

Happy
New Year!

THE RIVER WEEKLY NEWS



Vol. 18, No. 52

From the Beaches to the River District downtown Fort Myers

DECEMBER 27, 2019

A Journey Of Artistic Expression During Art Walk

The Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center kicks off 2020 with two new art exhibitions, beginning with an opening reception during Art Walk on Friday, January 3 from 6 to 10 p.m.

The Grand Atrium will feature visual artist Frank Henriquez, a native of Cuba, with a solo exhibition titled Archangels. The Capital Gallery will showcase the mixed media works of Ehren Fritz Gerhard with his show titled Heat Stroke.

Many artists have been influenced by street art methods and techniques, and are utilizing less conventional mediums for their creations. Henriquez takes the viewer for a stroll down an alley where urban expressionism and traditional painting meet. His use of unconventional painting materials, such as stencil cutouts with spray paint on recycled materials like glass, windows, doors and plywood, is an ode to urban street art.

Henriquez immigrated to the United States from Cuba at age 20, where he embarked on a journey of artistic



Artwork by Ehren Fritz Gerhard

Images provided

expression and self-discovery. He was fascinated by the visual arts from an early age, and it was in Cuba where he began his formal training. After moving to the United States, he discovered that his interests would serve him well in the tattoo industry, and he began training

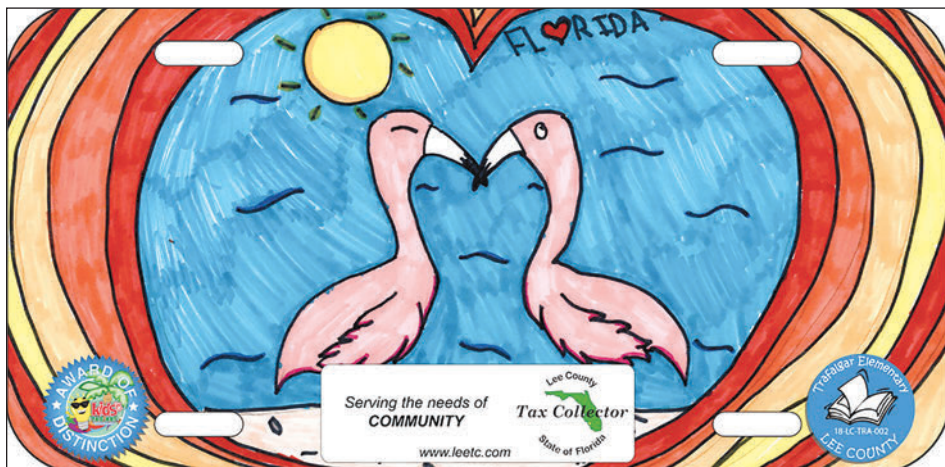


Artwork by Ehren Fritz Gerhard

as a tattoo artist, where he utilized his artistic skills to create permanent works of art on his clients. Simultaneously, he continued on page 23



Artwork by Frank Henriquez



Art by Alison of Trafalgar Elementary

Images provided

Tax Collector's Office Honors Art Students

Embracing and celebrating creativity is the backdrop of the Lee County Tax Collector's Kids Tag Art program, which is recognizing 104 fifth grade students in the School District of Lee County for their imaginative designs that will appear on specialty license plates.

The program, now in its fifth year, is a partnership between the tax collector's office and the Foundation for Lee

County Public Schools. The program encouraged the fifth grade students to create artwork based on the theme Fun in the Sun. Approximately 3,900 designs were submitted, judged and the top two from the 52 participating Lee County elementary schools are recognized with an Award of Distinction. Their winning designs can be displayed on front end plates and will soon be available for public purchase at www.leetc.com with 100 percent of proceeds going to each of the schools.

In the meantime, the public can get their hands on this collection of art as past Award of Distinction designs are available for purchase at each of the Lee



Art by Jordan of J. Colin English Elementary

County Tax Collector's offices in Cape Coral, Fort Myers, South Fort Myers, Bonita Springs and Lehigh Acres. Cost is \$20 and payable by check made out to The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, Inc.

"It's heartwarming to see how Kids Tag Art inspires so many young minds in our community," Lee County Tax Collector Larry Hart said. "The program shows students how they can apply their art in commerce, as witnessed by all the plate designs we have for sale. This is a program that recognizes the importance of arts in our schools."

Hart also will honor a student designer with the Tax Collector Choice

Award in a surprise ceremony at the student designer's school. He will display the plate on the front of his truck for the year.

The tax collector's office also sells sponsorships for the program, raising even more money that goes to help elementary school teachers pay for art supplies. Last year's program raised \$34,400 to support arts in the schools.

Sponsorships are available by calling the Lee County Tax Collector's Communications Department at 533-6060. Call Beverly Burke of The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools Inc. at 337-0433 for program information.✧

Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

Students Celebrate The New Year, 1925



by Gerri Reaves, PhD

In 1984, two members of the Fort Myers High School (FMHS) class of 1925, Dorothy McLaughlin and Doris Des Rochers, sat down to remember the faces shown in this photo. The occasion is a New Year’s party in 1925, and their musings, recorded in a letter to someone named Orville, give us some insight into that night so long ago. Most of the young people pictured are members of their class, with a few from the class of 1926. Others in the photo are the party hosts and faculty members. The party’s location is at the home of Isaac E “IE” and Lena Foxworthy, which was located on the west side of Lee Street, behind the Franklin Arms Hotel and roughly where the CenturyLink building is now. The couple’s son, Lynn, appears in the photo.

This party was one of many local celebrations when partygoers donned dressy outfits, inventive costume accessories or hats, and rang in that boom-time year. The photo was apparently taken outside since Chinese paper lanterns hang in the background. Seated in the front row, from left, are James E Hendry, Jr.; Mary Francis Jenkins (Hough); James Parker; Lynn Evans Foxworthy; John Woolslair; Nelson Morrison Hough; and Victor Moore Kelly. Seated in the second row are Katherine Row Moore, faculty and sponsor of the FMHS Nature Club; Sadie Le Shirley, faculty; Mrs. JL Orr and JL Orr, city superintendent of schools, football coach, and faculty; Ethel Katherine Pepper (Perry) on Orr’s lap; Sara Evans Muriel, English faculty; C. Jefferson Williams, math faculty; William “Billy” Raymond Parsons; Joanna Loeb; Harold Theron Raymond; and Mary Ellen Cooper. Standing in the third row are Dorothy McLaughlin; Oudia Lee Wingate (Payne); Alice Ridlon Hunt; unknown, with face partially visible; Eleanor Hill (Riddle); LaVerne Barkley Evans; Chester Sykes; Doris Des Rochers; Flora Lee Furen (Carmichael); Eulla Mildred Botts; and Agnes Mildred Williams. Standing in the fourth/back row are: Mr. And Mrs. IE Foxworthy, hosts; Julia Darby Barron (Turner); Alton Langford; Bertram Carlyle King; Robert Huston Brinkerhoff, editor-in-chief of the Caloosahatchian yearbook staff; Margaret Shirley Johnson (Allen); Boyd Rescoe Parker, 1925 class president; and James Dan Beall. McLaughlin and Des Rochers’ reflections six decades after the party also say something about the inevitable changes that come with time.

Particularly poignant is the word “deceased” they wrote by the names of several former classmates. McLaughlin recalled that English teacher Sara Muriel attended the class’s 50- year reunion. It was the only reunion the class ever had, she wrote, for they “were so scattered.” She also noted that Mildred Williams is “a minister in the Unity Church,” and Bertram King is in a nursing home called Windy Palms. One disappoint for McLaughlin and Des Rochers was failing to identify the girl standing between Alice Hunt and Eleanor Hill. Searches through yearbooks had yielded no answer, but they were going to look again, she wrote to Orville. We can only wonder if she was ever identified. Widowed Lena Foxworthy lived in the house on Lee Street until she died in 1965. It was converted into apartments for several years before the site was acquired by United Telephone. Walk down Lee Street and imagine arriving for a New Year’s party at the Foxworthy’s large wood-frame home with a big front porch. Then visit the following research centers to learn more about how Fort Myers rang in



Members of the Fort Myers High School class of 1925 and 1926 gather to ring in the new year of 1925. Also in the photo are high school faculty and IE and Lena Foxworthy, who hosted the party at their Lee Street home. photo courtesy SWFL Historical Society

1925. 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.leeountyblackhistorysociety.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*.✽

LeeTran To Begin Seasonal Changes Soon

LeeTran’s increased seasonal trolley service on Fort Myers Beach will begin Sunday, January 5, and the popular LeeTram returns the same day with extended hours and improved frequency. The Beach services include: Starting January 5, the Route 400 trolley is an active beach route year-round

but will have increased seasonal service running from about 5 a.m. to 10:30 p.m. It will depart from LeeTran’s Beach Park & Ride located at 11101 Summerlin Square Drive. The Beach Park & Ride provides free parking with more than 125 available spaces for people to take the trolley to the beach. Passengers can also connect to LeeTran’s Routes 50 or 130 from the Beach Park & Ride. The tram route will operate extended hours with three vehicles, which is one more than last year. Similar to last year, LeeTram will run from Bowditch Point continued on page 16

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THE RIVER
WEEKLY NEWS
FROM THE BEACHES TO DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS

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BEYOND EXPECTATIONS



Randy Kramer and Theresa Quinn

photo provided

Musical Cabaret Act Comes To Lab Theater

The immensely popular cabaret act A Guy, A Girl, A Piano will be back at The Laboratory Theater of Florida for a limited engagement from Friday through Sunday, January 3 to 5. A Guy, A Girl, A Piano is an unforgettable musical experience. Theresa Quinn and Randy Kramer will delight audiences with their

four-hands-one-piano cabaret. Guests will enjoy virtuosic piano arrangements, vocal solos and duets, featuring the music of Gershwin, Sondheim, the Beatles, Beethoven, Joplin, Bernstein, Fats Waller, and others. Kramer is the founder and artistic/executive director of MusicalFare Theatre and an eight-time Artvoice Theatre Award winner for best director of a musical. Quinn has degrees in piano, voice and law, and has been inducted into the Buffalo Music Hall of Fame. She is a musician and creator of various cabaret

Wishing you a joyous and peaceful season, with health, love and happiness for the New Year

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performances at the Premier Cabaret at MusicalFare. In her spare time, she is the music director at Lafayette Presbyterian Church and runs the Theresa Quinn Piano and Voice Studio.

