morning, local merchants revealed that holiday shopping had been the best since the boom days and the stock market crash on October 29, 1929, the accepted date of the beginning of the Great Depression.

The Railway Express Agency had handled more incoming and outgoing packages than it had since the 1925-26 season.



Renowned musician and composer Billy Nalle at the age of 14 on his new bicycle during Christmas 1935
photos courtesy SWFL Historical Society

The local postmaster expected postal receipts to top the previous year's by about \$5,000, and local citrus shippers estimated that shipments were roughly double those of the previous year.

So, the year ended on a rosier note than expected.

And what happened to that boy on the bicycle? It turns out he was destined for a stellar career far away from Fort Myers.

By the age of 14, he was already considered a musical prodigy and had already been playing piano professionally with the Al Linquist Jazz Orchestra of Fort Myers.

Until he graduated from Fort Myers High School in 1939, he was a frequent accompanist in local and touring musical groups and at community events and recitals.

He went on to study piano and organ with a full scholarship to the Julliard School of Music in New York City, where he studied under acclaimed musicians such as Teddy Wilson, the famed jazz pianist.

Service in World War II followed from 1943 to 1946. His last year in the U.S. Navy, he was assigned to the USN Entertainment Unit and toured the Pacific Theater with future luminaries such as Bob Fosse and Bobby Beers.

After discharge from the military, he returned to Julliard for post-graduate work and then began a 26-year career in early live television in New York City.

He composed and performed for over 200 shows on CBS, NBC and ABC, and amassed more than 5,000 television credits.

He capped his professional career by becoming the artist-in-residence at the Century II Center in Wichita, Kansas in 1975.

From there, the home of the world famous 4/36 "Mighty WurliTzer" organ that was originally in the New York Paramount Theatre, he recorded, concertized and toured for 11 years.

In 1993, the American Theatre Organ Society admitted him to the Theatre Organists Hall of Fame.

He came home to retire in 1995 and died here in 2005. Take a holiday stroll through downtown and imagine it's 1935, the Great Depression is beginning to fade, and children are riding their new bicycles around town.

Then visit the following research centers to learn more about how Fort Myers Christmases through the decades.

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 and *The News-Press*.☆☆



Billy Nalle described this 1935 photo as "my Christmas tree"

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FROM THE BEACHES TO DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS

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Warm Wishes For A Merry Christmas And Happy New Year



Your friends at *Island Sun* and *The River Weekly News*, from left, Jeff Lysiak, Chris Arundel, Justin Wilder, Sharon and Mike Terry, Bill Staples, Di Saggau, Bob Petcher, Lorin Arundel, Ann Ziehl, Gerri Reaves and Tom Rasi
photo by Logan Hart

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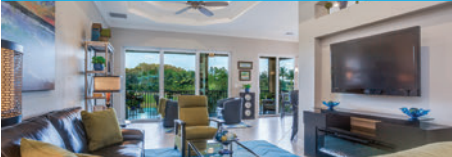
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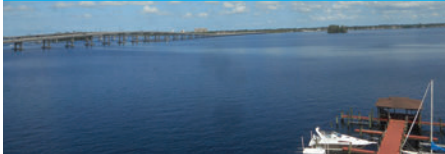
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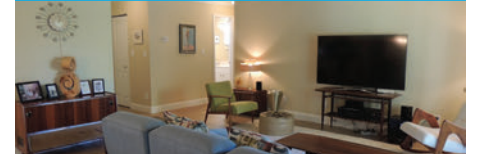
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Fort Myers Art:

Two Christmas Musicals Extend Through Holidays



by Tom Hall

Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre is presenting *Sounds of Christmas* now through Wednesday, December 25. This special show was written, directed and choreographed

by Broadway Palm's own Amy Marie McCleary.

Sounds of Christmas is a joyous musical revue that is centered around Poindexter the elf and his last-minute shuffle to create a musical playlist for Santa's Christmas Eve flight. The production embraces holiday music and memories in a holly jolly celebration that highlights what makes the holidays truly meaningful. You'll hear classics along with more contemporary songs you know and love including *Santa Claus Is Coming to Town*, *Little Drummer Boy*, *All I Want For Christmas Is You*, *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree*, *Run Run Rudolph* and more.

And this holiday extravaganza wouldn't be complete without a visit from the big guy himself... Santa Claus! This fun-filled celebration is perfect for all ages and will remind you why this is the most wonderful time of the year.

"I was inspired by my own Christmas

The cast of the *Sounds of Christmas*

photo courtesy www.artswfl.com

traditions with my family and friends," said McCleary. "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."

The cast is comprised of many making their Broadway Palm debut along with audience favorites including newlyweds Troy Bruchwalski and Katherine Walker Hill, whose love story began right on the Broadway Palm stage during *Irving Berlin's White Christmas* in December 2016.

Remaining performances are Friday, December 20 (5:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. show), Saturday, December 21 (11:30 a.m. lunch, 1 p.m. matinee; 5:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. show), Sunday, December 22 (5:30 p.m. dinner, 7

p.m. show) and Wednesday, December 25 (11:30 a.m. lunch, 1 p.m. matinee; 5:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. show).

Tickets are \$48 to \$73 with children and group prices available. Tickets can be reserved by calling 278-4422, visiting www.broadwaypalm.com or at the box office located at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.

Dickens Classic With A Twist

The Off Broadway Palm Theatre presents *A Christmas Carol: A Live Radio Play* playing now through Wednesday, December 25. The Charles Dickens classic comes alive on stage... but with a twist. The story of Ebenezer Scrooge and his discovery of the true meaning of Christmas is re-imagined and told as a 1940s radio broadcast complete with vintage commercials, live

sound effects and musical underscoring. The small cast brings dozens of characters to life as three ghosts take Scrooge on a thrilling journey through Christmas past, present and future.

The Off Broadway Palm is an intimate 100-seat theatre, located in the main lobby of Broadway Palm. Remaining performances are Friday, December 20 (5:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. show), Saturday, December 21 (11:30 a.m. lunch, 1 p.m. matinee; 5:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. show), Sunday, December 22 (5:30 p.m. dinner, 7 p.m. show) and Wednesday, December 25 (11:30 a.m. lunch, 1 p.m. matinee; 5:30 p.m. dinner, 7:30 p.m. show).

Ticket prices range from \$42 to \$62 with discounts available for children and groups of 20 or more. Tickets are now on sale and can be reserved by calling 278-4422, visiting www.broadwaypalm.com or at the box office located at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.

Open Auditions For Naples Plays

The Naples Players is holding open auditions for *Becky's New Car* and *Calendar Girls* from noon to 4 p.m. on Saturday, January 25. You may audition for one or both shows.

Final casting calls will be made starting Wednesday, January 29. For questions, contact Cole Butcher, production stage manager, by calling 434-7340 ext. 125 or emailing at cbutcher@naplesplayers.org.

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.✪

Award-Winning Play Comes To Alliance Theatre

Theatre Conspiracy at the Alliance for the Arts presents the award-winning *The Mountaintop*, a play by Katori Hall and directed by Rick Sebastian from January 16 through 26.

The production stars local powerhouses Derek Lively and Sonya McCarter and is presented in conjunction with the 35th annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Legacy Weekend hosted by the Dunbar Festival Committee.

What thoughts and emotions might have pulsed through the mind and heart of Martin Luther King, Jr. on April 3, 1968, his last night alive? In *The Mountaintop*, an exhausted Dr. King retires to his room at the Lorraine Motel in Memphis after delivering his magnificent "I've Been to the Mountaintop" speech. As a storm rages outside, a mysterious hotel maid brings King a cup of coffee, prompting him to confront his life, his past, his legacy and the plight and future of the American people in a reflective, touching and often funny way.

This production is sponsored by William and Shareen Groce with support from the National Endowment of the Arts.

Tickets are \$26, \$11 for students or \$22 for Alliance members. Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

An audio described show is available on January 26. For theatregoers who are blind, or have moderate to severe vision loss, the Alliance will provide a specially trained describer who verbalizes what's happening on stage during pauses in dialogue. The describer uses a headset microphone, while individuals using the service listen through a receiver with a single earpiece. Reservation of headsets is required prior to the show by calling 939-2787.

To widen the post-show conversation and discuss what the art onstage means to us as individuals and as a society, the Alliance will facilitate a community conversation through talkbacks after the January 19 and 26 matinees. Talkbacks allow the audience to ask questions and express their thoughts, ideas on issues revealed in the play through the form of meaningful discussion. The January 19 talkback will feature the director and cast, while the January 26 talkback

will be hosted by a panel facilitated by Jarret Eady, director of diversity and inclusion at the Lee County School District. The opportunity is included with ticket purchase.

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

Fine Art And Fine Craft Show At JetBlue Park

Artwork is now being accepted for the 23rd annual Estero Fine Art Show to be held at JetBlue Park on January 4 and 5, 2020.

Voted three times as one of the top 100 art shows in America, the Estero Fine Art Show is produced by Hot Works and juried by art professionals with criteria based on technique/execution, originality and booth appearance.

"This art show is part of America's highest quality and most respected art shows, and all artwork displayed is

original and personally handmade by the artist who is onsite at the show," said Patty Narozny, Hot Works founder. "We give our artists the chance to speak face-to-face with thousands of qualified prospective customers over the two-day show."

Narozny added that all art is for sale including paintings, clay, glass, fiber, sculpture, wood, photography, jewelry and more.

Hot Works is affiliated with Institute for the Arts & Education, a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization with focus on visual arts, cultural diversity, community enrichment and fostering youth art education.

The show integrates a Youth Art Competition encouraging students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade (or ages 5 to 13) to enter their original and personally handmade art for a chance to win a cash prize. Students are exposed to the rules and entrepreneurship opportunities of doing art shows for a living.

For more information, contact Patty Narozny at patty@hotworks.org or 941-755-3088, or visit www.hotworks.org

JetBlue Park, the Boston Red Sox's 106-acre Spring Training and Player Development Complex, is located at 11500 Fenway South Drive in Fort Myers.✪

Four Behavioral Model Schools

Four schools from the School District of Lee County have been chosen as Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) model schools. PBIS encompasses research-based strategies used to increase quality of life and decrease problem behavior by teaching new skills and making changes in a person's environment.

The four PBIS Model Schools are Bonita Springs Elementary; Cypress Lake High School; J. Colin English Elementary; and Rayma C. Page Elementary. Superintendent Dr. Greg Adkins presented the schools their PBIS Model School banners on December 12.

PBIS Model Schools must meet several requirements: exemplify high levels of PBIS implementation fidelity; demonstrate generally low rates of exclusionary discipline rates when compared to similar school types across the state; and demonstrate equitable student outcomes.

The school district uses PBIS to set of clear expectations for student behavior, consistent reward and incentive programs, make data-based decisions and offer faculty support. The program emphasizes teaching all students desired behaviors that lead to increased academic achievement and a safer more respectful school climate, and emphasizes the need for school staff to promote appropriate behaviors through explicit direct instruction, modeling and reinforcement. Minor misbehaviors are viewed as teachable moments rather than discipline opportunities.*

Brewery To Host Winterfest

Winter is coming... well, Winterfest at least. Fort Myers Brewing Company has announced its popular winter celebration, an annual family- and pup-friendly event that includes specialty craft beers, local food truck favorites and live entertainment all day long on Saturday, December 28 from noon to 11 p.m.

More than 35 craft beers will be on tap, with new releases rolling out throughout the day. Beer lovers can sample a selection of brews made exclusively for Winterfest, including the Winterfest Vienna Lager, KegNog (Christmas Stout), Cranberry Shandy and Coconut Milk Stout.

Six food trucks will be serving their specialty dishes, including Dave's Cosmic Subs, The Volkswagen, King's Tacos & Burritos, The Nosh Truck, Rollin' Raw Bar and Wicked Stretery.

Live music will be performed by Dave Jordan & the NIA at 1 p.m., DJ Memphis on air at 4 p.m. and The Freecoasters at 6 p.m.

Fort Myers Brewing Company is located at 12811 Commerce Lakes Drive, Suite 28 in Fort Myers. For more information, visit facebook.com/fmbrew or call 313-6576.*





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 Rogers, March 8th & 9th: Dean Martin & Elvis Jr.,
 March 22nd: Barbara Streisand & Jerry Lewis,
 March 23rd: Cher and Jerry Lewis.**

**For Reservations Call 239-810-4587
 Email: jgn56bklyn@yahoo.com**

Along The River

Edison and Ford Winter Estates continues its 44th **Holiday Nights** celebration through Monday, December 30. 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. The tree will be lit with thousands of animated lights choreographed to holiday music. The lights will reach high up into the branches of the tree and extend onto the ground around it.

Santa and Mrs. Claus will be visiting and making their list this Sunday, December 22 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.

Guided Holiday Tradition Tours will be offered at 6 and 7 p.m. every night. 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.

The Ford Cottage Shoppe, Museum Store and Garden Shoppe will be open until 9 p.m. every night and will be stocked



The Estates' homes and gardens are decorated with thousands of lights photo provided

with unique gift items and plants for that hard-to-buy-for loved one. Refreshments will also be available for purchase.

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 Edison Ford members \$10. Inside-the-Homes Holiday Tours are \$50. Lee County residents with identification will receive \$5 off Holiday Nights admission on 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.

If you didn't get a chance to see the Fort Myers Beach Chamber Christmas Boat Parade on December 6, you will get another chance to see holiday-decorated boasts on water. **Cape Coral's Holiday Boat A Long** features a parade of beautifully decorated boats this Saturday, December 21.

The fun begins at **Four Freedoms Park** at 4 p.m. and runs until 10 p.m. The Cape Coral Parks and Recreation festival will feature food, Christmas music

and a visit from Santa Claus along with the parade.

You can also watch as the boats line up in Bimini Basin for the parade, which first passes by the park's beach before heading down various canals in South Cape Coral.