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

Festival To Be Accessible For Visually Impaired

The 35th Annual Cape Coral Arts & Music Festival, hosted by the Rotary Club of Cape Coral, will be celebrating a first this year as the festival will be accessible to the visually impaired. “As far we can tell, this is the first major art festival in the nation that will also cater to the visually impaired,” said John Jacobsen, founder and chair of the festival. The festival will be held on Saturday, January 11 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday, January 12 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will take place on Cape Coral Parkway in South Cape Coral between Del Prado Boulevard and SE 10th Place, and north to SE 47th Terrace. Admission and parking are free for festival attendees. Volunteers are needed, and sponsorship opportunities are still available.

“This is a first for the festival, and we hope that this opportunity for the visually impaired to enjoy art and interact with the creators of that art will be very popular,” said Jacobsen, “We should have more than 150 exhibitors whose work can be enjoyed by the blind and visually impaired.” For Jacobsen, a desire to involve the visually impaired and enable them to enjoy the event started many years ago. “I had the honor 30 years ago to lend a wood carving of mine to the state for an exhibit that traveled the state for a special show for the visually impaired. It left a lasting impression on me.” During the festival, every exhibitor whose work can be experienced by touch will be encouraged to display a small banner that their work is accessible to the visually impaired. In addition, the festival proudly presents Jim Morgan, the Blind Clockmaker, who was rendered totally blind when he was struck by a car while riding a bicycle on Fort Myers Beach. Morgan has had to adapt to a sightless world, learning new ways to complete everyday tasks. As part of his recovery, he began designing clocks in his mind



Jim Morgan with his finished clock

photo provided

and taught himself how to build them all by touch. His wife, Cathy, only helps by telling him which side of a piece of wood has a more beautiful finish. Morgan cuts each piece and assembles all of the parts himself. “Two things I often say about my clocks: they are all one-of-a-kind because I cannot copy, and the one who built it will never see it,” says Morgan. This will be the first time Morgan has exhibited his work. Morgan’s work can be previewed at www.theblindclockmaker.com. “Watching him using power tools like a table saw, router, band saw and a lathe completely by touch is amazing. It will instill you with a spirit of if I can do this, I can aspire to do anything, whatever my challenges might be,” said Rotarian Bill Harris. The Rotary Club supports the locally visually impaired with the annual Lighthouse Boating Picnic that benefits Lighthouse of SWFL Inc. When the club heard Morgan’s story about his courage and can-do attitude, he was invited to showcase his talent at the 35th annual Cape Coral Arts & Music Festival. For more information or to participate, call Jim Perry at 699-7942 or visit www.capecoralfestival.com.*

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Fort Myers Art:

Homage To Slice Of Vanishing Americana



by Tom Hall

Players Circle Theatre at the Shell Factory will present A.R. Gurney's *The Dining Room* from Tuesday, January 7 through Sunday, February 2.

The play is set in the dining

room of a well-to-do household – the place where the family assembles for breakfast, for dinner and for sundry special occasions. But this dining room is anything but typical. That's because A.R. Gurney's living room "exists in a void" compliments of a minimalist set; a cast called upon to portray multiple characters in the tradition of *Baskerville: A Sherlock Holmes Mystery* and *Let Nothing You Dismay*; and a non-linear timeline where nothing matters that occurred before each of the play's 18 distinct vignettes, or which follows. In other words, *The Dining Room* is vintage Gurney.

The action is comprised of a mosaic of scenes -- some funny, others touching, many rueful. Taken together, they create an in-depth portrait of a vanishing species: the upper-middle-class white Anglo-Saxon Protestant or so-called WASP family. In this context, Gurney has the actors who are cast in this play change roles, personalities and ages with virtuoso skill as they rush to portray a wide variety of characters



A scene from *The Dining Room*

– from little boys to stern grandfathers, from giggling teenage girls to Irish housemaids.

Each vignette introduces a new set of people and events. A father lectures his son on grammar and politics. A boy returns from boarding school to discover his mother's infidelity. A senile grandmother doesn't recognize her own sons at Christmas dinner. A daughter, her marriage a shambles, pleads futilely to return home. A brother and sister divide a parent's possessions. Girls search for liquor and pot. A nephew does research for his college paper.

Dovetailing swiftly and smoothly, sometimes beginning before the prior one ends, the varied scenes depicted in *The Dining Room* ultimately coalesce into a theatrical experience of exceptional range, compassion, humor and abundant humanity.

photo courtesy www.artswfl.com

In sum, *The Dining Room* is a brilliantly conceived and richly humorous tour-de-force from the author of *Sylvia* and *Cocktail Hour* that provides strong opportunities for the Players Circle directors and cast to explicate a variety of timely themes ranging from adultery, vanishing customs and the treatment of domestic help to homosexuality, Alzheimer's, sex, drugs, women's education and family values.

The Players Circle Theatre performs at the Shell Factory, which is located at 16554 North Cleveland Avenue in North Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.playerscircle.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.✪

Bird Day, we are celebrating the day prior," said Sara Hallas, conservation educator. "We hope to draw attention to the growing challenges bird populations face today."

For more information, call 472-1100 ext. 236, or visit www.dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/events.✪

Run Through The Calusa Nature Center Benefit

The Fort Myers Metro-McGregor Kiwanis will hold the 12th annual Calusa BUG Chase 5K run at the Calusa Nature Center on Saturday, January 25. Packet pick-up will take place the day of race from 7 to 7:45 a.m. Race day registration begins at 7 a.m. and race time is 8 a.m.

The course, supervised by the Fort Myers Track Club, travels the trails at the nature center and a portion of the asphalt bike path on Ortiz Avenue. The race will be timed with Chrono Track Bib Tag Technology. The race will benefit the Fort Myers-Metro Kiwanis Club's BUG (Bring Up Grades) program and other local club-sponsored youth service projects.

Adult pre-registration up to January 5 is \$20, January 6 to 24 registration is \$25, and race day registration is \$35. Youth (age 17 and younger) discounted pre-registration is \$10, January 17 to 24 registration is \$15, and race day registration is \$25. Registration includes a long-sleeve commemorative T-shirt, complimentary race day admission to the Calusa Nature Center and refreshments. Overall and age group awards for the 5K run will be presented. Participants can register online at www.ftmyerstrackclub.com. Last year, there were more than 320 registered runners.

All proceeds benefit the Fort Myers Metro-McGregor Kiwanis BUG (Bring Up Grades) program, designed to provide recognition to local elementary students who raise their grades to an acceptable range and maintain or continue to raise them from one grading period to the next, and other local club-sponsored youth service projects. The Metro-McGregor Kiwanis currently has BUG programs at Littleton Elementary School, Orangewood Elementary School and Rayma C. Page Elementary School.

Race sponsors include Five County Insurance, Weinstein Wilkes Financial Group, Burandt, Adamski, Feichthaler & Sanchez, PLLC, Lake Michigan Credit Union, Mills-Price & Associates, Inc., United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades, and Okeechobee, and Welker Harris & Co. CPA. Calusa Nature Center has committed to an in-kind sponsorship. Sponsorship opportunities are now available starting at the \$100 level.

The Calusa Nature Center is located at 3450 Ortiz Avenue in Fort Myers. For more information regarding the 12th annual Calusa BUG Chase or to become a sponsor, contact Chrysten Foley at cfoley1@nova.edu. Visit the Facebook event page at www.bit.ly/36KNaxk to keep updated on the event.✪

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Free Programs At Refuge On National Bird Day

Take a free guided birding bike ride, watch a free film, and take advantage of free bird crafts and Refuge Nature Store specials at JN "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Thursday, January 2, in honor of National Bird Day.

The two-hour, four-mile birding bike tour departs from the flagpole in front of the Refuge Visitor & Education Center at 9 a.m. that day to take in Wildlife Drive and Indigo Trail. Bring your own bike. The first 20 people to show up for the tour receive a 10 percent discount coupon for the Refuge Nature Store.

From noon to 1 p.m., the education team will be leading take-home bird crafts in the center. A showing of the 52-minute film *Dancing with the Birds* follows from 1:15 to 2:15 p.m. in the Visitor & Education Center auditorium.

"Since Wildlife Drive is closed on Friday, which is the official National



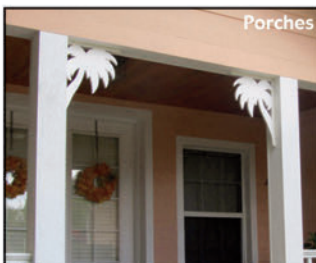
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Deaf Culture In Comedy Performance

Bad interpreters, name signs (nicknames in American Sign Language) and the challenges and triumphs of deaf culture will be the subject of a comedy performance by Selena Minogue and Casavina, two drag queens who make up the deaf duo Deafies in Drag, at the Collaboratory on Saturday, January 11 from 6 to 9 p.m.

In addition to nearly a quarter of a million social media followers, the duo takes their acclaimed comedy sketch show around the world to address deaf struggles, language barriers and deaf life. By poking fun at their deaf experiences, they hope their comedy results in educating others and a positive, inclusive impact for the deaf community. All parts of the show will be professionally interpreted for both deaf and hearing patrons to be sure that every individual is successfully accommodated.

Proceeds from the event benefit Sally J. Pimentel Deaf & Hard of Hearing Center, which provides a wide range of services to the deaf and hard of hearing community, including education, advocacy and community involvement in Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Hendry, Glades and DeSoto counties.

Portraits of deaf, hard of hearing, children of deaf adults and sign



From left, Harper Miller, Ava Toncray, Emma Toncray and Amelia Deese — photos provided

language interpreters making signs that describe their experiences with deaf life will also be on display. The photography was donated by Fort Myers photographer Brian Tietz.

"With this event, we hope to continue building financial support for our mission to improve the quality of life in Southwest Florida for deaf and hard of hearing citizens," said Alicia Miller, executive director of the Sally J. Pimentel Deaf and Hard of Hearing Center. "In addition, this event

supports our ongoing efforts to create community awareness of challenges faced by the deaf and hard of hearing in a way that is fun and engaging."