There will be a few bleachers set up in front of the beach, but bring your own chairs if you can to make sure you have a place to sit. The parade starts at 7 p.m.

Some of the boats have Santas, elves and any number of costumed characters, and some boats blast Christmas music

Need something for the kids to do during the holiday break? The **IMAG History & Science Center** will hold **winter camps** on Thursday, December 26 and Friday, December 27.

The camps will involve the following:

Coding Games – Children in kindergarten through second grade can learn about coding and programming by using Bloxels to create video games, playing games with Osmos, and programming Ozobots to complete different challenges.

Stop-Action Movie Makers – Children in third grade through fifth grade can become a miniature movie maker in this camp. Write your script, design your set and use action figures to create a short stop-action animation film.

There are also other camps during other weeks until January 7.

The IMAG History & Science Center is located at 2000 Cranford Avenue in Fort Myers. For more information or to register, visit www.theimag.org or call 243-0043.*

Homeless Persons' Memorial Day Set For Saturday

As a tribute to at least 23 homeless individuals who have lost their lives while living on the streets or in shelters in Lee County this year, the Lee County Homeless Coalition will host its 23rd annual Candlelight Vigil on Saturday, December 21 at 6 p.m. The community is encouraged to gather on the steps of the Old Lee County Courthouse, 2120 Main Street in downtown Fort Myers, to mourn those who have passed. The memorial event is also intended to educate and inspire the public to support the community's need for more affordable housing, shelters, living wages and accessible health care.

The Candlelight Vigil will include remarks by Lee County Homeless Coalition representatives: Janet Bartos, executive director, and Amy Davies, board chair. An opening prayer will be presented by Rev. Christian Maxfield of All Souls Episcopal Church. Taps will be performed by Harvey Charter, commander of Victor Paul Tuchman Post 400 Jewish War Veterans.

The Lee County Homeless Coalition is a nonprofit organization comprised of community and faith-based service providers, local businesses, people who are currently experiencing or who have experienced homelessness, and other advocates committed to ending homelessness.

To learn more about how you can help join the fight against homelessness,

contact Janet Bartos at 322-6600. For more information on the Lee County Homeless Coalition, visit www.leehomeless.org.*

Lee County Schedules For The Holidays

Most Lee County administrative operations will be closed Tuesday, December 24 and Wednesday, December 25, in observance of the Christmas holiday, as well as on Tuesday, December 31, and Wednesday, January 1, for the New Year's holiday.

The holiday schedule adjustments: Solid Waste – offices and the Topaz Court Solid Waste Annex will be closed on December 24, and 25. The Resource Recovery Facility in Buckingham will be closed on December 25, but open regular hours on December 24. Solid Waste offices and the Topaz Court Solid Waste Annex will be closed on December 31, and January 1. The Resource Recovery Facility in Buckingham will be closed on January 1, but open regular hours on December 31.

All garbage, recycling and yard waste collections in unincorporated Lee County, the City of Bonita Springs, the Village of Estero and the Town of Fort Myers Beach will take place one day after the regularly scheduled collection day beginning Thursday, December 26. This means that if the regular collection day is Wednesday, the collection truck will pick up material on Thursday. Thursday's regularly scheduled pickups will occur on Friday and so on,

the rest of the week through Saturday, December 28. Also, on Wednesday, January 1, there will not be any regular collection; if the regular collection day is Wednesday, the collection truck will pick up that material on Thursday. Thursday's regularly scheduled pickups will occur on Friday and so on, the rest of the week through Saturday, January 4. Regular collection schedules resume on Monday, January 6.

Christmas trees that have had the stand and all lights and decorations removed, including tinsel, can be set out with regular yard waste and will be ground into mulch. All wrapping paper, except metallic, is recyclable – along with cardboard boxes. Plastic ribbons and bows are not recyclable.

Lee County Utilities – On December 24 and 25, the Customer Service Center will be closed. December 31 and January 1, the Customer Service Center will be closed.

LeeTran – will operate its regularly scheduled bus service on December 24. There will be no bus service on December 25. Bus service will resume on December 26. Visit www.rideleetrans.com for specific route information.

There will be extended trolley services for downtown Fort Myers and Fort Myers Beach on New Year's Eve. Service to downtown Fort Myers ends at 1 a.m. January 1. Service to Fort Myers Beach ends at 2 a.m. January 1.

There will be no daily service for LeeTran routes on January 1. Service will resume January 2.

Parks & Recreation – On December 24 and 25, beaches, boat ramps, parks and preserves will be open. The administration

office, pools, community centers and Six Mile Cypress Slough Interpretive Center will be closed December 24, and December 25, resuming normal operating hours December 26.

On December 31 and January 1, beaches, boat ramps, parks and preserves will be open. The administration office, pools, community centers and Six Mile Cypress Slough Interpretive Center will be closed December 31, and January 1, resuming normal operating hours Thursday, January 2.

The county's four recreation centers – North Fort Myers, Wa-Ke Hatchee, Veterans and Estero – will be closed through the holidays due to scheduled annual maintenance. Estero will be closed from Saturday, December 21 through Sunday, January 5. North Fort Myers, Wa-Ke Hatchee and Veterans will be closed from Monday, December 23 through January 5. For alternative park sites, visit www.leeparks.org. All centers will re-open Monday, January 6.

Library System – On December 24 and 25, all branches and library administration will be closed. On December 31 and January 1, all branches and library administration will be closed. Visit www.leelibrary.net for more information.

Lee County Domestic Animal Services – On December 24 and December 25, the Lost & Found Pet Center and the Pet Adoption Center will be closed. Normal hours resume December 26, at 5600 Banner Drive, Fort Myers. On December 31 and January 1, the Lost & Found Pet Center and the Pet Adoption Center will be closed. Normal hours resume January 2. Visit www.leelostpets.com for more information.*

Cypress Cove Donates Toys To Heights Center

Cypress Cove residents and staff recently gifted The Heights Foundation/The Heights Center nearly 650 toys and gifts for children of the Harlem Heights community.

The toys and gifts, presented to representatives of The Heights Foundation/The Heights Center, will be a portion of the hundreds of gifts available to Harlem Heights families on Saturday, December 21 at the center's Christmas Giving Tree event.

The toy drive and gifting program by Cypress Cove marks the eighth consecutive year that the South Fort Myers Life Plan Community has participated in the annual toy drive. During that time, Cypress Cove's residents and staff have contributed over 4,200 gifts for the annual holiday giveaway.

"No matter how many times I witness the big-hearted generosity of our residents and staff," said Cypress Cove Interim Executive Director Tim Ficker, "I am still bowled over every year when I get to see it in such a tangible way. Not only do our residents love where they live, they obviously love to give."

Kathryn Kelly, founder and president/CEO of The Heights Foundation and other members of the community support organization, were present at Cypress Cove's toy giveaway event.

Kelly thanked Cypress Cove and its residents for their generous support



Present for the gifting presentation were, from left, Melissa Barlow, Allen Abbott, Lucinda Henry, Dr. Deb Mathinos, Chuck Gagnier, Kathryn Kelly, Tim Ficker and Mary Franklin. photo provided

and giving. "This holiday season will again be challenging for many families in the Harlem Heights neighborhood," she said. "The residents and staff at Cypress Cove have generously supported their neighbors to ensure that the children of Harlem Heights have a joyous Christmas."

Toys, gifted by Cypress Cove to the Christmas Giving Tree program, covered the entire front portion of Cypress Cove's Edison Hall stage. Resident Council President Chuck Gagnier expressed delight by the

generosity of the Cypress Cove community. "What a blessing it is to have such a caring community of

residents and staff who show their support and giving in such a wonderful way," he said.✱

IMAG School Break Camps

The IMAG History & Science Center will hold winter camps during school break.

Thursday, December 26 and Friday, December 27

Coding Games: kindergarten through second grade – Learn about coding and programming by using Bloxels to create video games, playing games with Osmos, and programming Ozobots to complete different challenges.

Stop Action Movie Makers: third grade to fifth grade – Become a miniature movie maker in this camp. Write your script, design your set and use action figures to create a short stop action animation film.

Monday, December 30 and Tuesday, December 31

Jedi Academy: kindergarten through second grade – The Force will be strong with our campers at our Jedi Academy. Campers will design light sabers, build droids and even fly tie fighters and x-wing paper airplanes.

Jedi Engineers: third grade to fifth grade – Our Jedi Engineers will design an army of bristle bot droids, build a Death Star tractor beam, create Ewok catapults, race Speeder hovercrafts, and launch Star Wars inspired starship

rockets.

Thursday, January 2 and Friday, January 3

Mad Science Lab – kindergarten through second grade – Grab your lab coat, put on your safety goggles and step into our Mad Science Lab to conduct bubbling, fizzing, and even explosive chemistry experiments.

Chemistry Magicians: third grade to fifth grade – Discover the chemistry behind magic tricks. Learn a polymer trick, use the speed of light to make something disappear, create optical illusions, and more.

Monday, January 6 and Tuesday, January 7

Animal Grossology: kindergarten through second grade – Animals can be cute- and gross. Dissect an owl pellet, identify tracks and scat, meet a hissing cockroach and more as you learn about animal grossology.

Grossology: third grade to fifth grade – Sometimes science can be gross, slimy, stinky... and fun. Learn about germs using glowing germ powder, pop some burping bags, test your taste buds with questionable treats, make fake snot and more.

The IMAG History & Science Center is located at 2000 Cranford Avenue in Fort Myers. For more information or to register, visit www.theimag.org or call 243-0043.✱

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Opera Group Observes The Spirit Of Giving

This holiday season, watch a heart-warming, family friendly performance while donating to area homeless shelters as Gulfshore Opera presents *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, on tour in Charlotte, Lee and Collier counties from Friday to Sunday, December 27 to 29.

Gian Carlo Menotti's American folk opera is a Christmas miracle story for the whole family. *Amahl and the Night Visitors* is a retelling of the story of the Magi from the point of view of a young, disabled shepherd, Amahl, who lives in poverty with his mother. One night, three kings stop for shelter on their journey following a wondrous star. As the story unfolds, the true miracle and meaning of life is revealed, a gift far greater than gold.

Gulfshore Opera is partnering with three Southwest Florida charities to support their missions. A portion of each adult ticket sold for the performance will benefit St. Matthew's House, The Salvation Army of Naples and the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition.

Following a successful partnership on Season 5's *Don Pasquale*, Gulfshore Opera and Opera Fusion of Fort Lauderdale join forces again for this



Gulfshore Opera will once again present *Amahl and the Night Visitors* this month photo provided

production that will tour the east coast of Florida following the local tour. The two companies are collaborating to feature the best of southern Florida's regional talent to bring Amahl to life.

The role of Amahl will be cast among boys in the Florida Singing Sons Boychoir of Fort Lauderdale. For the Gulfshore Opera performances, the role of the Mother will be performed

by Fort Myers resident Lauryn Kay, last seen as Flora in Gulfshore Opera's *La Traviata*. John Whittlesley, Christopher Waite and Neill Nelson will perform the roles of Melchior, Caspar and Balthazar, the Three Kings, respectively. Nelson was seen as the Marquis in *La Traviata* and will be joining Gulfshore Opera as a professional artist in residence for Season 6. Alejandro Viera, seen as one of the Gulfshore Tenors in previous seasons, performs the role of The Page. This fully staged production is set in biblical times with chamber orchestra and chorus.

For tickets, visit www.gulfshoreopera.org or call 529-3925.*

Continental Women's Club

The Continental Women's Club will hold its next luncheon meeting at The Hideaway Country Club on Thursday, January 2 at 11:30 a.m. Cost to attend is \$24.

Phil Flood of the South Florida Water Management District will be the guest speaker. He will inform how water in Southwest Florida has been altered and talk about efforts to improve Lake Okeechobee, the Everglades and the Caloosahatchee Estuary.

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

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.

CROWN OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
Sunday 8 and 10:45 a.m. Jan 1 - Easter; 9 a.m. after Easter - Dec 31.
www.crownoflifelutheran.com. 5820 Daniels

Pkwy, 482-2315.
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., www.lambofgodchurch.net, 19691 Cypress View Drive, 267-3525.

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

NEW COVENANT EYES
Monthly 9 a.m., www.newcovenanteyes.com, 1900 Park Meadows Drive, 220-8519.

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

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

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

PEACE LUTHERAN
Sunday 8 and 10 a.m., www.peaceftmyers.com, peace@peaceftmyers.com. 15840 McGregor Boulevard, 437-2599.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN
Sunday 8:15 and 10:15 a.m. 3950 Winkler Ext., 274-0143.

RIVER OF LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD
8, 9:45 and 11:30 a.m., 21580 River Ranch Road, 495-0400.

SAMUDRABADRA BUDDHIST CENTER
Meditation classes. www.MeditationInFortMyers.org. 567-9739.

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

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

SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE

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

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

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

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

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

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

TEMPLE JUDEA (CONSERVATIVE)
Friday 6:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m., www.tjswf.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.

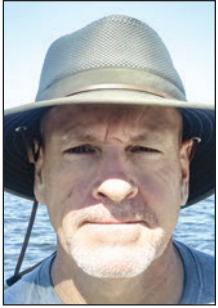
WORD OF LIFE
Sunday 10 a.m., Wednesday 7 p.m., 2120 Collier Avenue, 274-8881.

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

CROW Case Of The Week:

Turkey Vulture

by Bob Petcher



The turkey vulture is the third largest raptor to the eagle and condor. The road kill warrior relies on its keen sense of smell to locate fresh carcasses.

These scavengers are known for cleaning up roadsides, backyards, farm lands or anywhere else there may be a meal. When you spot one on the ground, you know something has died.

Luckily, these dark brown birds with featherless red heads and pale bills seem to have exceptional immune systems, because of their inability to contract botulism, anthrax, cholera, or salmonella when dining on carrion. Interestingly, they reportedly almost never attack living prey.