The event with limited seating, drag queen bingo, a VIP meet-and-greet, and a photo booth is expected to sell out. The Collaboratory is located at 2031 Jackson Street in Fort Myers. An after party will be sponsored and hosted at Millennial Brewing Company after the show from 9 to 11 p.m.

All tickets include beer from



Deafies in Drag, Selena Minogue and Casavina

Millennial Brewing, wine, and food from Glory Days Grill. Tickets are \$50 for the show, \$60 for the show and bingo, and VIP tickets are \$70 and include an exclusive meet-and-greet and photo opportunity with Selena and Casavina. To purchase tickets, visit www.eventbrite.com. For information on sponsorships, call 461-0334 voice phone, 247-5821 video phone, or visit www.dhhc.life.

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6035 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931



Along The River

Gulfshore Opera will present *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, on tour in Charlotte, Lee and Collier counties from Friday to Sunday, December 27 to 29. The shows will be held at **St. Leo Parish Life Center** in Bonita Springs on Friday, December 27 at 7 p.m.; at **Salvation Army Chapel** in downtown Naples on Saturday, December 28 at 7 p.m.; and at **Congregational UCC** in Punta Gorda on Sunday, December 29 at 4 p.m.

The heart-warming, family-friendly performances will include donations to area homeless shelters.

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 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



A previous ball drop during a New Years Eve celebration in downtown Fort Myers

photo courtesy facebook.com/riverdistrictalliance

in *La Traviata* and will be joining Gulfshore Opera as a professional artist in residence for season six. 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.

New Year's Eve will be celebrated at many locations throughout **Southwest Florida**.

The NYE Downtown Countdown will be held in the River District on Tuesday, December 31 from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. There will be four stages with live bands and disc jockeys. DJ Ambiguous and DJ Juice will be playing music on the Bay and Hendry Street stage. This is also the stage that the fireworks will be displayed.

Come party while counting down to 2020. Downtown streets will be lined with food trucks and fun activities. The ball drop will be on Bay and Hendry at midnight. This event is free to the public.

For more information, visit www.fortmyersriverdistrictalliance.com or facebook.com/riverdistrictalliance.

The South Cape NYE Ball Drop will be held at SE 47th Terrace, between SE 9th Place and SE 11th Place from 7 p.m. to 1 a.m. This free event features live music on the big city stage, kids area, vendor village, food trucks, drink tents and a massive beach ball drop at midnight. For more information, visit facebook.com/southcapehospitalityandentertainmentassociations.

On Sanibel, check out Sundial's New Year's Eve Shellebration Bash on Turtle's Beach and the Main Pool Deck from 6:30 p.m. through midnight.

The family-friendly night under the stars is complete with entertainment and buffet stations. Purchase an inclusive ticket for food, soft drink selections, entertainment and activities. Bar service and a frozen drink station will be available at an additional cost.

Entertainment and activities include a pie-eating contest, fire dancer show, stilt walker and balloon artist, steel drums, disc jockey, karaoke, crafts and many games.

Visit <http://sundial.bpt.me> for more information and tickets.✧

Children's Audition Videos Needed For Play

Broadway Palm is accepting children's audition videos for the upcoming production of *Kinky Boots*. Rehearsals will be held Monday, February 10 through Wednesday, February 12. The play will be performed February 13 through April 4.

Casting will be held for the roles of:

1. Young Charlie – a 7- to 10-year-old boy who is lost, quiet and reflective. Must be under 5 feet tall. Ethnicity: White with a European descent.

2. Young Lola – a 7- to 12-year-old boy who already knows he is destined to wear high heels. Must be under 5 feet tall. Ethnicity: Black with African descent.

Anyone interested in auditioning should record a vocal/reading audition for the role they are submitting for and include a current headshot/picture and resume. The audition materials are available at www.broadwaypalm.com/backstage/auditions and at the box office.

All submissions need to be emailed to Brian Enzman at brian@broadwaypalm.com by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, January 1.

Broadway Palm is a professional theatre, and productions require a rehearsal process. Performances are Tuesday through Sunday evenings with selected matinees. The role will be double cast, and children will alternate performances. Anyone interested must

be available for the rehearsal period and all alternated, assigned performances. Compensation will be provided in four dinner and show tickets to Kinky Boots.

Broadway Palm is located at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers. For more information and performance schedules, visit www.broadwaypalm.com or call 278-4422.✧

Elementary School Grant

The School District of Lee County recently announced that Three Oaks Elementary School won one of 10 Burlington Stores' Adopt My School Sweepstakes Grants through the national retailer's partnership with www.adoptaclassroom.org. Teacher Kristen Turner's nomination was one of the more than 10,000 submitted, and one of just 10 chosen. The grant is worth \$10,000.

"We are thrilled to receive this amazing amount of money to support our classrooms – both for the students and our teachers," says Principal Jody Moorhead. "We thank Mrs. Kristen Turner, our amazing fourth grade teacher, for taking the time to apply for this grant opportunity. We know that there are thousands of applicants from across the country and, because of this, we are even more grateful to be awarded this monetary gift."

Representatives from Burlington presented the check to Principal Moorhead during a schoolwide assembly on December 17. Each teacher will get

a portion of the \$10,000 grant to shop for classroom supplies through www.adoptaclassroom.org.✧

Calusa Blueway Speaker Series

Circumnavigating Florida with the Grandchildren – the second talk in a series of free Calusa Blueway-related programs – will be held at Wa-Ke Hatchee Recreation Center on Tuesday, January 7 at 6:30 p.m.

Lynette Brown and her grandchildren paddled around Florida on the 1,515-mile Florida Circumnavigational Saltwater Paddling Trail. They will share photos and stories about their adventures.

"In an age where many children are fixated on their phones and video games, it will be awesome to hear about this family's epic adventures out on the water," Calusa Blueway Coordinator Mike Hammond said. "I'm also looking forward to tips on taking my own children out for longer paddles."

The remaining Calusa Blueway Speaker Series schedule is as follows:

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

March 3: Victoria Burgess – Cuba to Key West on a Standup Paddleboard

All programs will begin at 6:30 p.m. at Wa-Ke Hatchee Recreation Center, located at 16760 Bass Road in Fort Myers.

For more information and directions to the program, call 432-2154. Trail information is at www.calusablueway.com or www.leeparks.org/blueway.✧

STEM WARS To Be Held At IMAG Center

The IMAG History & Science Center is hosting a Star-Wars themed evening of exploration, activities, dining and fun titled STEM WARS: The F=m(a) Awakens Family Fun Night on Saturday, January 11 from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Join the IMAG Intergalactic Training Team for a family-friendly evening of dining at Mos Eisley Cantina, assisting the Mandalorian with finding the Child, building light sabers and training on Endor with Darth Vader and Obi-Wan Kenobi. During the evening, you, your family and friends will be able to shop and barter on Jakku with Rey and Finn; build and race droids on Tatooine with Luke Skywalker, C-3PO, R2-D2 and BB-8; and learn how to use the Force with Yoda and Darth Maul on Dagobah.

In addition, participants will be offered pilot training in flight simulators at the Star Wars Launch Bay with Han Solo, Chewbacca and Poe Dameron; explore the planets and moons of the Star Wars' universe with Princess Leia; and learn how to use Nitrogen Carbonite with the Resident Jedi Master.

Cost for IMAG members is \$30 and non-members is \$40.

The IMAG is located at 2000 Cranford Avenue in Fort Myers. For more information and to register, visit www.theimag.org or call 243-0043.✧



The group poses with 4,009 Christmas cards to be sent overseas

photo provided

Remember Our Veterans This New Year

submitted by Robin Perkins Matthews, Veteran and High School Teacher

After the first year that I moved to Fort Myers, I heard about a campaign of sending Christmas cards overseas to the U.S. troops. In 2017, I started my own small campaign and, with the help of my local veterans club and the school that I worked in, we sent 750 cards over. The next year, we sent 3,070 cards overseas.

When talking to veterans who received past cards while they were overseas, they spoke about the love that they felt when receiving these cards. I realized that the "campaign" was more than just cards. When you are away from loved ones during important times, there is a special loneliness that is hard to fill.

Because these cards just aren't cards but a ray of love and support, I asked students to sign Thank You cards to local veterans this year before November 11. Then, during the Veterans Day celebrations, we gave them to veterans

who came to our celebration at the Veterans Club of America, Post #1 on San Carlos Boulevard. Who would have thought that a simple card could "create a tear in several a man."

I then added to my Christmas campaign! I continued my partnership with the VCA Post #1, and the City of Palms Charter High School Inc. (three local high schools in this area), and joined forces with Great Clips and Jamaica Bay Resort. This year, we sent 4,009 cards overseas. But we did not stop there. I knew that there were veterans locally that may be neglected. So we sent over 50 cards to local nursing homes and assisted living facilities, and another bunch to the VA (U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs).

In the midst of a busy season, many are actually left behind because of all the craziness that a major holiday brings. But what would our Christmas be like if we did not have our freedom that our veterans fought so hard to keep. Many with the loss of lives, more with blood, and more with continuing disabilities and hardships. The true gift of my holiday is to make someone know that they are a true hero to our country. My students, my friends and myself say, "Thank You and have a Merry Christmas" wherever the veteran may be.*

Christmas For Nearly 4,000 Local Children

The Salvation Army provided Christmas gifts and food bags to nearly 4,000 Lee County children and their families. Dedicated Salvation Army staff and volunteers worked tirelessly for weeks preparing the space in a warehouse, setting up shelves, mapping out logistics and sorting and bagging toys and food. Nearly 4,000 children will receive gifts that their parents can place under the tree come Christmas morning.

"It's part of our mission as The Salvation Army to meet human needs without discrimination," said Major Carlyle Gargis, area commander for The Salvation Army in Lee, Hendry, and

Glades counties. "Through this program, we're able to meet the needs of children and their families because of partnerships with generous donors throughout the community."

It takes the whole community to make this event possible. Gifts were provided by Angel Tree sponsors comprised of individuals, community groups, organizations and the Toys for Tots program. Food bag contents were gathered through the annual Lee County Schools Canned Food Drive where more than 40 Lee County schools collected nearly 63,000 food items to help families during Christmas and throughout the year.

"In this season of giving and as we celebrate the true meaning of Christmas, which is Christ," said Major Gargis, "it brings joy to our hearts to give back to our community.*"

Art Teacher Selected As Lee County's Best

The School District of Lee County recently announced that Mariner High School Art Teacher Samantha Hower is the district's 2019 Teacher of the Year. Hower will now be nominated for Florida Teacher of the Year. The Florida Department of Education will announce the winner in the spring.



Samantha Hower

Hower was surprised by Superintendent Dr. Greg Adkins, district administrators, board members, Mariner High School Principal Dr. Thomas Michel and school staff at on December 18.

Hower is improving student success through art. When she started as the visual arts teacher at Mariner High, she opened her advanced placement classes to all students and, for the last two years, has had the highest AP 2D Studio Art scores in the district. "According to my students," Hower said, "most of them come in not considering themselves high achieving

learners, let alone artists, and all of them can leave feeling proud of their growth."

Thanks to Hower's leadership, the STEM Academy at Mariner is now the STEAM Academy. She added an art curriculum to the science, technology, engineering and math already being taught. Students in the new academy are just finishing their first semester. "Our projected impact for students will be to increase college and career readiness," Hower said, "with skills and experiences above and beyond their peers." Hower also started the school's first National Art Honor Society and supports nearby elementary and middle school art programs.

Hower's impact isn't felt just in the classroom. She is a leader on campus, serving as department chair, TALC representative and PLC facilitator. At the district level, Hower is part of the Teacher Evaluation Committee and Career Ladder Committee. "She is excellent in these positions that require precise planning, strong public speaking skills and poise," says Mariner High School Assistant Principal Angel McNeely. "She involves herself in this capacity to meet parents and community partners, engage with students on a deeper level beyond the school day, and foster a love for the arts in the community." For Hower, she says it's about giving students a unified and collaborative effort with their best interests in mind.*

Community Thrift Store

End Of The Year Sale!

Ready for huge end-of-the-year savings on a wide selection of quality, slightly-used items from furniture and appliances to boutique clothing and household goods?

Stop by Community Thrift Store during its progressive storewide sale, which will feature increasing discounts on each subsequent day of the sale beginning with 50% off all merchandise on Thursday, December 26.

50% OFF

DEC. 26

60% OFF

DEC. 27

Huge Savings

65% OFF

DEC. 28

75% OFF

DEC. 31

Donations Accepted • (239) 225-6529

15501 Old McGregor Blvd., Suite 2

Fort Myers, FL 33908

Tuesday Through Saturday 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Location:

Next to Planet Fitness in Miner's Plaza, at the corner of McGregor Blvd. and Gladiolus.

Kids’ Garden Adventure Event Offered At Estates

Children and parents are invited to Edison and Ford Winter Estates for the Kids’ Garden Adventure – a new one-of-a-kind free family event – on Saturday, January 11 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is sponsored by Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association.

Children can win prizes in the garden scavenger hunt, create botanical art, explore kid-friendly garden vendors, climb the historic banyan tree (additional cost), jump into green science activities, stretch their imagination with wellness activities, and learn about bees and other local animals.

The banyan climbing experience is for children ages six and up and is designed to help kids learn about themselves, others and the environment. Training and safety equipment will be provided. Advanced registration is required; cost is \$35 per child for Edison Ford members and \$45 for non-members.

For adults, there will be a Garden Talk on How to Attract Pollinators at 10 a.m. (additional cost), and pollinator plants will be available for purchase in the Garden Shoppe. Food and beverages will also be available for purchase. The Garden Talk is \$10 for Edison Ford members and \$15 for non-members. Garden Talk



Children admire the historic banyan tree at Edison and Ford Winter Estates

photo provided

participants will receive a 20 percent off coupon toward plants purchased in the Garden Shoppe.

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

Judges Chosen For Culinary Showdown

The Culinary & Hospitality Education Foundation of Southwest Florida (CHEF) annual signature scholarship fundraising event will be held at Grey Oaks Country Club on Monday, January 6. Proceeds will benefit Collier and Lee County students who are pursuing degrees and careers in the culinary arts and hospitality industries.

The Culinary CHEF Showdown pits CHEF’s 2020 honoree – Chef Asif Syed of 21 Spices by Chef Asif – challenging Aielli Restaurant Group Corporate Chef Jason Goddard to create a delicious appetizer from mystery basket ingredients in 30 minutes. The mystery baskets are being curated by Chef Wilhelm Gahabka of Naples Lakes Country Club. Crave Culinaire/Venue Naples co-owner Chef Brian Roland is the event emcee and serves on the CHEF board of directors.

Culinary CHEF Showdown judges include:

Chef Melissa Donohue, chef/owner of award-winning Sweet Melissa’s Café on Sanibel Island. Chef Donahue is Southwest Florida’s first chef to be recognized as a Best Chef – South finalist for the esteemed James Beard Awards in 2019;

Beirne Brown, a professional in the culinary and hospitality industries for over 40 years. Currently serves as adjunct

instructor at FGCU’s School of Resort & Hospitality Management, and lead wine education instructor;

Guy Clark and Rafael Feliciano, co-founders of the Food Idea Group and Sizzle Restaurant Weeks in Collier and Lee counties.

Reserved seating is \$225 for guests attending the Culinary CHEF Showdown, three-course dinner paired with wine by Grey Oaks Executive Chef Chris and Sommelier Victor Valdivia, and live auction, with arrival at 6:30 p.m.

For an all-inclusive ticket, arrive at 5 p.m. for an exclusive VIP Wine Tasting hosted by Bleu Provence Restaurant’s co-owner and sommelier Jacques Cariot, followed by the dinner and live auction called by Scott Robertson Auctioneers. The all-inclusive ticket price is \$700 per guest.

Live auction lots include epicurean adventures in Napa, Tuscany, Portugal, Fort Myers River District and Tampa. Additional lots include wine and dining-around-town packages from Crave Culinaire with catered dinner, wine and professional photography for eight; resort stay for two and private dinner for 10 at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort & Spa; game dinner paired with wine for eight by private Chef Ruth Manchester, brunch with Prosecco for eight at Sails; and cooking class and Champagne lunch for 10 at Sea Salt.

Grey Oaks Country Club is located at 2400 Grey Oaks Drive North in Naples. For more information, tickets or to view the French wines featured in the VIP tasting, visit www.chefswfl.org.✧

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.tjswfl.org, 14486 A&W Bulb Road, 433-0201.

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

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

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

UNITY OF FORT MYERS
Sunday 10 a.m., www.unityoffortmyers.org, 11120 Ranchette Road, 278-1511.

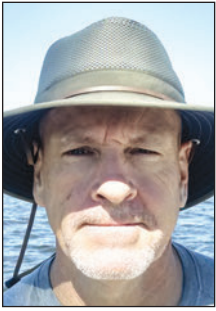
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Sunday 9:30 and 10:45 a.m., 9065 Ligon Court, 481-2125.

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

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

CROW Case Of The Week:

Gopher Tortoise



by Bob Petcher

The gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) is a medium-sized terrestrial turtle that is listed as "threatened" at the state level. It is one of five North American tortoise

species, with the gopher tortoise taking up residence in areas from southeastern Louisiana to South Carolina down through Florida.

Gopher tortoises can be identified by their stumpy, elephant-like hind legs and their strong, scaly forelimbs that work like shovels when it comes to digging burrows. They are different from sea turtles in many ways. One important feature of a sea turtle is that it has flippers for feet to help navigate in water. Gopher tortoises do not swim well, so do not mistakenly place them in the gulf.

At CROW, an adult gopher tortoise was admitted to the hospital after being backed over in a driveway in Bonita Springs. Upon intake, the tortoise was alert, but dehydrated. The tortoise suffered a fractured shell above its right rear leg. The tortoise was provided pain medication, and veterinarians cleaned and bandaged the area. The bandage has been replaced with a new one daily since intake.

"We start by cleaning the wound with sterile saline, and then apply a moist

covering such as medical-grade honey, naturally anti-microbial, or a sterile gel. We reduce the shell fracture as much as possible, then use a non-adherent dressing, Telfa, to cover the open spaces before using a strong tape, Elasticon, to hold it all together," said Dr. Mariah Lancaster, CROW veterinary intern. "There was one large piece of shell that fractured, but was still connected to the tortoise' tissues. We also discovered on radiographs that we suspect the tortoise to have a pelvic fracture."

Surgery was performed on December 20 to place fixation for the fractured pieces to be held together as they continue to heal. Dr. Lancaster shared details.

"First, we glued brackets onto the shell on either side of the fracture and allowed the glue 24 hours to set firmly. After 24 hours, we placed the tortoise under general anesthesia, with one person in charge of monitoring his heart rate and breathing for him throughout the procedure. A Dremel was used to remove sharp fragments of fractured bone in order to be able to fit the broken shell piece back into a normal position. The wound was cleaned again, and healthy blood flow was stimulated to encourage new growth and healing. The shell was put back together, and wire was used to tie the brackets together – securing the fractured shell into place. Finally, honey was applied to the fracture lines and any small open places, and a new bandage was placed," she said.

"A feeding tube was placed, so we can easily provide nutrition and medication throughout the coming weeks. The surgery took about two hours overall followed by an hour of recovery from anesthesia. The surgery went very well. The prognosis



Patient #19-5127 relaxes after surgery

photo by Brian Bohman

is still of concern, as we need to make sure the pelvic fracture heals well and the tortoise can use its back legs well enough for release."

The patient will continue to stay at the clinic and receive rehabilitation until a probable release.

"The tortoise needs frequent bandage changes as its shell heals, until normal tissue begins to take over for the external repairs, and will need slow reintroduction of physical activity to its hind legs. The feeding tube will be removed once the tortoise is eating well on its own and no longer needs his pain medication," said Dr. Lancaster. "If the fracture site is stable in four to six weeks, we will start a staged

process to remove the hardware in which we take one or two pieces off every five to seven days until all of the pieces are removed. This ensures the site is stable as each piece is removed.