Due to their near infinite food supply, turkey vultures have increased in number over the past 40 to 50 years. These large carnivorous birds are not immortal, however. They have been known to swallow bullets or lead shots in the rotting meat they eat, and that can lead to poisoning and death.

One good way to tell a turkey vulture apart from an eagle or an osprey is when in it is in flight. Turkey vultures often



Patient #19-4953 is in an outdoor enclosure and should be released soon

photo by Brian Bohlman

fly with their wings raised in a V-shape and are not graceful fliers. They soar in unsteady patterns and create wobbly circles in the air.

At CROW, an adult turkey vulture was admitted from Cape Coral after it was believed to have been hit by a car. It was reported by the finder to have an injured wing and leg. On examination, veterinarians did not find evidence of broken bones and initial x-rays did not show any either. The patient was noted to be limping and to have swelling in its left foot, possibly from infection in the joints. Veterinarians provided antibiotics

and performed a regional limb perfusion, known as a flushing of the joint).

"Regional limb perfusion is an infusion of medication into the tissue at the site of injury in order to get a high concentration where it is needed," said Dr. Megan Cabot, CROW veterinary intern. "This is performed when systemic (oral) medications aren't getting the job done and can result in much faster recovery."

The finder's reported injured wing was not seen as anything significant.

"It was likely a soft tissue injury which can often be difficult to see on radiographs and can resolve on its own,"

said Dr. Cabot.

After a few days, the patient's swelling had subsided. A repeat of radiographs revealed evidence of healing of a small fracture in one of the toes of the left foot.

"The fracture was small and not displaced so it was not very visible on radiographs until it started to heal, at which point the fracture site gets brighter and more easily visible on radiographs," said Dr. Cabot, when explaining why the initial x-ray did not spot the fractured toe. "The fracture is minor and likely happened right before intake, but was painful enough to keep the patient down. With pain medications and antibiotics, the patient appears to feel much better and the fracture is healing well."

The fractured toe does need time to heal completely.

"It typically takes around two to three weeks to heal," said Dr. Cabot.

The patient continues to receive pain medication and has begun to eat on its own. A move outdoors is a good sign that it is being prepped to return to the wild.

"The vulture was moved to an outside enclosure and if it remains pain free and eating well, it will be cleared for release," said Dr. Cabot.

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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How Low Can It Go?



by Capt. Matt Mitchell

We had the pleasure of fishing the winter negative low tides this week, which can bring amazing

action. This crazy low water played out as expected with my clients experiencing some of the best snook action while mangrove fishing that we have seen in months. Thirty-inch snook and a nonstop bite had everyone smiling.

We decided to fish a favorite channel and arrived on the last of the falling tide. We could see the entire exposed grass flat littered with high and dry crab pots. Once the tide switched, the grass flat was flooded and totally covered in less than a few hours. We picked the deepest spots on the shoreline, and the bite started immediately with almost every shiner flipped up close to the bank getting hit. Fast-moving tides in these narrow channels create rips and eddies on every piece of structure. It makes for a perfect ambush spot for hungry snook to sit.

We get to experience these negative low tides all winter long. The lower the water gets, the tighter

it bunches up the fish in very small areas. Learning to access and locate these deeper areas only comes with time served, though looking at Google Earth and charts is a great way to get started. The narrower and deeper the channel, the faster the tide will usually move.

Winter tides with a shallow draft boat can really pay off as many of these deeper channels are only accessible by crossing shallow bays and flats. Another option is getting into these areas while the tide is still up and going out. Once the tide bottoms out, you will be trapped until the water comes up high enough to leave. Watching wading birds work the acres of exposed grass flats all around us is an amazing sight.

Along with the snook in these deeper channels, we also did well on redfish. By bouncing a live shrimp on a jighead in the fast-moving tide, we caught lots of redfish ranging from 16 to 24 inches. Larger mangrove snapper have also been a welcome surprise in these same areas. Two days in a row, we also caught what, at first glance, I thought were mangrove snapper but, on closer inspection, turned out to be cubera snapper measuring roughly 15 inches. The variety can be limitless when fishing these deeper water creeks.

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.



Gary Biltgen with a snook caught on a negative low tide with Capt. Matt Mitchell this week photo provided

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Plant Smart

Prescribed Burns

by Gerri Reaves

If you see a charred landscape the next time you explore a park, preserve, or wildlife area, there's a good chance that the land has recently been treated with a prescribed burn.

The word prescribed is apt, for these planned burns do function as a prescription for the land by mimicking Florida's natural seasonal fires.

Note the charred cabbage palm (*sabal palmetto*) and tree trunks in these photos, for example. The new bright green growth of the palm's bud at the center of the scorched fronds, however, indicates that the palm has survived.

Many of the state's ecosystems actually depend on fire for plant and animal diversity. Those species are termed "fire-adapted."

The gopher tortoise, indigo snake, Florida mouse, Florida panther, Florida scrub-jay, northern bobwhite, wild turkey, red-cockaded woodpecker and burrowing owl are just some of the animal species that depend on fire, as do plant species such as longleaf pine, pitcher plants, orchids, cutthroat and wiregrasses.

Only highly trained professionals manage prescribed burns. They are carried out by wildlife biologists and land managers in government and independent environmental organizations, but only after extensive planning.

But why has human intervention become necessary?

Prior to Florida's massive



Cabbage palms and pines have evolved to survive natural seasonal fires. The green growth at the center of the palm fronds indicates that the trees are alive, despite the charred surroundings.

photos by Gerri Reaves

over-development, fires were a natural seasonal occurrence caused by lightening or extreme heat, for example.

Because the fires occurred seasonally, accumulated undergrowth was minimal. Therefore, the fires were fast-moving, relatively "cool," and not intense enough to burn the tree canopy.

The fire would eventually stop on its own because it encountered a wetland, ran out of fuel, or was extinguished by rain.

Such fires are nature's way of clearing out, keeping balance and opening up the land. Also, the fire triggers the release



of seeds, enriches the soil and keeps invasive species in check.

Post-fire, the land springs back with new growth.

However, over time, natural landscapes have been destroyed completely or become isolated parcels as the landscape is crisscrossed by roads and other development.

Furthermore, development that relentlessly pushes closer to wild areas puts buildings, infrastructure and lives at increased risk.

Decades of fire suppression allow growth to accumulate. Prescribed burns

and physical removal are two ways to address the threat that fuel accumulation presents.

The next time you see a charred landscape on your nature walk, appreciate the vital importance of prescribed fires in habitat management – and imagine a time when the land managed itself very well.

Sources: <https://myfwc.com>, www.leegov.com, and www.nature.org.

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

Dune Walkovers To Be Replaced At Beach Park

Work to elevate four existing dune walkovers at Lynn Hall Memorial Park, 950 Estero Boulevard on Fort Myers Beach, will begin later this month. Public access to the beach will be maintained throughout the project, which is expected to be completed in April 2020, weather permitting.

The walkovers are being raised to match the dune elevation to provide more efficient access for people crossing them.

The design and construction of the project is budgeted at \$585,540, which will be paid through Tourist Development Tax dollars.

For more information about Lee County Parks & Recreation locations, amenities and other special events, visit www.leeparks.org, call 533-7275 or email leeparks@leegov.com.*

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CROW Hits 5,000 Mark For Patient Admissions

The Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) admitted its 5,000th patient of the year on December 6. The patient, a red-shouldered hawk, discovered by workers laying mulch, was sitting under a hedge and unable to fly.

Red-shouldered hawks have frequented the wildlife hospital in 2019 with 94 individuals admitted. Reasons for admission vary but include being hit by a car, electrocution, rodenticide poisoning, falling from the nest and gunshot wounds.

The hawk was rescued by a CROW volunteer and transported to the wildlife hospital on Sanibel. Dr. Megan Cabot, a veterinary intern, admitted the hawk and performed an exam. She found it to be very weak and lethargic, but with no obvious trauma injuries. The hawk



Dr. Megan Cabot, CROW veterinary intern, examines a red-shouldered hawk, the 5,000th patient admitted to CROW in 2019
photo provided

was placed in a supplemental oxygen chamber and later, an intravenous catheter was placed to provide the hawk

with fluids.

“When we placed the catheter to administer fluid therapy, the hawk’s blood did not clot and continued to bleed, a classic sign of anticoagulant rodenticide poisoning,” said Dr. Cabot. “We immediately began working to perform a blood transfusion.”

A transfusion of healthy blood, along with providing the patient with vitamin K, helps to restore the ability to clot and potentially saves the animal’s life. Anticoagulant rodenticides, or rat poisons, prevent the blood from clotting normally and cause an animal that has ingested a toxic amount to slowly bleed to death. Rodents that ingest the poison often become disoriented or lethargic as they are dying and become easy prey for hawks, owls and other predators, passing the poison through the food chain.

Thankfully, another red-shouldered hawk patient that is currently recovering from a broken wing, but otherwise healthy, was able to donate blood to help the newly admitted hawk. Its condition remains guarded and time will tell if it will

be able to fully recover.

As the 5,000th patient, the hawk marks a milestone for patient admissions. So far this year, CROW has seen approximately an 11 percent increase in patient totals over last year, a year which saw unprecedented numbers of sea turtles and birds affected by red tide. Since 2014, patient admissions to the wildlife hospital have increased by more than 40 percent.

“The number of patients admitted to our hospital continues to grow year after year,” said Alison Charney Hussey, executive director for CROW. “We continue to need the support of our community. As a nonprofit, we rely on grants, donations from the public, money raised through our Visitor Education Center and our fundraising events to ensure we are able to provide top-notch medical care to each and every animal that comes through our doors.”

If you would like to make a donation to CROW, visit www.CROWClinic.org/donate/donate-today.✧



From left, Barry and Cheryl Fulmer, Nancy Score, Edina and Alan Lessack
photos provided

New Play Contest Winner At Theatre Conspiracy

by Di Saggau

Theatre Conspiracy’s New Play Contest fundraiser is something I look forward to every year. It’s great fun mixing with like-minded people who support this jewel of a theater. The 21st new play event took place December 14 at the Alliance for the Arts, where everyone attended a reception in the gallery with food and wine and conversation about which of the top three entries would win. Once inside the theater, Bill Taylor, the founder and producing artistic director of Theatre Conspiracy, told us that he had received over 600 entries from the United States, Canada, England, Italy and Australia.

Local actors took part in the three readings. The first was *Love and Communication* by Jim Christy,

followed by *The Wild Boar* by Daniel Damiano, and then *The Chechens* by Phillip Christian Smith. And the winner by audience vote was *The Chechens*. It will be produced in Theatre Conspiracy’s 2020-21 season and will receive the Janet and Bruce Bunch New Play Contest Award.

The Chechens takes place in modern Chechnya where homosexuals are rumored to be held in camps. Can one family protect their brother who is suspected of being gay, or will they honor kill him to protect the name of the family? What prevails in the end – religion, politics or love? We’ll find out when it is performed next season.

Actors taking place in the readings were Miguel Citron, Steven Coe, Brianna Day, Lauren Drexler, Anna Grilli, Giancarlo Hernandez, Thomas Marsh, Cicero McCarter, Madison Mitchell, Melanie Payne and Stella Zuri.

Taylor also announced that a French Festival will take place beginning April 21 of next year, involving The Alliance For the Arts, Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre



From left, Roddy Woodward, Judi Braid, Vicki Triolo and Vicki Shankland



Lauren Drexler and Thomas Marsh
and Florida Repertory Theatre. There will be 50 performances over a five-day period involving numerous artistic groups, taking place in four venues. That’s a first for our area and definitely something to



Karen Goldberg and Cicero McCarter
look forward to.

Meanwhile, coming up next at Theatre Conspiracy is *The Mountaintop* by Katori Hall, opening January 16, 2020.✧



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Book Review

The Guardians



by Di Saggau

John Grisham's latest novel *The Guardians* is a suspenseful thriller about a workaholic attorney and Episcopal priest named Cullen Post. Post is an "innocence lawyer" who works to free

people who he feels have been wrongfully incarcerated. He writes, "Prison is a nightmare for those who deserve it. For those who don't, it is a daily struggle to maintain some level of sanity. For those who suddenly learn that there is proof of their innocence yet they remain locked up, the situation is literally maddening."

His main case involves a young black man named Quincy Miller, who was found guilty of shooting a lawyer named Keith Russo, in the small Florida town of Seabrook. There were no witnesses and no one with a motive, but Quincy was tried, convicted and sent to prison for life. He's been in prison for 22 years, maintaining his innocence. He says a fellow inmate fabricated a story about him being the killer, and his ex-wife made false claims about him owning several guns. Another witness lied about him fleeing the scene of the crime. As Post looks for evidence in this cold case to free his client, it puts him in serious danger. The lawyer Quincy was convicted of killing had ties to a drug cartel and so does the retired sheriff who handled the original investigation.

Post works for Guardian Ministries, a four-person team dedicated to righting

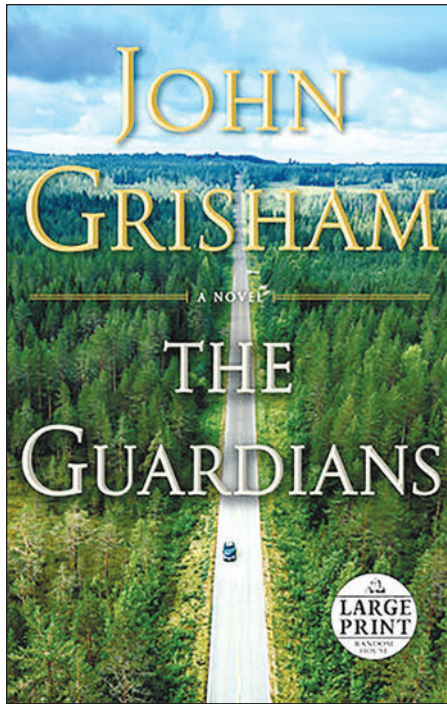


image provided

wrongs of the criminal justice system. Powerful, ruthless people murdered Keith Russo, and they do not want Quincy Miller exonerated. Grisham again delivers a complex thriller that deals with not only false incarceration, but the death penalty and how the legal system shows prejudice. In the book he writes, "Correction facilities are huge businesses. In the U.S. there are over two million people locked up, and it takes one million employees and \$80 billion in tax dollars to take care of them."