"Once this tortoise's fractures have healed and it is moving around well on its own, it can be returned to the wild."

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.

IL TESORO RISTORANTE

FINE ITALIAN CUISINE

inspired by Island Fare in a bistro style

VOTED "BEST CHEF"
BEST OF THE ISLANDS AWARD

TASTE OF THE ISLANDS
IRON CHEF WINNER AJ BLACK

Celebrating Our 10 Year Anniversary

Extensive New Wine List
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Winter Weather Swings



by Capt. Matt Mitchell

What a difference a few days made.

Early this week, I was catching shiners and enjoying some of the

most wide open snook fishing I can remember in recent months. Then only two days later, after a major cold front, it was all about shrimp fishing and catching sheepshead. Though this is typical of our winter fishing pattern in south Florida this week, it just seemed more extreme than usual.

Since our last cold front more than a week ago, the water temperature has slowly crept back into that magical mid-70 degree range bringing snook fishing back to life.

After a major temperature drop, water in the bay plummeted to 65 degrees, shutting the snook bite down and giving us a major push of sheepshead. Clients finally got to enjoy some meat fishing for sheepshead with some big spawning models caught in and around the passes.

Shrimp and chunks of shrimp

fished on a jig head around docks and basically any structure close to the passes caught sheepshead up to 19 inches. Along with the sheepshead, we also caught lots of redfish anywhere from 16 to 26 inches.

I fished with long-time client Nick Basilio twice in just over a week, and he got to enjoy both great snook fishing and the best sheepshead fishing so far this winter.

Several times over the past week, we had an unusual catch of Cubera snapper. These fish, which look a lot like a mangrove snapper at first glance, have many more teeth and have slightly different markings that resemble faint stripes. I don't ever remember catching this species before. Other captains also reported catching a few of these Cubera snappers in the sound this week. After looking at the FWC regulations, I found out that the minimum size is 12 inches.

Major weather changes can occur almost daily at this time of year.

Knowing what species to target and where you can do it out of the wind will make all the difference of being successful. Don't let the weather intimidate you. There is always something out there waiting to be caught.

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.



Laura Basilio from Pennsylvania with a sheepshead caught while fishing with Capt. Matt Mitchell this week photo provided

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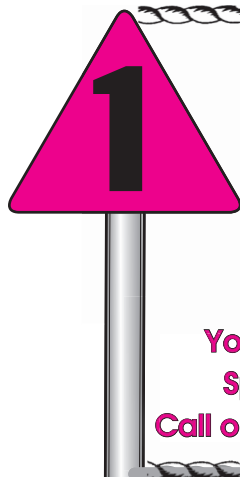
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Dave Doane



Green milkweed is a nectar and host plant for monarch and queen butterflies
photos by Gerri Reaves



Each flower in white twinevine's umbrels appears singly on a stalk



Yellowtop's dense umbrels are flat-topped



Red penta's rounded umbrels attract butterflies and hummingbirds

Plant Smart

Umbrellas For The Garden

by Gerri Reaves

The four native wildflowers pictured here – three natives and one Florida-friendly – have a lot in common.

Green milkweed, white twinevine, yellowtop and red pentas are all low maintenance butterfly and pollinator attractors, not to mention beautiful additions to a natural garden.

They also share a similar flower arrangement, the umbrel, a suitable term to describe a flower cluster that looks like a little umbrella.

General words such as cluster, spike, flowerhead, or inflorescence usually suffice when referring to a group of flowers.

But delve into those vague words, and you'll discover a host of more precise ones: raceme, umbrel, panicle, cyme, glomerule head and corymb, for example.

Even umbrels themselves vary: simple, rounded, compound (or multi-branched) and flat-topped, like yellowtop. Plants might have only one umbrel or as many as 10.

Flowers might bloom simultaneously

or they might start blooming at the top of a spike, as with a raceme, or open at the bottom first, as with a panicle.

Or, an umbrel's outer flowers might bloom first, as with a corymb.

What umbrels do have in common is that the flower stalks extend from a common point. Think of those supporting "stalks" that fan out and extend to the ribs when you open an umbrella.

Green milkweed's (*Asclepias viridis*) umbrel's resemble flowers within flowers. Also called green antelopehorn, it is one of many milkweed species native to Florida and is a larval host and nectar source for monarch and queen butterflies.

Each small five-petaled flower is white or greenish-yellow with purplish stamens.

In native white twinevine's (*Funastrum clausum*) umbrels, only one flower appears per stalk. The fragrant five-petaled flowers are finely haired with a purple circle at the center.

This vine, most often seen in the wild, is a host and nectar plant for the monarch, queen, as well as for soldier butterflies. It's an important nectar source for bees and wasps too.

Bright yellowtop's (*Flaveria linearis*) umbrels are flat-topped, with numerous tubular disk flowers that usually have only one ray flower around the flower disk. They attract wide many species of butterflies as well as bees and other

pollinators.

Red pentas (*Pentas lanceolata*) are one of the most popular non-native butterfly and hummingbird attractors. Each dense umbrel contains many long-tubed, five-petaled flowers with tiny nectar cups.

The next time you examine a cluster of flowers, check to see if it forms a little umbrella and explore the intricacies of umbrels.

Sources: *Complete Guide to Florida*

Wildflowers by Roger L. Hammer, *Everglades Wildflowers* by Roger L. Hammer, *Florida Wild Flowers and Roadside Plants* by C. Ritchie Bell and Bryan J. Taylor, *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants*, *Native Florida Plants* by Robert G. Haehle and Joan Brookwell, www.edis.ifas.ufl.edu, www.fnps.org, www.regionalconservation.org, and www.wildflower.org.

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

Morning Meander At Lakes Park

Take a nature walk with a bird patrol guide at Lakes Regional Park on Saturday, January 4 at 8 a.m.

This easy walk along clear paths offers an opportunity to see birds in native vegetation with experienced bird patrol guides pointing out the many species in Lakes Park, a Lee County birding hot spot and crucial nesting area for many birds. Wear comfortable shoes and dress

to be outside. Bring water, sunscreen and binoculars.

This tour, which is free with paid parking, is provided in cooperation with Lee County Parks and Recreation.

Meet at Shelter A7. After entering the Lakes Park gate from Gladiolus Drive, turn right and drive to the end of the road, continuing through the parking lot. Shelter A7 is located near the train station.

Lakes Regional Park is located at 7330 Gladiolus Drive in Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.birdpatrol.org or call 533-7580 or 533-7576.*

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CROW Staff Helps Publish Book

The Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) Medical and Research Director Dr. Heather Barron, DVM, DABVP (Avian), CertAqV, is an editor and author for the first textbook to cover North American wildlife rehabilitative medicine on a broad scale. The book was recently published and is now available for veterinarians who treat wildlife, rehabilitators, wildlife health officials, policy makers, wildlife biologists and students with an interest in wildlife health.

Medical Management of Wildlife Species: A Guide for Practitioners offers an all-encompassing resource for reliable information on the medical management of wild birds, mammals, amphibians and turtles. Focusing on the medical information relevant to the wildlife setting, it covers triage, emergency care, and other key considerations in handling, diagnosing and treating wild animals. The book's population-based approach encourages practitioners to understand individual animal care within the broader context.

As human populations expand, conflicts with wildlife species are inevitable and the number of wild animals presenting to wildlife centers and veterinary hospitals is increasing. Having a textbook helps to set a standard of care and provide a ready reference for those professionals working to help these animals return to the wild.

“At CROW, we work really hard to be on the cutting edge of wildlife health. As a teaching institution, it’s important



Front from left, Brian Bohlman, Missy Fox, Heather Barron and Yvette Carrasco. Back from left, Amy Kowalski, Katie Mueller and Morgan Hester. photo provided

to facilitate the sharing of knowledge and promote wildlife health in every way that we can," said Dr. Barron. "The book culminates several years of hard work by our current staff, former interns, colleagues, research collaborators and friends in the field, and we couldn't be more pleased to see it finally come to fruition."

Other editors of the textbook include: Sonia M. Hernandez, DVM, DACZM, PhD, professor of wildlife for the DB Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources and the Southeastern

Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, Department of Population Health, College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia; Erica A. Miller, DVM, CWR, adjunct associate professor of wildlife medicine for the Department of Clinic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine; Roberto F. Aguilar, DVM, Dip. ECZM (zoo health management), European recognized veterinary specialist in zoological medicine (zoo health management), veterinarian for Tucson Wildlife Center; and Michael J. Yabsley, MS, PhD, FRES, professor

of wildlife for the DB Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources and the Southeastern Cooperative Wildlife Disease Study, Department of Population Health, College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Georgia. The authors include premier wildlife veterinarians at major veterinary medical schools in the United States, wildlife hospitals and zoological institutions. The book is published by Wiley-Blackwell. ☆

Record-Breaking Month For Airport

During November, 876,703 passengers traveled through Southwest Florida International Airport in Fort Myers, an increase of 8.2 percent compared to November 2018. Year-to-date, passenger traffic is up 8.7 percent compared to last year.

The traffic leader in November was Southwest with 150,697 passengers traveling to and from Fort Myers. Rounding out the top five airlines were Delta Air Lines (143,832), American (116,238), United (108,331) and JetBlue (101,029).

The local international airport had 7,810 aircraft operations, an increase of 7.7 percent compared to November 2018. Page Field saw 11,685 operations, a 25.7 percent increase from November 2018.

Southwest Florida International Airport served nearly 9.4 million passengers in 2018. No ad valorem (property) taxes are used for airport operation or construction. For more information, visit www.flylcpa.com or www.facebook.com/flrsw ✪✪

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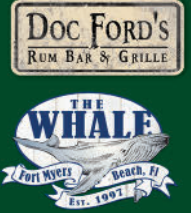
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A festive New Year's graphic. On the left, a black balloon and an orange balloon are tied together. In the center, the words "Happy New Year" are written in a large, elegant cursive font. To the right, a white taxi sign with a palm tree logo and the words "Island Taxi" in orange is visible. The background is decorated with yellow and orange confetti and a starburst pattern.



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Book Review

A Minute To Midnight



by Di Saggau

Atlee Pine, the hero of Baldacci's 2018 thriller *Long Road to Mercy*, is back in a page-turning thriller. *A Minute to Midnight* deals with Atlee's obsession with reopening the case

of her missing twin sister, Mercy, who was abducted and presumed killed, more than three decades earlier. Atlee, an FBI agent, has spent most of her life trying to find out exactly what happened that fateful night in Andersonville, Georgia.

She is consumed with anger and regret, which are symptoms of survivor's guilt. After leaving a Colorado maximum security prison where she talked to a notorious serial killer who she feels killed her sister, she is quickly involved in an abduction case and saves a young girl. This reminds her of her past, and she knows the only way to move forward with her career is to solve the mystery involving Mercy. When asked if she really wants to go that far into her past, she replies, "I don't think I have a choice if I want to have a future."

Atlee and her assistant Carol Blum, head for Andersonville, where a string of murders shock the small town. A young woman's body is found with a wedding veil

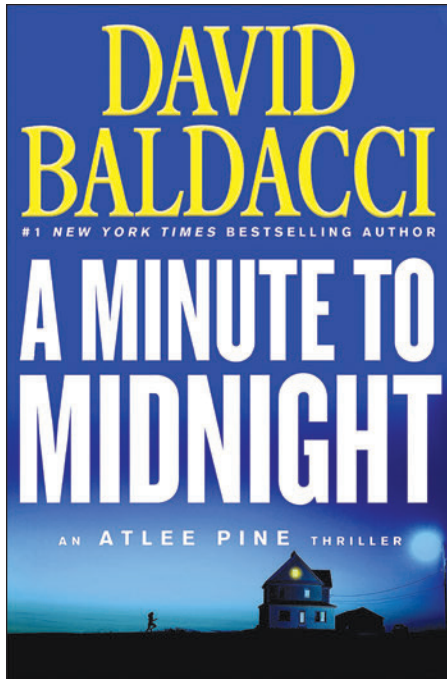


image provided

covering her face, and there is a second even more bizarre murder. She meets quite a few suspects, including a very wealthy man, who deals in high end technology, but doesn't own a cell phone, or use a credit card, or do Facebook. He feels Big Brother is getting fed terabytes of data every millisecond without paying a cent for it. I found him to be one of the most interesting characters.

As always, Baldacci does a super job in plotting the story, and he tells the reader just enough to keep us engaged and on the

edge of our seats. There are lots of twists in this book and his final surprise will leave you waiting for the next Atlee Pine novel. Without giving anything away, there will

School Smart



by Shelley M. Gregg, NCS

Dear Readers, Here is a suggestion for a holiday gift to your children – the use of supportive vocabulary and language. We all have a great deal

of stress in our lives for various reasons, and children may not understand or realize what their parents are feeling. Children may think that they have done something wrong since kids tend to pick up on their parents' tensions and thinking that one's parents are unhappy is unsettling for most kids. An easy way to comfort and reassure your children is by using supportive vocabulary and language that expresses your belief and support for them. It's vital for a child to know that she/he is loved, understood and accepted, and sometimes the usual pat on the back isn't enough.

I'd like to share a list of highly expressive and meaningful phrases that child psychologist Yekaterina Kes has put together to use with your child. This language will help your child to understand the depth of your love and affection for them. What could be more important than that?

Expressing belief in your child:

I trust you
I believe in you
I respect your decision
It won't be easy, but I'm certain you'll do it

You're doing everything right
You understand this perfectly
How did you manage to do this so well?

Teach me how you do it, so I can succeed like you

You can do it better than I can
You're better at this than me

Crediting their hard work

I can see how much work you put into this

I can see how hard you tried
You worked so hard on this, and you achieved it perfectly!

You're making fantastic progress!

I can see you spent a lot of time on this

I can imagine how much effort you had to put in to achieve this!

You must have worked so hard to get this result!

All that hard work paid off!

Being thankful for the time you spend together

I really appreciate you spending time with me

I can't wait to play with you tomorrow

It's so interesting to do this with you

I really enjoyed playing with you

I'm so glad you're at home with me

be another, and I for one hope it's his next novel. Til then, you won't be disappointed in *A Minute To Midnight*. It's another one of his finest.*

I'm having so much fun being with you

Helping them evaluate their own performance

What do you think about this?

You must be so proud!

What's the thing your most proud of?

What's your opinion on this?

How would you evaluate your own work?

And what do you think of the result?

How do you wish it had gone?

Being thankful for their help

Thank you so much for doing this

I'm so grateful that you helped me with this

You really helped me out

Thanks for understanding

I don't know what I would have done without you

Without your help I wouldn't have succeeded

You helped me to get through this quicker

The house is so tidy thanks to you

Describing what you see

Your bedroom is so clean!

Wow, you've made your bed!

Fantastic!

There are so many beautiful colors in this picture!

I can see that you really tried hard

I noticed that you cleared the table yourself. Well done!

Describing how you feel

I just love spending time with you so much

I'm so happy when you're at home

I love being part of your team

I love hearing your opinion

I'm so incredibly grateful that I have you

It makes me so happy when you're around to help me

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

From page 2

LeeTran

Park to Matanzas Pass Preserve. The beach tram is estimated to run every 15 minutes, depending on traffic, seven days a week. Service starts at Bowditch Park 8 a.m. with the last pickup at 11:30 p.m. at Matanzas Pass Preserve. The open-air, multi-car trams will continue to be free of charge and provide an easy, fun way to travel along the beach from hotels to restaurants, to shopping and other attractions in the area.

For schedules or to learn more about LeeTran, visit www.rideleetrans.com. LeeTran Customer Service can be reached at 533-8726 and press option 1, or email rideleetrans@leegov.com.*

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Robbie's Riders, Grampy's Charities and Sanibel Captiva Community Bank recently presented custom-made adaptive tricycles to children with disabilities photo provided

Children Receive Custom Tricycles

For the third consecutive year, Robbie's Riders, Grampy's Charities and Sanibel Captiva Community Bank presented adaptive tricycles to Southwest Florida children during the 3rd annual Grampy's Pro-Am, presented by Sanibel Captiva Community Bank at Fiddlesticks Country Club.

The tournament was established 30 years ago by McDonald's owner/operator Fred Frederic, founder of the

Fort Myers Ronald McDonald House, until his passing in 2015. At that time, Grampy's Charities offered to coordinate future tournaments and raised more than \$80,000 at the inaugural Pro-Am in 2017. The 2019 tournament raised over \$100,000 to benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwest Florida.

Greilyn Rios, a visually impaired 8-year-old, Sophia Parker, an 8-year-old with Noonan Syndrome, and Annalise Fernandez, a 3-year-old who suffered a neonatal stroke, all received custom tricycles that will assist with general strengthening, new proprioceptive sensory input and improved reciprocal

coordination of the legs. They can now participate in activities with their families and peers, and enjoy the normal childhood experience of riding a bike.

Robbie's Riders provides adaptive bicycles and tricycles to children with disabilities, according to their individual capacities and needs. The charity works to donate special needs cycles as quickly as they can raise funds to purchase them. Working with Claire Le Boulange, a pediatric physical therapist with Golisano Children's Hospital who donates her services to assist, each child is evaluated and fitted for his or her own adaptive cycle.*

Renovation Measures For JetBlue Park

The Lee Board of County Commissioners recently voted to approve some maintenance repairs and renovations to JetBlue Park, the spring training home of the Boston Red Sox.

Recent inspections have noted cracks in the concrete typical with settling, as well as repairs needed due to normal wear. The ballpark opened in February 2012.

The board approved engineering design services from Fort Myers-based HighSpans Engineering for stadium repairs to address delaminating concrete walls, concrete repairs along public walkways, repairs to areas where aluminum handrails are embedded in concrete, and areas where minor spalling has created corrosion issues. The \$130,752 cost of the design services will be paid by tourist development taxes, which are sales taxes paid on short-term lodging.

The work is to begin after the 2020 spring training season. A study conducted in 2018 revealed spring training attendees spent \$68.9 million while visiting and \$56.7 million of that was spent outside the ballpark.

On average, attendees stay in the area for five nights, and 71 percent of their stay is in paid accommodations.*

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Will Power

New Year’s Resolutions



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

So 2020 is upon us. What are your New Year’s resolutions? Lose weight? Exercise? Take up that new hobby?

Ironical that as we look ahead, 2020 connotes perfect sight! I hope that my crystal ball works better this year than in years past. But looking ahead from an estate planning perspective, I’m going to suggest some New Year’s resolutions you might promise to address sooner rather than later:

If you haven’t updated your will or trust in the last few years, now is the time to do so. An estate plan isn’t something that you should stick in a drawer and forget about. It’s dynamic and

should adjust to your current financial and family situation, as well as with the ever-changing trust and tax laws.

If you’ve moved to Florida since you last updated your estate plan, then include a resolution to update your plan to Florida law. I’m always surprised at clients who come to me after residing in Florida for several years before updating their plan. Florida law is quite different than many other states. Particularly if your former state taxes income or has an estate tax, then it’s time to review your plan.

Talk to your family about your finances and your estate plan. Many adult children have no idea whether their parents are financially secure. If you are, assure your children that you have the resources necessary to support you through your retirement years. If you aren’t, then perhaps a frank discussion with your children about your future is in order. Better for everyone to honestly assess the situation and plan ahead rather than deal with a crisis by surprise, especially if that crisis occurs after you’ve suffered a loss of any physical or mental faculties.

If your estate plan has any surprises in it, better to let your family know before you pass. Estate litigation arises from the ashes of dashed expectations. You can soften that blow by engaging in upfront conversations. “I won’t have to worry about it,” some clients will say to me in response to my suggestion, “because I’ll be dead!” If you leave a spouse behind, you’re selfishly leaving the aftermath to her, or perhaps to

some of your children who you treat more generously than others.

Those of you in second (or third) marriages could spend the new year thinking deeply about your planning, especially when you financially tie your children who are not of your current marriage to your spouse. A marital trust is a prime example of that, where you designate income to the spouse and at her death, the remainder is distributed to your children. Since every dollar distributed to your spouse is one less dollar that your children receive, legally they have adversarial interests.