I would like to see more books with Cullen Post in the lead to free those who have been falsely imprisoned. *The Guardian* lives up to Grisham's reputation for entertaining legal fiction.✱

for kids both young and old, and the benefits from reading are endless. While a book from their favorite author is always welcome, you might want to try something new, like reading poetry, a play or a mystery out loud to one another.

A gift given to a charity chosen by the child. Depending on the age of your child, this may or may not be an appropriate gift, but if so, introduce several charities to your child. Include organizations that work in your area (such as a food bank), that do work that is important to your family (perhaps, planting trees in deforested areas), or that your child would find intriguing (say, provides school supplies to low income kids in your community). Let the child choose a charity and give a gift in your child's name to that organization. Deliver the gift in person, if appropriate.

Alternatively, you could find a Christmas Giving Tree-type program in your area and gift your child the same gifts you provide for the low-income child in need to serve as a reminder of how kids everywhere all just want to play and feel loved.

I hope that these suggestions are useful to you and result in happy gift giving and receiving!

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.✱

Horizon Foundation Annual Meeting

The Horizon Council, Horizon Foundation and Lee County Economic Development Office will host their 2020 annual meeting at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre on Friday, January 31 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The annual meeting aims to educate attendees on Horizon Council, Horizon Foundation and Lee County Economic Development Office successes in 2019 and plans for 2020. Tickets, which will go on sale soon, include a buffet lunch

and keynote speaker presentation.

This year's keynote speaker is Larry Burns, a retired General Motors vice president of research and development. Burns also serves on the board of Kitson & Partners, developers of Babcock Ranch, a master planned community located in southeastern Charlotte County and northeastern Lee County.

The Lee County Economic Development Office provides business assistance to retain existing businesses, attract new businesses and encourage entrepreneurship to ensure Lee County has a strong economy, thriving communities and broadly shared prosperity.

For more information on the Horizon Council, call 533-6800.✱

School Smart



by Shelley M. Greggs, NCSP

Dear Shelley, My grandchildren will be visiting me for this holiday season, and I need some suggestions for educational gifts that don't involve technology. They get

enough of that from their parents. I don't have much room for large toys or sports equipment either. My granddaughter is age 8 and my grandson is age 10. What suggestions do you have?

Jesse L. Sanibel

Jesse,

Your grandchildren are at wonderful ages for many non-toy, non-tech gifts that are educational and fun. I have listed several suggestions that I hope you find appealing.

You might purchase a series of classes for them: music, dance, riding, drawing, acting -- classes are a great way to encourage children in their interests. Find out their interests and what's available in

their hometown and sign them up.

You might purchase a family membership in their local zoo, science museum, children's museum, YMCA membership, etc. These are particularly great for family gifts. Many young families want to enjoy day outings, but affording them can be a challenge, so give them the gift of a yearly membership.

Purchase a magazine subscription for something they are interested in. Kids enjoy getting things in the mail and, as a plus, they will be practicing their reading and learning specialized vocabulary.

Purchase tickets to "special events" either in their hometown or for an event during their visit or both. Movie tickets or tickets to a play, concert or sports event are great. Having an event to look forward to is exciting for kids.

Kids love activities like miniature golf, bowling, skating and jumping on a trampoline. These are so much fun, and a big part of the fun is going together. Children love spending time with the adults in their lives, plus these activities will provide for some exercise.

Games and puzzles are great activities for developing memory and cognitive skills like problem solving. Games teach a lot, too, and not just factual information but social skills as well.

Books are my all-time favorite gifts

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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

Celebration For Our Mother's Home

Our Mother's Home is kicking off a year-long 20th anniversary celebration by hosting an open house on January 11 from noon to 5 p.m. Community members will be able to learn more about the program, sample light hors d'oeuvres and drinks, and take a tour of the home.

The nonprofit organization has a variety of events planned in 2020 to help reach its goal of raising \$220,000.

In addition to the already popular annual events, Our Mother's Home has several new events and activities planned, including a dance, parties, auctions and a fishing tournament.

"Our annual events will be even more spectacular, and we'll have some exciting new fundraising events," said Karen Watson, Executive Director. "We hope the community will continue to support us and help us reach our goal. We want to raise \$220,000 as we celebrate 20 years serving the community in 2020. There's plenty of fun and you get to support an important cause."

Our Mother's Home mentored living



Karen Watson

program has helped more than 300 teen mothers and their babies. The mission of the program is to transition teen mothers and their children from foster care and human trafficking to stable, happy and productive lives by providing a safe and nurturing home, education, parenting support, along with physical, mental and spiritual care. The program has a 90 percent success rate.

"We are opening our doors to the community who has provided us so much support over the past 20 years. We invite you to visit our home and see the difference you've helped make in so many lives," Watson said. "We are looking forward to celebrating with you."

The celebration continues on January 25 with the 20th Anniversary Celebration Dinner and Dance at The Plantation Golf and Country Club. It begins at 5 p.m. with cocktails and a silent auction followed by dinner at 6 p.m. Music and dancing is from 7 to 10 p.m. Tickets are \$100 and can be purchased online at ourmothershome.com.

On March 20, Our Mother's Home will have its highly popular annual Chair-A-Tea Party. It will be from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Bonita Bay Club. Tickets are \$50 and on sale at www.ourmothershome.com.

A Family Fun Fishing Day is planned for April 4 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. More details and other events that will be scheduled throughout the year can be found online at www.ourmothershome.com/events.

Our Mother's Home is located at 7438 Carrier Road in Fort Myers. To RSVP for the Open House, call 267-4663.✱

Holiday Shopping Scams Targeting Seniors/Others

submitted by
Sherry Young

The holiday season is traditionally filled with festivities and good cheer. Unfortunately, the season is also often filled with scams targeting consumers.

One of the most common cons involves fake online order confirmations. The scam works like this: You receive an email message that appears to be about a recent purchase you made online from a major retailer. The email says your order is ready for pickup or has been shipped. But when you click the link to see your order details or track your package, you unwittingly download a virus. You could also be urged to provide personal information, credit card numbers, or banking data.

With more than \$140 billion in online sales projected for the 2019 holidays, we are all potentially susceptible to these scams. However, older shoppers may be more vulnerable because they are often less familiar with online shopping.



Sherry Young

Fortunately, there are safeguards we can all take. If you receive an email from a retailer or a delivery service, resist the temptation to click the link. Instead, go directly to the merchant's website or call their customer support line. Be sure to find the phone number on your bill or by typing the company name into your browser directly.

Scam emails may also have tell-tale signs. Many will use a look-alike domain in their email address or links. If the domain isn't visible, hover your mouse over the link or email address to reveal its true destination. Other warnings include typos and bad grammar. Hucksters can easily copy a brand's logo and colors, but their poor writing usually gives the email away as a scam.

If you think you've been a victim of an online scam, contact your local law enforcement agency. You can also report scams to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) by visiting their website at www.ftc.gov.

Other sources of information and support are available by calling the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida's Elder Helpline toll-free at 1-866-413-5337 (866-41-ELDER) or the Florida Abuse Hotline at 1-800-962-2873 (1-800-96-ABUSE). Every five seconds, a person over age 60 is abused in some way in the United States. Please use care, caution and vigilance to prevent abuse, neglect and financial exploitation.

Sherry Young is the elder abuse prevention coordinator at the Area Agency on Aging.✱

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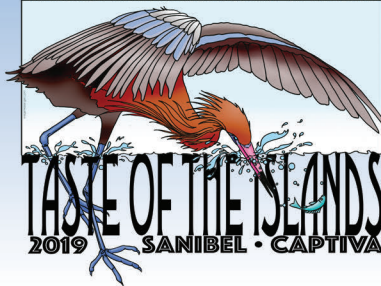
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Of Faith And Reason



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

As Christmas and Chanukah approach, I thought I'd write about faith. I appreciate how both holidays engender serenity and redemption in the face of brutality, shine light during times of darkness, and for their messages of hope. Yet we live in a time when people ridicule those of faith.

Human beings have many faculties at their disposal. We have a brain to process information, emotions that move us and intuition that guides us. We have our sensory tools of sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch. So where does faith fit in?

Many don't view faith as a basic human faculty, rather they see it more as the absence of reason. Others are even more cynical, claiming that faith is a sign of weakness, something to resort to when all else fails. In earlier times, cynics say faith was a necessity because man didn't have science to help explain the laws of nature, but in the face of reason and all of man's brilliant accomplishments, we have outgrown our need for faith. Isn't faith simply a creation of our imagination to deal with issues we can't comprehend?

We know how to access reason, as we have cultivated it our entire lives – at school, work and elsewhere. We are all born with faith, it's a natural state. Young people readily accept notions they don't understand because faith is inherent in all of us.

Faith is not, however, to be confused with childish naiveté, gullibility or laziness. Children tend to lose faith as they grow older in our society, when they experience hypocrisy or have been lied to. The child, to protect himself, begins using reason alone to process ideas, effectively silencing his inner voice telling him that, even though something cannot be grasped with his hand or totally understood with his mind, it may exist.

We all realize that we can't sense everything, yet know it exists, as two examples – radio waves and electricity. Yet we don't allow ourselves to contemplate an omnipresent higher being, writing that off as fictional storytelling.

Consider your family dog. He certainly possesses certain human-like qualities, including the ability to express certain emotions. Like us, he has the senses of sight, hearing, smell, taste and touch. Even as smart as he seems to be, he can't operate a car, contemplate his future, solve a crossword puzzle or be amazed at the artistry of Mozart. His brain has certain limitations.

Like our family pet, isn't it possible that we also have limitations, albeit at a higher

level? Can we not reason that human beings may be limited in some way that hides the Eternal from us? Could this incapability be by design? Is there a spiritual reality beyond that which we can see, feel, hear and touch?

Using reason, we can contemplate the wonders of creation and begin to recognize the breadth of the infinite power responsible for it. Reason also leads us to understand the limit of human knowledge and how much is beyond our scope. Reason, therefore, can lead to faith. Well-developed reason arrives at the obvious conclusion that reality is far greater than that which we can experience with our senses and our intellect. We come to realize that this reality is not a product of our mind, *but that our mind is a product of this reality*. Reason may lead us to the door of this reality, but we need different tools to enter.

Scientific reason is often used to explain away faith. Science and faith need not be mutually exclusive. Science is used to explain many things. It makes our lives more comfortable and makes us work more efficiently, but does it explain how to make our lives more meaningful? Science may explain the *what* and may even explain (partly) the *how*, but it never explains the *why*. One can therefore say that secular or scientific reason deals with *what* the universe is, while spiritual wisdom deals with *why* it is and what it means.

Faith isn't always easy. As we wrestle with an uneasy past and an uncertain future, it may seem more comforting to cling to the lives we know. But the thirst for redemption is coupled with another trait that all humans share: hope. Hope for health and prosperity. Hope for justice and virtue. Hope for freedom from the darkness.

Make your home a loving environment, make your office a place where generosity and compassion replace selfishness and aggression. Above all, share these ideas with your family and friends.

Merry Christmas and Happy Chanukah.

Note: this column was almost entirely adapted from the book, *Toward a Meaningful Life – The Wisdom of Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson* by Simon Jacobson.

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From page 1

Burroughs Home

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Tickets and host tables can be purchased online at www.CROWclinic.org/articles/wild-about-crow. Other sponsors also include Northern Trust, as a Bronze Bobcat sponsor, Susan Ion

Hogan, DDS, as the Southern Black Racer Valet sponsor and Uncommon Friends as the Habitat sponsor.

For more information on becoming a sponsor, contact Mary Schoeffel at mschoeffel@crowclinic.org or 472-3644 ext. 232.

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Melissa Robery

photos provided

Lee Principal And Assistant Principal Of The Year

The School District of Lee County recently announced Melissa Robery, principal at East Lee High School, was named the Lee County Principal of the Year, while Jackson Morgan, assistant principal at Lehigh Elementary School, was selected as Lee County Assistant Principal of the Year.

Robery was appointed principal of East Lee County High School in January 2018. At the time, East Lee was a "D" school supervised by the State Accountability System. Only 55 percent of the seniors were projected to graduate. Robery says she knew she needed a plan, and fast.

"After reviewing all of the school data, we determined that our focus had to be on individual students. We were going to build relationships, address the needs of individual students, track student data and most importantly tell students every day that we believed in them," Robery said. Five months later, 81 percent of the senior class got their diplomas and the school missed a "C" grade by 0.03 percent. At the end of the 2018-19 school year, East Lee had improved enough to easily earn a "C"



Jackson Morgan

and be removed from state supervision. "More importantly," Robery said, "staff and students are excited to come to school, student attendance percentages continue to increase from the previous year's attendance, each cycle, and the total number of discipline referrals have dropped dramatically." Staff gives Robery much of the credit for the turnaround in attitude and performance. "This may sound too good to be true," Assistant Principal Karen Blaze said, "but honestly, I've never seen anyone do the intensity and amount of work she did and continues to do, maintaining her family and giving 100 percent to the building every day. She's made this a better school and has forever impacted the lives of our students and teachers."

Morgan was appointed assistant principal at Lehigh Elementary in 2014 after 10 years of teaching in various elementary schools. At the time, he says scores were on the decline, behavior was interfering with instruction and teachers were unhappy. "As a former special education teacher," Jackson said, "I was particularly keen on helping my teachers become better teachers for those students. I immediately began working with these teachers and our academic coaches to support them. I focused on providing teachers with professional development in the curriculum they used and provided coaching support."