To that end, I can’t describe to you the number of times I’ve seen very poorly drafted marital trusts. Absent any specific direction, the trustee is supposed to balance the needs of the income beneficiary (spouse) to the needs of the remaindermen (children). In low yield environments such as what we have now, balancing those needs could result in less income than you anticipated. In those cases, you might want to discuss a unitrust percentage distribution. I commonly raise this issue with my clients.

Another issue commonly left out of marital trusts is whether the surviving spouse should exhaust her own assets prior to the marital trust dipping into principle. When the trust document doesn’t provide direction, the trustee is forced to make a difficult decision. When that trustee is also an interested party, such as the surviving spouse or child, then disputes might arise.

It’s my feeling that many who draft estate plans don’t thoroughly think through the selection of trustee issue. I feel so strongly about this that I wrote a book on the subject that you can download at: <http://estateprograms.com/resources/#books>. You can have the best estate plan in the world, but if you don’t have the right trustee selected to administer your trust in the event of your disability or death, then your estate plan could fail.

Similarly, you could have the best estate planning documents and select the right trustee, and your plan might still fail, because your assets aren’t aligned with your estate plan. That same link will take you to my *Asset Alignment and Your Estate Plan* book. Use that as a valuable resource to understand why it’s so important to ensure that your properties, investment and bank accounts are properly titled. Also, the beneficiary designations to your retirement accounts such as your IRA and 401(k) accounts are just as critical.

Go ahead and eat more salad to shed those pounds. Better though, address the lurking issues inside of your estate plan before it’s too late. Happy and Healthy New Year to you!

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

Cyber Security Issues And Solutions

The importance of cyber security for Southwest Florida businesses and governments will be addressed at the Real Estate Investment Society (REIS) meeting in the Osprey Room at Pelican Preserve’s Clubhouse on Tuesday, January 14 at 11:30 a.m.

Rachel Busch of Cigent will discuss market intelligence and proprietary data becoming critical assets in today’s business world and protecting those assets being particularly important in a fast-growing region like Southwest Florida.

Cyber security is a dynamic

issue. Busch will provide the latest information on threats and solutions. After her presentation, she will respond to questions from the attending real estate development and investment professionals.

Busch is a certified economic development professional with experience in both the public and private sectors. For over 15 years, Rachel has worked in business development, real estate, marketing and public relations.

The meeting is sponsored by LSI Companies. Cost is \$30 for members and \$40 for guests, which includes lunch. Reservations are required by January 9.

Pelican Preserve’s Clubhouse is located at 10571 Veneto Drive in Fort Myers. For more information and reservations, visit www.reis-swfl.org.✧

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schedule,” said, “and we’re always going above and beyond for customers and taking things to the next level.”

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Give Next Level Cleaning and Sealing a try. For more information, call 265-3615 or visit www.nextlevelpressure.com to learn more about services offered ✧

Art Mural Project Approved By CRA Board

Art Stumble 2020, a mural-painting project on the wall behind McCollum Hall and its corresponding community event by the Fort Myers Mural Society, was approved at the Fort Myers Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board of Commissioners meeting recently.

Art Stumble 2020 will be an artistic mural painting event designed to promote pride in the Fort Myers Dunbar community, as well as a way to support economic growth with aesthetic enhancement. The Art Stumble 2020 block party will be held on April 25, 2020, where the community can watch the murals being painted before their eyes while viewing other pieces of art on display, vendors, refreshments and music.

The concrete barrier wall behind McCollum Hall will feature 17 concrete panels measuring seven feet by 18 feet each, with 16-inch columns between. The theme of the mural collection is a “wall” that symbolizes the positive influences of diversity, not division. Inspiration for the actual mural subjects will originate with McCollum Hall’s rich history as an entertainment stop on the Chitlin’ Circuit, a nickname given to a string of segregated performance venues throughout the Southeast and Midwest United States during the 1930s through 1950s. The subjects for the murals will be selected from the internationally renown musicians who played at McCollum Hall, such as Count Basie, Louis Armstrong, BB King, Duke Ellington, Ella Fitzgerald, Otis Redding, Lionel Hampton, Luck Milliner, John Lee Hooker, Muddy Waters and The Five Blind Boys of Mississippi.

In addition to unveiling a new cultural space on the eve of McCollum Hall’s rebirth, Art Stumble 2020 will also bridge an artistic connection between the downtown River District – where The Mural Society has painted other murals – and the Dunbar section of the city.

Along with the new mural wall, The Mural Society will collaborate with the Fort Myers Public Art Committee for the placement of two sculptures from the city’s Edgardo Carmona Statue Collection at the site.

The Mural Society’s event team has five years of experience creating similar events, with each growing larger than the previous one. Funding for this Art Stumble 2020 will originate from grants previously received by The Mural Society. This event will combine the talents of both local and international artists to create an artistic gateway into the City of Fort Myers.✧

Gulf County Bay Scallop Season

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) set the 2020 bay scallop season in Gulf County, including St. Joseph Bay, via Executive Order to open August 16 and remain open through September 24, closing September 25.

This season was set after working closely with the local community and allows the FWC to balance stakeholder and community desires for a high-quality scalloping season in late summer and fall with the sustainability of the resource.

Learn more about current bay scallop regulations by visiting www.myfwc.com/marine and clicking on “Recreational Regulations” and “Bay Scallops” which is under the “Crabs, Shrimp and Shellfish” tab.✧



Santa delivering toys to Golisano Children's Hospital photos provided

Businesses Deliver Toys To Children's Hospital

More than 1,100 toys arrived in a caravan of vans and cars at Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida on December 10, thanks to the generosity of people from several Southwest Florida businesses.

MY Shower Door/D3 Glass organized a special toy drive and partnered with Golisano Children's Hospital, CONRIC PR & Marketing, Brown and Brown Insurance of Fort Myers and Naples, Audi of Fort Myers, Kindleigh, Two39 Work Group and Tommy Bohanon Foundation to collect a variety of unwrapped toys for children of all ages. The Southwest Florida community also stepped up to contribute presents after



MY Shower Door and D3 Glass and Golisano Children's Hospital staff

several public service ads were provided for free by the *Naples Daily News* and *The News-Press*. The original goal of 500 presents was easily exceeded after MY Shower Door / D3 glass vice-president Keith Daubmann increased the ask to 1,000 presents.

The participating companies joined together to deliver the gifts to Golisano and carefully place them around the decorative Christmas tree in the main lobby. Armando Llechu, chief administrative officer of Golisano Children's Services, and many other Lee Health and Golisano employees were there to greet and take pictures with all of the people who made the special delivery. Santa's special helpers from Golisano then delivered the toys to the

hospital's Snow Pile Room for grateful families to pick their special presents.

"The giving of these companies to bring joy to the children who deserve to have smiles on their faces is always heartwarming," said Connie Ramos-Williams, president and founder of CONRIC PR & Marketing. "This is a special time of year, and we love coming together to help make the holidays a little more special for others."

"You feel wonderful and proud when people step up to help those in their own community," said Bill Daubmann, president of MY Shower Door/D3 Glass.

The toy drive was in honor of Emma Larson, the infant daughter of MY Shower Door/D3 Glass company controller Jared Larson and his wife, Liz,

a nurse at Gulf Coast Medical Center. Emma died two years ago from a rare birth disorder called trisomy 18 or Edwards syndrome. She spent nine days in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Golisano before going home. She lived for 22 days.

"Jared and I are overwhelmed with gratefulness in keeping Emma's legacy alive and being able to help so many families," Liz Larson said. "In the Snow Pile Room, the parents get to go pick out presents for their children, in the hospital, and their children who are not in the hospital, to make sure they can feel that joy that's so important, especially at Christmas time. And then, of course, this amazing hospital. It is just incredible."✱

Amendment Approved For Condo Tower

An amendment to the One Allure Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Rebate Agreement to extend the construction start date to July 1 was approved at the Fort Myers Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board of Commissioners meeting recently.

The developer, Cedar River at Fort Myers II, LLC, the residential development brand of JAXI CMD, LLC, requested that the construction start date be extended six months, from its original start date of December 31. At this time, Cedar River has spent over \$1.5 million in the pre-development work. Actions have included obtaining FEMA approval of a Conditional Letter of Map Revision (CLOMR), obtaining City of Fort Myers approval of Planned Unit Development Ordinance No. 3830 on April 16, 2018, for a maximum of 34 units and 21 stories, and submitting applications and revised submittals for City of Fort Myers site and vertical building permits.

The CRA Board approved the original TIF Agreement in September 2016. One

Allure was selected to receive \$3,169,855 in TIF rebate over a 13-year period. The 15-floor, 24-spacious unit tower will present a boutique condominium experience, with pricing for the more exclusive One Allure ranging from the high \$500,000s to \$2.7 million for one of the two penthouse suites.

The One Allure site is located east of the downtown core on the First Street waterfront.✱

Contract Signed For Improvements At Brooks Park

The Lee Board of County Commissioners recently approved a contract with a firm to provide design and engineering services for improvements at Brooks Park, including parking improvements, new restrooms and a shade structure for the tennis and pickleball courts.

Brooks Park, located at 50 South Road in Fort Myers, was constructed in 1973 and is one of the county's oldest parks. The park has baseball, softball and football fields and pickleball courts along with other

amenities. The county acquired an adjacent 1.52-acre property as well as 1.29 acres of former right of way between 2012 and 2017, with the intent of developing these areas into paved parking due to the increased use of the park.

Kimley-Horn, a national design firm with Fort Myers offices, will be paid \$116,200. The total budgeted cost of the improvements is about \$1 million and construction is planned to begin in 2020.

For more information about Lee County Parks & Recreation locations, amenities and other special events, visit www.leeparks.org, call 533-7275, email leeparks@leegov.com or visit [leeparksandrecreation](https://www.instagram.com/leeparksandrecreation) on Instagram.✱

Grants Set For Downtown Trolley And Beach Tram

The Lee Board of County Commissioners recently approved two grant agreements with the Florida Department of Transportation to provide funds for the downtown Fort Myers Trolley and the seasonal Fort Myers Beach Tram services.