Teacher retention is now at all-time high at Lehigh Elementary, while student performance and behavior are improving. Principal Sheri Wipf says Morgan is an outstanding leader who has rejuvenated school pride at Lehigh. "His achievements are beyond measure," she said, "his influence is beyond limits, and his impact on the students and staff of the Lehigh Elementary family make him deserving of this prestigious award."

Nominations for Robery as Florida Principal of the Year and Morgan as Florida Assistant Principal of the Year will be sent to the Florida Department

of Education (DOE) by Superintendent Dr. Greg Adkins. The DOE will announce the finalists in January and the winners by early March. Each award comes with a \$5,000 cash prize.

The School District of Lee County has recently won both awards. Kelly Stedman was named 2017 Florida Assistant Principal of the Year. Ken Savage was named 2018 Florida Principal of the Year after leading James Stephens International Academy from an "F" grade to a "B" in just one year. Savage is now chief of operations for the district, while Stedman is principal at James Stephens.✱

Republican Women To Hold Luncheon

Lee Republican Women Federated will hold its monthly lunch meeting at Pinchers – The Marina at Edison Ford on Tuesday, January 14 at 11:15 a.m. After a social, the lunch and program will follow.

The guest speaker for the January program will be investigative journalist David Bedein, via Skype. Cost is \$22.

Pinchers – The Marina at Edison Ford is located at 2360 West First Street in Fort Myers. For reservations, call or text Ashley Winstel at 602-708-8663 or email acwinstel@gmail.com, or visit www.leerepublicanwomen.com/productcategory/register/ before January 9 at noon.✱



David Bedein

photo provided



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Frozen's Anna and Elsa with, from left, Jezzyln Mercado, Yareliz Rivera and Jisaiah Mercado photos provided

Community Tree Lighting Kicks Off The Holidays

Bell Tower officially kicked off the 2019 holiday season with its third annual community Tree Lighting event on December 6, featuring an evening of fun and entertainment for the whole family.

Santa Claus arrived on a fire truck driven by South Trail Fire Department and



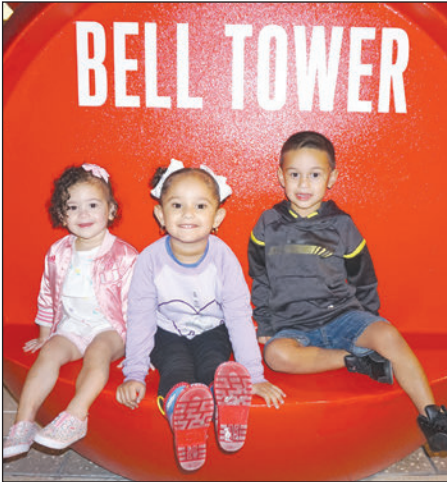
From left, Kahla, Payton and Nancy Ciepela

made his way to Center Court, leading the crowd in a countdown before flipping the switch to light up Bell Tower's 25-foot tree.

The free event, one of Southwest Florida's favorite pre-Christmas traditions, included music, face painting, holiday-themed snacks and activities, pony rides from Endless Trails Stable and special appearances by Anna and Elsa from the movie *Frozen*.✽



From left, Nick and Gerri Silvesteri holding Christina and Brooklyn Silvesteri



From left, Jezzyln Mercado, Jayliana Soto and Jisaiah Mercado



Santa Claus at Bell Tower photo courtesy 3 Roses Media

Superior Interiors

How To Change Up Your Holiday Decor This Season



by Linda Coin

Christmas will be here before you know it. You may already have or will soon decorate the tree and cookies while listening to music that gets you in the holly jolly spirit. This time of year is so

traditional and nostalgic, often taking you back to your childhood splendor. While there are plenty of classic touches about the holiday season that simply can't be changed, there are many ways to decorate and start new traditions to pass on to your family.

Looking for some holiday inspiration? Here are a few ways to mix up the Christmas decor this year...

Follow the "less is more" mantra. Oftentimes, Christmas is associated with an abundance of decorations, creating your own whimsical wonderland in the comfort of your own home. Instead of following through with this usual option, consider a theme that's more minimalistic. Perhaps you focus on using one bold color – white, green or red – instead of a mixture of the three for a simplified look.

Consider a theme centered around

one item. Similar to the statement around color, it can be easy to decorate with dozens of different Christmas emblems and items. Instead of turning your home into a habitat for all the characters in your favorite classic holiday movie, choose one staple item and style the rest of your home around it. Consider basing your decorations on a theme such as Santa, the gingerbread man, or bows. You should choose an item that means something to you and has a personal connection to your family. From there, take advantage of new items with holiday pillows on the sofa, colored and scented candles, table runners and other key pieces of decor that can bring the room together.

Decorate in a new place. Everyone has that one room in their home that gets the most attention around Christmas. Perhaps it's the living room, where you get to decorate the mantel and gather around the fire during the holiday season. While this can be a tradition that's hard to bust, decorating a different room as the main focal point during this time of year can give you a whole new perspective on the holiday season. For example, you can focus on the dining room instead – when the tree and majority of decorations are in this living space, you and your family members may be more inclined to gather around the table for conversation. There's also a great opportunity here to decorate the guest room, a welcoming holiday wreath over the bed with a new comforter with coordinating shams for your visitors can make the room pop and keep guests in the holiday spirit throughout their stay.

Try a new tree. The Christmas tree is the most common denominator in decor in homes during the holiday season, and

many people decorate with the same ornaments year after year. If you really want to mix things up, consider a different colored tree. A gorgeous white option makes a modern and stylish statement without taking away from the spirit of Christmas.

It's hard to believe that it's almost time to start shopping for Christmas presents, let alone decorating for the holiday season. If the idea of mixing things up from the tradition intimidates you, consider working with a design professional. They can help you navigate the trends and classic options to devise a decorating plan that caters to your personality, style, wants and needs.

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

Apply For Job Creation Program

The Fort Myers Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Job Creation and Talent Attraction Program, a grant available to businesses in targeted industries, has welcomed a total of 17 candidates and a possible total of \$81,000 to be issued to companies in targeted industries since December 2018.

New applications for the program participation were accepted from two businesses located in the downtown redevelopment area. Cigent Technologies, Inc., enrolled four software developers into the program. FieldEdge, also known as dESCO, LLC, enrolled a senior manager/cloud and infrastructure services, enterprise sales engineer, customer success manager

and junior software engineer. These two companies have accounted for all the applications approved for the program.

Both businesses are in one of the grant program's targeted industries, software, computing and technology. Cigent Technologies, Inc., is a cybersecurity technology company that identifies a potential breach or attack, initiates countermeasures and locks down critical data, ensuring attackers never reach it. Their elite team has backgrounds in National Security Agency (NSA)-level intelligence, ethical hacking and data recovery. FieldEdge is a leading, vertical Software as a Service (SaaS) business that enables field service contractors to run their small businesses with ease, save time and make more money through targeted marketing and improved resource use.

This program is consistent with meeting redevelopment objectives, specifically economic development in commercial and business activity, as well as business retention and recruitment. Companies that have high-growth potential and create high-wage jobs are critical to the city's economic vitality, because when new employees with high-wage jobs are hired, this action generates a positive economic impact in areas such as housing, dining, retail and entertainment.

The Fort Myers CRA is actively seeking more businesses including research and development; light assembly, packaging and fabrication; software, computing and technology; light manufacturing; and general office to apply. For more information, contact 321-7100 or fmra@cityftmyers.com, or visit www.cityftmyers.com/craincentives.✽

Frankly Speaking

by Howard Prager



Four things to report from last week: the Heisman, NFL teams eliminated from playoff chances, baseball's staggering signings, and a touching football story on an ironic date.

The Heisman. The most famous college football award. And without much surprise, it went to QB Joe Burrow of LSU, a quarterback who came into his own this year after transferring from Ohio State two years ago. The nation's top-rated passer, he led his team to the No. 1 seed in the BCS Championship and won the 2019 Heisman Trophy Saturday. Burrow is on pace to set an FBS single-season record for completion percentage (.779), along with 48 touchdowns and 4,715 passing yards, both SEC records. He threw only six interceptions. Burrow is the fourth straight quarterback to win the award and the 12th to win it in the last 14 seasons. He is the second Heisman Trophy winner in LSU history. The other? Billy Cannon in 1959. The last SEC QB to win? Johnny Manziel from Texas A&M in 2012.

According to NCAA records, Burrow won by the largest vote margin in Heisman history. His 2,608 points were 1,846 more points than second-place finisher Jalen Hurts. Burrow also received 95.03 percent (841 out of 885) of possible first-place votes, breaking the record set by Ohio State QB Troy Smith in 2006 when he received 91.63 percent of the votes. Burrow set new records for highest percentage of possible points (.938) and percentage of ballots received (.955). And just in case all those records aren't enough, Burrow is the first Heisman winner in history to wear No. 9. Let's see how he fares in the BCS championship games and in the NFL draft.

Speaking of the NFL, the Bears and Tampa Bay were both eliminated from a playoff berth last weekend. Leading the NFC are the Seahawks and Packers, who

may be facing what New England has discovered, riding on the tailcoats of how well aging QB Aaron Rogers does. Like Tom Brady, Rogers always finds a way to win. The Ravens and Patriots are on top of the AFC. We'll see if the last couple of weeks of the season provide any drama, and if these two teams and storied QBs face each other in this year's Super Bowl.

Baseball free agent signings continue to set new heights. One day after the Nationals re-signed their World Series super arm Stephen Strasburg for \$245 million, the Yankees signed Gerrit Cole who pitched so well for the Astros in the series, for \$324 million. Not to miss out, former Nationals 3B Anthony Rendon signed with the Angels for \$245 million. All three happened to be clients of uberagent Scott Boras. Other deals happened too, but nothing in this mega realm. Madison Bumgarner got off pretty cheaply for \$85 million. Cheap and \$85 million are not terms I often use next to each other. It seems that like baseball records, record salaries are meant to be broken.

The good news sports story of the week is not about money, individual awards, or controversies. December 14 was the seventh anniversary of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting. Most people in town mourn the victims of the mass shooting on that day. That's how the day started. But it ended differently. Newtown High School won the state football championship, its first state title in 27 years. The team featured the older brother of one of the Sandy Hook victims as well as several players who attended Sandy Hook. That, in itself, is incredibly moving.

The play that led them to victory was when Junior quarterback Jack Street fired a 36-yard pass through the fog and rain with three seconds left in regulation time of the Class LL state final that somehow reached senior wide receiver Riley Ward for the touchdown that will live forever in Newtown lore. Ward tossed his helmet in the air as uproar erupted after the storybook ending. "For a second, I was like the last one to run on the field, and I had nobody to hug, because I was like, 'Wait, did that really just happen?'" Newton head coach Bobby Pattison said. "The great thing about football and sports in general is moments like

this, it brings people together. These guys had an outstanding year. To win a state championship is a tremendous accomplishment, and these boys deserve it. They're a great bunch." The Newtown team was honored on *Sunday Night Football*.

Sometimes sports can add some new and good memories at a painful time.

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.✪

Red Sox Fall Fundraising Effort Raises Thousands

As part of its continuing community outreach efforts, the Red Sox Foundation's fall fundraising efforts raised \$88,335.98 for Southwest Florida scholarships.

Three events contributed to raising the funds. The 8th annual Swings for the Sox golf tournament raised \$49,189.59. The Ultimate Red Sox raffle, which includes airfare, hotel, Green Monster seats, grandstand seats, dinner in the State Street Pavilion Club and a VIP tour at Fenway, brought in \$12,600; and the foundation's online auction through www.mlb.com raised \$26,546.39.

All proceeds will benefit the Lee County Red Sox Scholarship program. Each year, the Red Sox Foundation awards a \$5,000 college scholarship to one deserving student from each of the 13 public high schools in Lee County.

Applications are now open and available to local Lee County public high school seniors online at www.redsoxfoundation.org/fenway-south/flscholarship. Applications are due by Tuesday, December 31. The scholarship is for academically talented students who have shown a commitment to community service and are pursuing a two- or four- year degree at any college or university.

"This year's fundraising efforts for the Red Sox Foundation in Southwest Florida was once again a tremendous success, and we wouldn't be able to put on these events without the community's support," said Brennan Whitley, senior manager Florida Business Operations for the Boston Red Sox. "We are proud to once again be able to present 13 deserving students with scholarships to attend college."

In the past eight years, the Red Sox Foundation has raised more than \$411,335 for local nonprofits and scholarships.

The Red Sox Foundation is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization and the official team charity of the Boston Red Sox. The foundation's primary focus locally is in serving the health, education, recreation and social service needs of children and families across Southwest Florida.✪

SPORTS QUIZ

1. Who was the first major-league player to hit a pair of home runs in an All-Star Game?
2. Name the last of the six major-league teams that longtime skipper (1967-88) Dick Williams managed.
3. Can you name two of the first three quarterbacks in SEC history to have at least 35 passing and 35 rushing touchdowns during their career?
4. LeBron James played in eight consecutive NBA Finals (2011-18). Name two of the three players who played in more.
5. An American has been drafted No. 1 overall eight times in the history of the NHL Entry Draft. How many of them were selected between 2000 and 2019?
6. Who was the last Cup driver before Chase Elliott in 2018-19 to win back-to-back races at Watkins Glen?
7. Who was the last female tennis player younger than Coco Gauff in 2019 (15 years old) to win her first WTA tournament?

ANSWERS

1. Pittsburgh's Arky Vaughan, in 1941. 2. The Seattle Mariners, in 1988. 3. Tim Lincecum, in 2000. 4. Bill Russell (10 consecutive), Sam Jones (nine) and Nick Faldo (nine). 5. Five. 6. Marcos Ambrose, in 2011-12. 7. The Czech Republic's Nicole Pietrangeli, who was a younger 15 when she won in 2004.

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From left, Shari Skinner, Brian Kelley, Kellie Burns and Chris Simoneau

photos provided



From left, Carly Schwartzel, Jim Schwartzel, Wendy Tooley and Rachel Galante

Pre-Event Social Held For Wine And Food Fest

SWFL Children's Charities, Inc. held a social reception in anticipation of the 2020 Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest, bringing trustees, sponsors and supporters together to commence another season of spirited philanthropy.

The cocktail reception was hosted by trustees Ray and Jessica Higdon at their home in Miromar Lakes. Event chairs Brooke Denson and Sandy Stilwell-Youngquist kicked off the evening with this year's theme Painting a Difference – Putting Kids First. It featured a preview of the beneficiaries: Golisano Children's Hospital, Florida Gulf Coast University and Florida SouthWestern State College.

Armando Llechu, Golisano's chief administrative officer, shared a recent story of impact with the attendees, followed by Stephanie Wardein, Lee Health's community affairs system director, who shared about her son, Benedict, and his story with Golisano Children's Hospital.

Celebrating its 12th year, the two-day Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest will feature Chef Vintner Dinners on Friday, February 21, hosted in private luxury venues across the region, and the Grand Tasting and Live Auction on Saturday, February 22 at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa in Bonita Springs. Guests will experience artful cuisine created by celebrated chefs and expertly paired with vintners from some of the finest and most exclusive wineries.✱



Jessica and Ray Higdon



Brooke Denson and Sandy Stilwell-Youngquist



From left, Wayne Wiles, Maria Wiles with Elaine and Fred Hawkins



From left, Suzi Woods, Taylor Woods and Heather Woods

Beautifulife:

Holiday Sanity

by Kay Casperson



Are you starting to feel a bit of the holiday pressure? Does it seem like the lists are growing bigger every day? Maybe you're feeling stressed about throwing a holiday party, a family

function, or even deciding what to get for those on your gift list. Every year it seems that right when Thanksgiving hits, we are tossed into the hustle and bustle of the holidays. Black Friday comes, followed by Cyber Monday and boom, we find ourselves running like crazy from here to there, trying to get everything done on time.

If you are like me, you are probably waking up in the middle of the night thinking about all of the things that you need to accomplish. You are also most likely lacking in the sleep department. If you are a busy multitasker, you may be making plans for work functions, end of season celebrations, holiday shopping, kids Christmas parties, teacher gifts, Santa stuff, decorating and all the other things that come with the holidays.

Before you let the stress and anxiety creep up on you, I encourage you to stop right now, take a deep breath and try to put a few simple steps in place to keep the holidays sane and as stress free as possible.

List it – Make a list of events you need to plan for and what needs to get done to make them happen with success. Next, a list of people you want to remember for the holidays with cards, cookies, gifts, or even just a call to say hello with a cheerful wish. Remember to check things off when they are done, so you are feeling accomplished.

Me time – Carve out some time each day to breathe, move, exercise, or stretch to make sure you are being mindful of your body and health. After all, this is a time to think about others, but you need to make sure you take care of yourself.

Space it – Choose what you eat and drink wisely at parties and get together. Partake in moderation, so you don't feel bad afterwards that you may have overindulged.

Enjoy – Most importantly, have fun and celebrate a festive, spiritual and meaningful holiday time with people that are special to you and who bring love and joy to your life.

My favorite affirmation for staying sane this holiday season is:

"I will keep the joy in my heart through the holidays and will focus on what is most important."

Kay Casperson is a beauty and lifestyle expert, founder and CEO of Beautifulife by Kay Casperson. She owns resort spas on Sanibel and Captiva islands and manufactures beauty and lifestyle products sold across the country. To stay inspired, visit www.kaycasperson.com or follow on social media @kaycasperson.✧

FSW Viewbook Wins Marketing Awards

Florida SouthWestern State College's (FSW) 2018-19 viewbook recently received a District 2 Gold 2019 Medallion Award from the National Council for Marketing & Public Relations (NCMPR).

The NCMPR Medallion Awards recognize outstanding achievement in design and communications at community and technical colleges in each of NCMPR's seven districts. To win a Gold Medallion Award, FSW placed above all participating colleges in the Viewbook category in District 2, which is comprised of colleges in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and West Virginia.

Additionally, FSW's viewbook also received a second place Award of Excellence from the Association of Florida College's (AFC) Communications and Marketing Commission. AFC is the professional association for employees from Florida's 28 state and community colleges.

FSW's 2018-19 viewbook provides an overview of the programs and degrees, events and activities, housing and financial aid options that are available at FSW to new and prospective students. The viewbook was created through a joint effort by members of FSW's marketing and media department and the office of admissions.✧

Meals Of Hope Volunteer Honored

Nicole Hood, a volunteer for Meals of Hope, the largest food pantry provider in Southwest Florida, was honored by the Collier-Lee Chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals at the 2019 National Philanthropy Day celebration.

Hood was recognized among a group of distinguished fundraising volunteers from local nonprofit organizations.

"Nicole's spirit of service embodies Meals of Hope's mission to end hunger in our community. Not only has Nicole volunteered by helping those in need at Meals of Hope's food pantries four times a week since 2014, she purchases food on her own to share with people living in Naples' HUD and Section 8 housing," said Meals of Hope President and CEO Steve Popper. "Nicole's selfless dedication to teamwork and serving others is an inspiration to us all."

Meals of Hope provides a total of 14 food pantries – including seven mobile pantries – throughout Collier and Lee counties to distribute fresh and nutritious food to approximately 1,000 families each week. Additional services and summer meal programs serve more than 10,000 Southwest Florida residents each month.

With the help of more than 25,000



Nicole Hood

photo provided

volunteers, Meals of Hope packed 8.5 million meals in 2018 at events in Southwest Florida and throughout the United States.

As a partner agency with the Harry Chapin Food Bank, Meals of Hope distributes more than two million pounds of food each year as it fulfills its mission of inspiring and empowering communities to come together to end hunger. Established in 2007, Meals of Hope is a 501(c)3 tax exempt nonprofit organization.

To learn more, visit www.mealsofhope.org or call 537-7775.✧



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pain
you have
this holiday
season be
cham-pagne!

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Doctor and Dietician

Brain Blood Flow



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

Brain fog is the inability to have a sharp memory or focus. Many of our patients report an inability to think clearly and just don't feel like themselves. They tell us that their PCP said, "eh, you're just getting older!" Gradual, slow decline in mentation does come with aging but not accelerated or severe brain function decline. Alzheimer's Disease is not a normal "disease of aging."

In addition to eating a fresh food-based diet, getting adequate rest, reducing stress and staying active, there is one other factor to consider: cervical instability (i.e. loose support structures in your neck that cause your cervical spine to move too much). When this happens, guess what? Patients may experience episodes of dizziness, fainting, mental blocks, brain fog, weird eye/ear sensations and, if left long enough, seizures or stroke.

Because of our "face-down-lifestyles"

(i.e. cell phone/device use), our necks are getting stretched, to the point that they can no longer hold up our heads properly. Many suffer with sore necks and shoulders, and find symptoms worsening. More severe situations may arise when moving the head right or left. This was the case for a recent patient who came from the Netherlands. He thought he had a severe case of hypoglycemia, so he was eating every few hours. Turned out that he experienced complete artery blockage when turning his head to the right and looking down. We documented this using Digital Motion X-ray (DMX) and Transcranial Doppler (TCD) studies in our office. You can imagine how he felt to discover this information.

Dr. Hauser was our first patient to receive TCD testing in our office. We were amazed to find out that when he turned his head to the right and looked up, his study revealed complete blood flow blockage. For years during Ironman Triathlon training, he would experience dizziness during the swim. Now we know why.

What did he and the patient from the Netherlands do? Regenerated their loose cervical spines with prolotherapy and started posture exercises to improve their spinal curves.

*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.**

dearRPharmacist

Lettuce Alternatives



by Suzy Cohen, RPH

Dear Readers:
We thought it was just romaine.

At this point, you should probably just throw out all your lettuce. It doesn't matter if it came from Salinas, California because other states may be involved now. There have been over 100 reported cases across 23 states at the time of this writing. There is an official recall.

I'm not being an alarmist, Just the other day, we were told to trash those convenient bagged salad 'kits' because there are various types of lettuce in there, and some bags might have the contaminated E. coli leaves in it. The warning to consumers was about the brand called, Fresh Express Sunflower Crisp Chopped Salad Kits. Just days after that urgent concern, the FDA has announced it is looking into several other E. coli outbreaks linked to lettuce grown from other states. There are multiple strains of pathogens and, once infected, symptoms can show up between one day and a week later.

One quick thing, if you are supported on warfarin or other anticoagulants, please be aware that all salad greens are high in Vitamin K (some more than others), so do not change your diet without your doctor's approval and supervision.

Here are some lettuce alternatives for those of you who wish to avoid romaine and other lettuces:

Rainbow or Swiss Chard – These have broad green leaves attached to a bright crimson red stalk. The red in the leaves and stalk is due to the natural dye "betalain" which is used for liver health. If you've ever cooked chard, you know this shrinks to nothing. You can fill a giant 16-quart pot with these, and by the time you've steamed it over five minutes, you'll end up with a spoonful.

I once bought six of these at one time, and when I checked out at the supermarket, the cashier sarcastically asked me if I was going to eat all that myself. Without batting an eye, I quipped, "No I have a horse to feed!"

Spinach – Like all leafy greens, spinach is high in fiber and promotes regularity. It contains oxalates, and it is very rich in potassium which regulates blood pressure.

Radicchio – Radicchio is a small, round reddish-purple sphere and pairs well with greens in a salad. It's way tastier than red cabbage. Add radicchio to your salad because it is high in Vitamin C, Vitamin K and other micronutrients.

Mustard Greens – Taste this green before chopping it into your salad, because most people have to acquire the taste. I must be weird, because I don't mind eating it raw. If you lightly steam or blanch it, you will reduce the bitterness. This popular plant gives us mustard seeds,

which can be turned into one of our favorite condiments.

Watercress – Very versatile and contains over 50 vitamins and minerals. Scientific data shows this can help prevent DNA cellular damage and, in that regard, perhaps slow the development of cancer. Sometimes people worry about the goitrogenic effect on iodine absorption, and subsequent production of thyroid hormone, but I think a little watercress is just fine.

*This information is not intended to treat, cure or diagnose your condition. Suzy Cohen is the author of The 24-Hour Pharmacist and is a registered pharmacist. To contact her, visit www.SuzyCohen.com.**

Alzheimer's Group Named Beneficiary

The Alzheimer's Association has been chosen as the beneficiary for The GATE Foundation Coin Box Collection. Beginning on January 1, all Coin Box Collections across Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina GATE convenience stores will collect donations to support the Alzheimer's Association and benefit The Longest Day, an Alzheimer's Association fundraising initiative that encourages participants to combat the darkness of Alzheimer's through the activity of their choice on the summer solstice – the day with the most sunlight – or whatever date is most convenient. The campaign will conclude just 10 days after The Longest Day, salted for June 30.

"We are so pleased to partner with the GATE Foundation for their Coin Box Collection campaign," said Jessica Marshall, Alzheimer's Association executive director for the Central and North Florida region. "We are honored that they chose to support a cause that affects over 900,000 people in the Southeast. This support will increase our research funding and enhance the care and support services we provide to Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers everyday."

"Thanks to the generosity of our customers and employees, GATE Foundation has the opportunity to support two different not-for-profit organizations per year with a Coin Box Collection campaign," said Kathy Brady, executive director for The GATE Foundation. "We are thrilled that our campaign period starting January 1, 2020 will raise funds to support the Alzheimer's Association, allowing them to further serve the 5.8 million Americans living with Alzheimer's. The Alzheimer's Association is a critical lifeline of information and support to so many of our customers and employees."

Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States and in the State of Florida. There are more than 5.8 million Americans living with the disease. Additionally, more than 16 million Americans provide unpaid care for those struggling with the disease.

For more information, contact Marshall at jhmarshall@alz.org or Brady at kbrady@gatepetro.com. To learn more about The Longest Day, visit www.alz.org/thelongestday.*

Sanibel Shoes & Socks for Homeless Veterans

**Drop-Off Locations
November 30 to December 22**

We kicked off year three of Sanibel Shoes and Socks for Homeless Veterans and, we added additional drop-off sites.

Below are places that offer a drop-off box to deposit shoes and socks.

SANIBEL

- Bailey's General Store
- The Dunes Golf & Tennis Club
- American Legion Post 123
- St. Isabel Catholic Church
- Sanibel & Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce
- Kingfisher Real Estate
- Bank of America
- The Community House
- Sanibel Fire and Rescue District
- Sanibel Public Library
- FISH of SanCap

FORT MYERS

- St. Columbkille Catholic Church
- PORT CHARLOTTE
- WIKX Radio



We will continue to collect shoes and socks for men and women from now until the Sunday before Christmas. If you want to give veterans the opportunity to get a job, bring dress shoes, work boots or sneakers and socks to one of the drop-off centers.

For more info, call 973-687-4826

PETS OF THE WEEK

photos provided

Lee County Domestic Animal Services

Zorro And Maya



Zorro ID# A799083

Hello, my name is Zorro. I am a 3-year-old male hound mix who came to LCDAS with my brother Kirby who has since been adopted. My greatest wish is to find my new family in time to spend the holidays in my forever home. I am an energetic, handsome boy who is full of love. You will surely fall in love with me when you meet me. I love to flip my toys in the air in the play yard, and it is so much fun to watch.

My adoption fee is \$50.

Hi, I'm Maya. I am a 1-year-old female domestic medium hair who is even more beautiful when you see me in person than in my picture (which seems quite impossible, but true). I have a fluffy, fox-like tail that I sway back and forth while strutting my stuff around the cat room. I am a



Maya ID# A802162

free spirit who prefers to roam around rather than being held. I get along with the other cats, so I am perfect to take advantage of the adopt-one-get-a-feline-friend free promotion.

My adoption fee is \$10 with the BOGO offer.

Lee County Domestic Animal Services (LCDAS) is celebrating the upcoming holiday season with a Gift Giving Tree. The tree in the adoption lobby at LCDAS is decorated with ornaments with a wish list of gifts for the shelter pets. Visitors may pick one up and return them by Saturday, December 21 to help make the animals holiday a little brighter. The ornament is yours to keep for your tree! Visit www.leelostpets.com to view all pets currently available and adoption fees.

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

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

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

FAMOUS FOODIES

- ACROSS

1 Withdraw

7 Second-rate

13 Mexican meat dishes

20 Pro speaker

21 Start of a pirate chant

22 Minimal cash

23 Actor Kevin from Quebec?

25 Marsh gas, mainly

26 William who created Shrek

27 Lettuce type

28 Fierce wind

30 At any point

31 Willed gift

33 Astronaut Alan clearing hurdles?

36 It's scanned in a store, for short

39 "Blasted!"

40 Discontinued iPods

41 Restitution

42 "The Taking of — One Two Three" (1974 film)

44 Tie-ons for messy food

45 See 64-Across

46 Irrate novelist Anne?
- 49 Lull comedian John to sleep?

55 Vast span

56 Per piece

57 City on Interstate 80

58 Original "Star Trek" captain

59 French artist Jean

60 Rye husk

62 Kagan on the Supreme Court

64 With 45-Across, the 1980s, politically

66 Gene stuff

67 Bewilder justice Warren?

70 Med. service

71 Sniff out

73 French artist Dufy

74 Healing balm

75 Fancy shooting marble

76 Slips a cog

77 Outfielder Ty

78 Author Sarah — Jewett

80 Key on a PC

81 Honor essayist Charles with jesting insults?
- 84 Singer Fiona behaving very badly?

88 Pilfer from

89 Fruit such as a pear

90 Enthusiastic French assent

91 Long, thin cigar

95 Even trades

97 Blast noise

99 Aired of "Conan"

100 Newswoman Ann being a coward?

102 Special Arctic light

104 One-named "Smooth Operator" singer

105 Met highlight

106 "It's —!" ("That's evil!")

107 Take on the role of

111 Thick-skinned fruits

114 Baseballer Mike with chicken pox?

117 Turned-up facial feature

118 United, with "up"

119 South Dakota city
- 120 Form-fitting swimwear

121 Litters about

122 Pants part
- DOWN

1 Birds of fable

2 Part of QED

3 Support stick

4 Virtual sales

5 Longtime pickup model

6 "— tu" (Verdi 105-Across)

7 Jaded sorts

8 Foyer

9 Moby Dick's hunter

10 Pt. of SPCA

11 Japanese chiefs of old

12 Longtime cleanser brand

13 Actress Marisa

14 Hex ender?

15 Ran into

16 "Arrow of God" novelist Chinua —

17 Yeast, e.g.

18 Set of nine

19 Boat backs

24 Blind as —

29 Old hi-fi buys

32 Tennis unit

33 Be in sync

34 Stoolie, to Brits

35 Former car-financing co.
- 36 Happy times

37 Grammy-winning jazz/pop pianist

38 Nile queen

40 Heineken alternative

43 Solo in sci-fi

44 Paper Mate alternative

45 Prefix with chic

47 Heedless

48 Fled

49 Contact lens care brand

50 Sounding off

51 Alias letters

52 Disco, e.g.

53 School theater group

54 "Catch my drift?"

57 Flowers again

59 Deadly viper

60 U.K. media giant

61 Tire catcher

63 "— Grant"

64 Classic auto

65 'Fore

68 Common rhyme scheme

69 Exultant joy

72 -ette relative

77 Hack's auto

79 Blvd., e.g.

80 Prefix with dermis
- 82 Small band

83 MGM mogul Marcus

84 Long, strong and fibrous

85 Taboo

86 Baked with a cheese topping

87 "— for Evidence" (Sue Grafton book)

89 Rampart part

91 PC admin people

92 Get misty-eyed

93 "Ripe" period

94 Actress Headly

95 South, in Lima

96 Bracelet holders

97 Assembles

98 Composer Thomas

101 Cartons

102 Cockeyed

103 Ranch units

106 Tiptop

108 Ripped

109 Halo, for one

110 Flower part

112 Ares, for one

113 That, in Lima

115 Spike of corn

116 Print quality abbr.

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

King Crossword

- ACROSS

1 Chum

4 With 29-Across, Conrad novel

8 Faction

12 Whatever amount

13 Dermatology subject

14 Horn sound

15 Related to summer theater

17 "That hurts!"

18 Decorate a T-shirt, '60s-style

19 Old-Olds

21 "— the fields we go"

22 Trite

26 McCartney cohort

29 See 4-Across

30 Praise in verse

31 Doves' place

32 Eviscerate

33 Actress Cannon

34 Commotion

35 Trot

36 Part of a Santa costume

37 1935 Astaire/Rogers movie

39 Oppositionist

40 Swelled head

41 Pester

45 Oodles
- 48 Western hero's trademark

50 Suitor

51 Draftable

52 List-ending abbr.

53 Complain

54 Peruse

55 "Quiet!"
- 7 Midwestern city

8 Remained upright

9 Debtor's letters

10 Elmer, to Bugs

11 Biblical verb ending

16 Worship

20 Shade source

23 Georgetown athlete

24 Hebrew month

25 See to

26 "Shoo!"

27 — list

28 On
- 29 Moonshine container

32 Commence hostilities

33 Thick

35 Binge

36 Went by water

38 Excited

39 Porcelain

42 "I'll have what — having"

43 Wooden strip

44 Leave an impression

45 "The Chew" network

46 Meadow

47 Rowing need

49 Weeding tool
- DOWN

1 History

2 Oppositionist

3 Orpheus' instrument

4 Attorney

5 Earth tone

6 Genetic stuff

MAGIC MAZE ● TOLKIEN CHARACTERS

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

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

- Aragorn

Arwen

Beleg

Bilbo
- Fëanor

Fingolfin

Gandalf

Gollum
- Legolas

Melkor

Merry

Pippin
- Sam

Smaug

Uruk-hai



"How many more days of the boss's
do we have left?"

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!

Look
CHEARS

Provide
STEVIN

Snag
GENTAL

Duty
OCHRE

TODAY'S WORD

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

SUDOKU

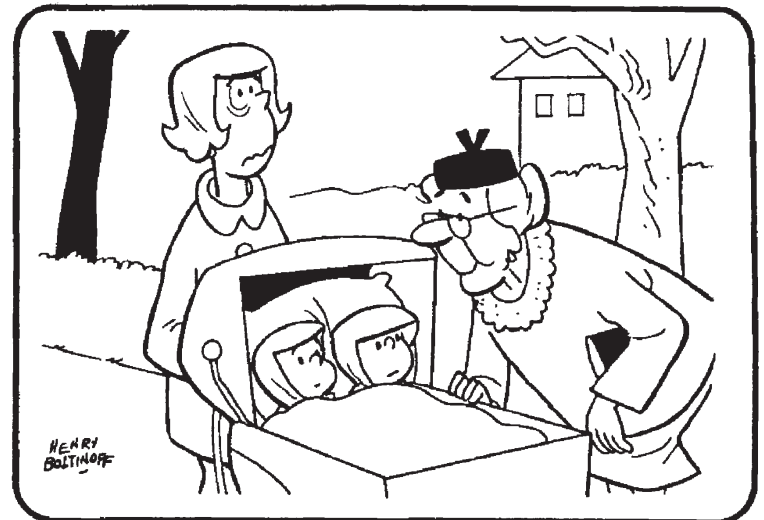
To play Sudoku:

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.

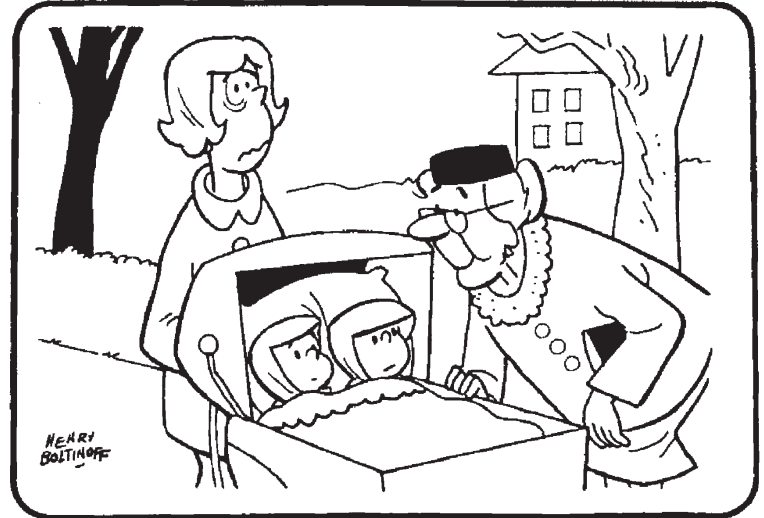
Answer on page 28

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



FIND AT LEAST SIX DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS



Differences: 1. Woman's hat is different. 2. Blanket has a rut. 3. House has more windows. 4. Woman's coat has buttons. 5. Tree has extra limb. 6. Mom's bangs are different.

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FRIDAY
Mostly Cloudy
High: 73 Low: 67



SATURDAY
Few Showers
High: 75 Low: 69



SUNDAY
Sunny
High: 71 Low: 62



MONDAY
Sunny
High: 65 Low: 59



TUESDAY
Sunny
High: 69 Low: 63



WEDNESDAY
Mostly Sunny
High: 68 Low: 62



THURSDAY
Partly Cloudy
High: 70 Low: 64

Redfish Pass Tides					Point Ybel Tides					Punta Rassa Tides					Cape Coral Bridge Tides				
Day	High	Low	High	Low	Day	High	Low	High	Low	Day	High	Low	High	Low	Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	8:11 am	1:59 am	8:35 pm	1:46 pm	Fri	7:16 am	2:01 am	7:40 pm	1:48 pm	Fri	8:02 am	2:04 am	8:15 pm	2:11 pm	Fri	10:21 am	5:15 am	10:45 pm	5:02 pm
Sat	9:53 am	3:14 am	9:09 pm	2:30 pm	Sat	8:58 am	3:16 am	8:14 pm	2:32 pm	Sat	9:23 am	3:04 am	8:59 pm	3:01 pm	Sat	12:03 pm	6:30 am	11:19 pm	5:46 pm
Sun	11:18 am	4:15 am	9:44 pm	3:10 pm	Sun	10:23 am	4:17 am	8:49 pm	3:12 pm	Sun	10:44 am	4:01 am	9:46 pm	3:50 pm	Sun	1:28 pm	7:31 am	11:54 pm	6:26 pm
Mon	12:30 pm	5:07 am	10:19 pm	3:46 pm	Mon	11:35 am	5:09 am	9:24 pm	3:48 pm	Mon	11:39 am	4:54 am	10:32 pm	4:39 pm	Mon	2:40 pm	8:23 am	None	7:02 pm
Tue	1:31 pm	5:54 am	10:55 pm	4:18 pm	Tue	12:36 pm	5:56 am	10:00 pm	4:20 pm	Tue	12:18 pm	5:42 am	11:13 pm	5:26 pm	Tue	12:29 am	9:10 am	3:41 pm	7:34 pm
Wed	2:23 pm	6:37 am	11:31 pm	4:50 pm	Wed	1:28 pm	6:39 am	10:36 pm	4:52 pm	Wed	12:54 pm	6:28 am	11:47 pm	6:08 pm	Wed	1:05 am	9:53 am	4:33 pm	8:06 pm
Thu	3:06 pm	7:18 am	None	5:24 pm	Thu	2:11 pm	7:20 am	11:13 pm	5:26 pm	Thu	1:32 pm	7:12 am	None	6:49 pm	Thu	1:41 am	10:34 am	5:16 pm	8:40 pm

PUZZLE ANSWERS

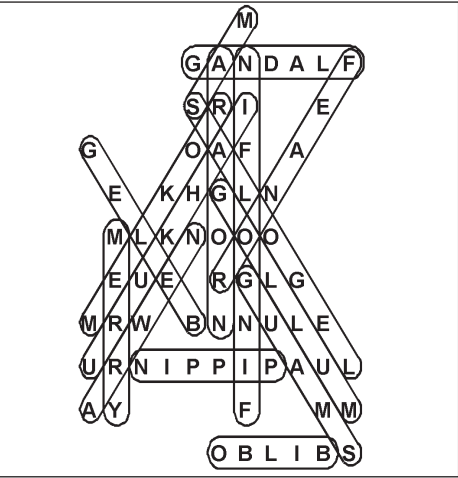
SUPER CROSSWORD

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

KING CROSSWORD

P	A	L			L	O	R	D			S	I	D	E	
A	N	Y			A	C	N	E			T	O	O	T	
S	T	R	A	W	H	A	T				O	U	C	H	
T	I	E	D	Y	E			R	E	O					
					O	E	R			O	L	D	H	A	T
S	T	A	R	R			J	I	M		O	D	E		
C	O	T	E			G	U	T			D	Y	A	N	
A	D	O			J	O	G			B	E	A	R	D	
T	O	P	H	A	T			C	O	N					
					E	G	O			H	A	S	S	L	E
A	L	O	T			W	H	I	T	E	H	A	T		
B	E	A	U			A	O	N	E		E	T	C		
C	A	R	P			R	E	A	D		S	H	H		

MAGIC MAZE



SUDOKU

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

TRIVIA TEST

- Theater:** “West Side Story” was inspired by which earlier play?
- Music:** What is the real name of songwriter/rapper Lizzo?
- Science:** How many people total have walked on the moon?
- U.S. Presidents:** Under whose administration did Spiro T. Agnew serve as vice president?
- Geography:** What is the capital of Chile?
- Architecture:** In what decade was the Empire State Building completed?
- Advertising:** What was the name of Honey Nut Cheerios’ mascot?
- U.S. States:** What is the least populous state in America?
- General Knowledge:** What was the name of Dick and Jane’s dog in reading books used in schools in the mid-20th century?
- Inventions:** Who is credited for inventing the modern lockstitch sewing machine?

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. “Romeo and Juliet” 2. Melissa Viviane Jefferson 3. 12 4. Richard Nixon 5. Santiago 6. 1930s 7. BuzzBee 8. Wyoming 9. Spot 10. Elias Howe

My Stars ★★★★★

FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 23, 2019

Aries (March 21 to April 19)
Make your holiday preparations one step at a time in order to avoid being overwhelmed and leaving things undone. That confusing family situation continues to work itself out.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20)
Ease this year’s holiday money pressures by letting your thrifty side guide you as you look for those perfect gifts that typically reflect your good taste and love of beauty.

Gemini (May 21 to June 20)
You’ll have a good handle on potential holiday problems if you delegate tasks to family members, friends or co-workers – most of whom will be more than happy to help out.

Cancer (June 21 to July 22)
Right now you are especially vulnerable to holiday scams that seek to take advantage of your generosity. Best advice: Check them out before you send out your checks.

Leo (July 23 to August 22)
The upcoming holiday season gives the Big Cat much to purr about. Relationships grow stronger, and new opportunities loom on the horizon, just waiting to be pounced on.

Virgo (August 23 to September 22)
A changing situation brings conflicting advice about how to go forward with your holiday plans. Your best bet: Make the decision you feel most comfortable with.

Libra (September 23 to October 22)
Holiday plans get back on track after

some confusion about the direction you expected to take. A potentially troublesome money matter needs your immediate attention.

Scorpio (October 23 to November 21)
Your holiday preparations are on track. But you need to confront a personal situation while you can still keep it from overwhelming everything else.

Sagittarius (November 22 to December 21)
Tight financial matters ease a bit during this holiday season. But the sagacious Sagittarian is well-advised to keep a tight hold on the reins while shopping for gifts.

Capricorn (December 22 to January 19)
Don’t put off making decisions about this year’s holiday celebrations, despite the negative comments you’ve been getting from several quarters. Do it NOW!

Aquarius (January 20 to February 18)
The holidays will bring new friends and new opportunities. Meanwhile, be careful to use your energy wisely as you go about making holiday preparations.

Pisces (February 19 to March 20)
There’s good news coming from a most unlikely source. And it could turn out to be one of the best holiday gifts you have had in years. Remember to stay positive.

MOMENTS IN TIME

Born This Week: You are respected for your honesty and loyalty. You make friends slowly – but with rare exceptions, they’re in your life forever.

• On Dec. 28, 1793, British-born American revolutionary Thomas Paine, author of “Common Sense,” is arrested

in France for treason, having been tried in absentia and convicted. Paine was imprisoned in a former palace, where he had a large room with windows and catered meals.

• On Dec. 24, 1851, a fire sweeps through the Library of Congress and destroys two-thirds of Thomas Jefferson’s personal literary collection. Jefferson had sold his personal library of 6,487 books to Congress after the British burned the Congressional library in 1814.

• On Dec. 23, 1888, Dutch painter Vincent van Gogh, suffering from severe depression, cuts off the lower part of his left ear with a razor. He later documented the event in a painting titled “Self-Portrait with Bandaged Ear.”

• On Dec. 27, 1900, prohibitionist Carry Nation smashes up a bar in Wichita, Kansas, causing extensive damage and landing in jail. Nation became famous for carrying a hatchet and wrecking saloons, and sold souvenir hatchets to help fund her anti-alcohol activities.

• On Dec. 29, 1915, the French National Assembly passes a law formally ceding the land that holds the British war cemeteries to Great Britain, ensuring that its saddest and most sacred monuments would be forever protected.

• On Dec. 26, 1946, infamous gangster Benjamin “Bugsy” Siegel opens his Flamingo Hotel in Las Vegas. The grand opening was a flop, however, and the casino lost \$300,000 in the first week. The hotel was named after Siegel’s girlfriend, whose nickname was “The Flamingo” because of her red hair

and long legs.

• On Dec. 25, 1962, "To Kill a Mockingbird," a film based on the novel by Harper Lee, opens in theaters. The Great Depression-era story of racial injustice and the loss of childhood innocence is told from the perspective of a young Alabama girl named Scout Finch.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

• It was Polish chess grandmaster Savielly Tartakower who made the following sage observation: "Victory goes to the player who makes the

next-to-last mistake."

• Worldwide, herbivores kill more people than carnivores.

• Bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers all were invented by women.

• Japanese scientists have discovered that the human body emits a very slight, yet perceptible, glow. After using a special camera to study a sample of men in their 20s, they found that intensity of the glow varies, with the lowest point at around 10 a.m. and the brightest at 4 a.m.

• In 1743, a hand-operated elevator

was installed in the palace of Versailles. Louis XV used it to visit Madame de Chateauroux, his mistress.

• Due to a quirk in the transition from one kind of calendar system to another, nobody was born between Oct. 4 and Oct. 15 in continental Europe in the year 1582.

• If you're like me, social situations can be a nightmare of trying – and usually failing – to remember the names of all your new acquaintances. The next time you find yourself struggling to name the person you're conversing with, you can always segue into this interesting

tidbit: The inability to remember names is technically known as anomia.

• In ancient Japan, towns would have public contests to see who could break wind the loudest and the longest. Prizes were awarded.

• It is possible for a fetus in the womb to get hiccups.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Doctors are the same as lawyers; the only difference is that lawyers merely rob you, whereas doctors rob you and kill you too." – Anton Chekhov

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White and Dark Chocolate Mousse with Strawberries

12 large strawberries, rinsed, hulled and sliced
Fresh mint, for garnish
White Chocolate Mousse Ingredients:
3 ounces white chocolate for baking, broken into pieces
3/4 cup heavy whipping cream, divided
2 tablespoons confectioners' sugar
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
Dark Chocolate Mousse Ingredients:
3 ounces dark chocolate for baking, broken into pieces
3/4 cup heavy whipping cream, divided
2 tablespoons confectioners' sugar
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
In a small saucepot combine 1/4 cup heavy cream and the white chocolate pieces. Cook over medium heat until the chocolate is completely melted. Remove from heat and cool completely. Beat remaining cream, confectioners' sugar, and vanilla extract in small mixing bowl until stiff peaks form (do not overbeat). Fold melted baking bar mixture into whipped cream; refrigerate. Spoon into serving bowl or individual dishes. To assemble the dish layer the two mousses with the strawberries in four wide-rim glasses. Keep cold and garnish with fresh mint.*



White and Dark Chocolate Mousse with Strawberries photo courtesy Fresh From Florida

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Lionfish Challenge Winners Honored

At its December meeting in Panama City Beach, the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) presented trophies to the first-place winners of the 2019 Lionfish Challenge, which awards participants for their efforts in removing lionfish from Florida waters. Participants who remove the most lionfish are crowned the Recreational Lionfish King or Queen and the Commercial Champion.

Ken Ayers of Bay County removed 1,194 lionfish to capture first place in the recreational category and become Lionfish King. Joshua Livingston of Okaloosa County removed 3,192.8 pounds of lionfish to win first place in the commercial category.

Lionfish are a nonnative invasive species that have a potential negative impact on Florida's native wildlife and habitat.

"We are always amazed at the hard work and dedication of those who are actively removing lionfish from Florida waters," said Eric Sutton, FWC executive director. "FWC cannot control the lionfish population alone, and it is your efforts that are at the heart of keeping lionfish populations in check. Thank you."

Ron Surrency of Duval County had the largest lionfish at 434 millimeters (about 17 inches) and Nikkie Cox of Franklin County had the smallest at 37 mm (about 1 1/2 inches).

Know The Signs Of Drug Abuse

Narconon reminds families that many people will be spending more time with family and friends around this holiday season. Be familiar with the signs that your loved one may be struggling with addiction to drugs or alcohol. Be mindful of the things that will actually tell you if they are doing well or not. If you notice that things aren't right, you need to be prepared to confront your loved one and get them into treatment. You are giving them the gift of a new life.

For more information on how to confront your loved one, visit www.narconon-suncoast.org/blog/how-to-confront-your-addict-this-holiday-season.html. Call 1-877-841-5509 for a no cost screening or referral.

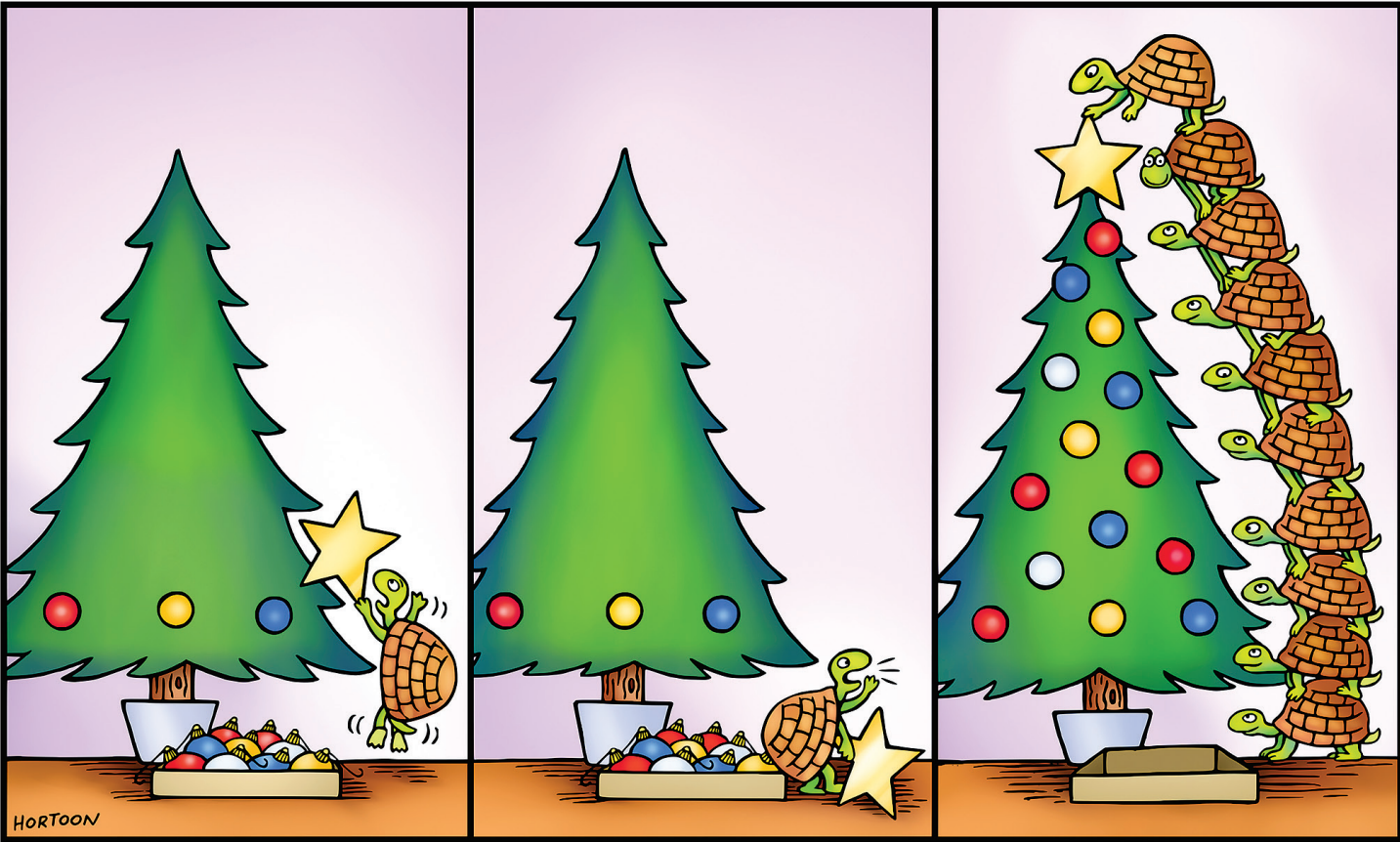
Final stats for the Lionfish Challenge, which ran from May 18 through September 2, include: 23,451 lionfish removed; 349 people registered; and 148 people submitting lionfish (134 recreational, 14 commercial).

The Lionfish Challenge rewards harvesters with prizes for their lionfish removals. This year, participants who submitted the largest and smallest lionfish were eligible to receive up to \$3,000 in cash prizes. The Lionfish Challenge could not be possible without support from the following sponsors: American Sportfishing Association, Yamaha Motor Company, Marine Industries Association of Palm Beach County and National Marine Manufacturers Association. Thanks go to the Lionfish Challenge Raffle sponsors, including Florida Underwater Sports, Toothless Life, Lionator Pole Spears, Neritic Diving, Stream2Sea, ZooKeeper and Customatic Optics. Learn more at www.fwcreefrangers.com.



Commercial Champion Joshua Livingston and Recreational Champion Ken Ayers were the 2019 Lionfish Challenge winners
photo by Avery Bristol/FWC

HORTOONS



Top 10 Real Estate Sales

Subdivision	City	Year Built	Square Footage	Listing Price	Selling Price	Days On Market
McGregor Isles	Fort Myers	1992	5,888	\$2,495,000	\$2,435,000	16
Sanibel Estates	Sanibel	2005	3,650	\$2,450,000	\$2,400,000	53
Cape Harbour	Cape Coral	2015	3,175	\$1,300,000	\$1,225,000	48
Siesta Isles	Fort Myers Beach	1984	2,584	\$1,295,000	\$1,200,000	48
Town And River	Fort Myers	1975	3,044	\$1,275,000	\$1,100,000	231
Edgewater	Fort Myers	2001	3,229	\$1,200,000	\$1,205,000	2
Marina Isle	Bonita Springs	2000	3,540	\$1,199,000	\$1,199,000	100
Old Pelican Bay	Fort Myers Beach	2002	3,119	\$999,900	\$950,000	211
Alva	Alva	2005	3,554	\$995,000	\$950,000	86
Bonita Lakes	Bonita Springs	2012	3,128	\$879,000	\$850,000	33

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