The Florida Public Transportation Grant Agreements require at least a 50 percent local match. The grants are:

Fort Myers Beach Tram Service – \$998,573 matched by \$308,928 from tourist development taxes on short-term lodgings and \$689,645 from LeeTran's budget. The LeeTran seasonal Fort Myers Beach Tram service is intended to increase ridership and bolster economic development on the north end of Estero Island by providing reliable services. This service also minimizes greenhouse gas emissions, mitigates traffic congestion and reduces single-occupancy vehicles on the roadway.

The LeeTran Trolley Circulator – \$1,212,725 to be matched by \$1,212,725 from City of Fort Myers/Fort Myers CRA. The LeeTran Trolley Circulator will provide a fare-free and reliable connection between North Fort Myers and downtown Fort Myers in order to increase access to downtown Fort Myers while minimizing greenhouse gas emissions, mitigating traffic congestion and reducing single-occupancy vehicles on the roadways.

To learn more about the services offered by LeeTran, or for schedule and fare information, call 239-533-8726 or visit www.rideleetrans.com.✱

Destroy Outdated Medicare Cards

In 2018 and 2019, the Federal Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) provided new Medicare cards to more than 61 million seniors and other Medicare beneficiaries.

Millions of Medicare patients are successfully using their new cards in doctor's offices. However, many others may still have their old cards in their possession. SHINE/SMP (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders/Senior Medicare Patrol) and the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida are urging Medicare beneficiaries to destroy their old Medicare cards, which will be invalid after December 31.

The new red, white, and blue Medicare cards include a Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) instead of a social security number. The MBI is a more secure identification number using a combination of letters and numbers to help protect against personal identity theft and fraud.

Starting in 2020, health care providers will only be able to use the MBI when processing Medicare beneficiary claims. Providers such as hospitals, doctors and labs will not be able to submit Medicare claims using a



Camilita Aldridge

patient's social security number.

Even with the improvements to the new Medicare cards, it is important for beneficiaries to take precautions with their identification. Those with Medicare should guard their Medicare cards like a credit card and be wary of unsolicited requests for their Medicare number and personal information.

"Guarding your card and personal information is just as important now, even with the new cards. Scammers are still out there," said Camilita Aldridge, the Area Agency on Aging's SHINE manager. "You should only give your Medicare number to your pharmacists, health care providers and folks you trust to work with Medicare on your behalf."

If you have not received your new Medicare card, there are multiple ways to get your card and MBI. Beneficiaries can call 1-800-MEDICARE for assistance with their MBI, and then create a www.mymedicare.gov account online to print an official copy of their card. Accounts on that website are password-protected and secure.

Those seeking hands-on assistance are encouraged to contact a SHINE counselor at the Area Agency on Aging. SHINE is a program of the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and is operated locally through the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida. Specially-trained SHINE counselors help educate and empower Medicare beneficiaries, their families and caregivers to understand their health care options so they can make the best decisions for their individual needs.

To receive help from SHINE, call the Area Agency on Aging's Southwest Florida Elder Helpline at 1-866-413-5337. For a listing of SHINE counseling sites and enrollment events, visit www.floridashine.org.✱

Superior Interiors

Trends 2020: Home Design And Decor



by Marcia Feeney

Another year has come and gone. We've seen plenty of lovely home design and decor trends grace us over the last 12 months, but it's time to make way for the upcoming style direction of 2020.

Here are a few emerging trends we plan on seeing more often in homes across the country from spring and beyond, based on our Market Trends Fall Report:

Integrated living spaces – For many years, an open floor plan has been a nice touch to a gathering space. Today, it's an absolute must when it comes to entertaining and socializing with family and friends. One major theme that we noticed within the market is creating a home that is both livable and comfortable, and an open floor plan of kitchen, dining and other living zones can help you accomplish just that. For example, it allows you to keep the conversation flowing with those sitting on the couch while you're finishing meal prep in the kitchen. It also gives you the opportunity to keep an eye on the children playing in one room while you're taking care of tasks in another. Integrated living spaces are not only comfortable, but they're tremendously practical in today's modern world.

Play with color – While new shade and tone trends occur on a regular basis, it's important to keep in mind that it's not always necessary to change up your color

palette annually. If you are in the mood to mix things up, shades of blue – from sky to navy – are trending. Pale pink and light to emerald greens are also increasing in popularity and are calming and uplifting.

Curves are in – From chairs and sofas to full sectionals, curvy furniture is a major anticipated trend of 2020. Curves and round shapes associate mostly with softness and classic design. However, furniture with curved shapes and rounded corners can also be used in modern interiors with a retro twist. It makes perfect sense with the open floor plans we see today. Curvy furniture, from a practical point, is also easier to get around, and curved furniture inspires you to get closer to your family members and friends, encouraging conversation, comfort and family togetherness.

Addition of natural textures – Nature has increasingly made a major impact in the design industry and is inspiring more homeowners to utilize its colors, scenery and textures. Whether you enjoy a walk in the forest, a climb to the top of a mountain or a stroll along the beach, we all want to capture those moments in some fashion in our home to constantly bring us back to that time. From finishes and materials like macramé, wicker and rattan to natural agate and burl wood, all of these elements can add supreme sensation to any living space.

Interested in getting a jump start on one (or all) of these upcoming home design and decor trends? Now's a great time to engage with a design professional to evaluate your living space to take inventory on what current furnishings and accessories you're working with. With the assistance of your design consultant, you can keep your home trendy and enhance the look and feel of your space for the new year.

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

Report From Lee County League Of Women Voters

Commissioner Frank Mann was honored recently when members of the League of Women Voters of Lee County (LWVLC) celebrated their 70th anniversary at the Collaboratory. Founded in 1949, LWVLC was formed to help women carry out their responsibilities to vote and to shape public policy. In 1973, LWV members voted to allow men to become members and LWV Lee County welcomed Mann as the first male member.

Also honored was Clara Anne Graham, president of the local league, who has been granted the Albert Nelson Marquis Lifetime Achievement Award. In presenting the Who's Who award, Laura Miller, a past president of LWVLC, noted that it recognizes "career longevity and demonstrated unwavering excellence in her chosen field."

The meeting was also the occasion for the league's annual meet-and-greet. At that time, elected officials and others who serve the public were invited so that they could be thanked for their service to the

community. Guests included a Lee County commissioner, school board members, judges, mayors, members of town councils and many others, each of whom had an opportunity to speak about how the work of the community is carried out.

League accomplishments were memorialized in proclamations from the City of Bonita Springs, City of Cape Coral, Village of Estero, City of Fort Myers, and the Lee County Board of County Commissioners.

During 2020, the league will continue advocacy and voter education with voter registration, candidate forums, voter guides and educational programs.

The public is invited to the following educational events. Visit <https://my.lwv.org/florida/lee-county/calendar> for more information.

January 4, 9 to 11 a.m. – Presidential Elections... Making Every Vote Equal; Collaboratory, 2031 Jackson Street, Fort Myers.

January 22, 5:30 to 8 p.m. – Screening and Discussion of *Backpack Full of Cash*, A film exploring the cost of privatizing America's schools; Fort Myers Regional Library, 2540 First Street, Fort Myers.

January 25, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. – Cella Tega 2020, *The Estero Bay* is in

trouble: *What Citizens can do to help*; Cohen Center Ballroom, Florida Gulf Coast University, Fort Myers.

February 1, 9 to 11:30 a.m. – Celebration of the LWVUS 100th Anniversary; featuring Patricia Brigham, president of League of Women Voters of Florida; Coast Commons at Shell Point, 17500 On Par Boulevard., Fort Myers. Breakfast Meeting; \$20.

March 7, 9 to 11 a.m. – Affordable Housing and the Sadowski Act; Collaboratory, 2031 Jackson Street, Fort Myers.

April 4, 9 to 11 a.m. – Reproductive Health and Justice; Collaboratory, 2031 Jackson Street, Fort Myers.✱

City Walk Tax Agreement Amendment

An amendment to the Fort Myers City Walk Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Rebate Agreement that severs the hotel portion of the project originally proposed was recently approved at the Fort Myers Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board of Commissioners. The developer, City Walk Fort

Myers LLC, a part of Catalyst Asset Management, requested that the 128-key Marriott brand hotel previously proposed in the 2018 TIF rebate application be removed for this current phase of the project. Instead, the hotel site will be developed in the future as Class "A" office space. The developer has also modified the number of residential units in the West End at City Walk apartment complex, increasing them from 302 units to 318 units.

In the original agreement from May 2018, City Walk was selected to receive \$5.5 million in TIF rebate over a 10-year period once the project generates property tax. Originally, City Walk proposed to construct 302 residential units, a 128-key Marriott brand hotel, and 5,000 to 10,000 square feet of retail and commercial space. As part of the updated agreement, an additional 18 residential apartment units, 77 parking spaces and energy-efficiency enhancements have been added. Updated renderings of West End at City Walk will be available before the end of the year.

The project is located west of the downtown Publix shopping center on McGregor Boulevard. Groundbreaking on the project has already begun, with an anticipated completion date of May 2021.✱

Frankly Speaking

by Howard Prager



Dear readers, Like you, I am a sports fan. And from time to time I'll be presenting interviews with other perspectives on sports. My first is with Chicago Cubs radio

announcer Pat Hughes.

Hughes started as a broadcaster when he was age 27. He was a college basketball player at San Jose State and knew he wasn't going to have a career in the NBA but wanted to stay in sports. He admires Bill King, the voice of the Raiders, Warriors and Oakland As, Vin Scully, Al Michaels and Bob Costas. "You can learn a lot from every announcer. Sometimes you learn what not to do. If you copy from one person it's called plagiarism. If you copy from many people it's called research. I don't want to copy another announcer." He pulls ideas from each of them. "You don't want to sound like someone else, everyone needs to be themselves. I bring my own humanity into the booth every day."

I calculated that he must be on the air at least 500 hours a year – 162 games multiplied by three hours a game. And we know many games go longer and then there's spring training, interviews, extra innings and hopefully post season. He said, "ongoing prep is a daily activity. Before the season I keep up on my reading. What are other teams doing, who's been aggressive signing free agents, etc. During the season, I read everything in the papers every morning. These days, I go online and see what's been happening. A baseball season is a continuum as you are always preparing for the next game. I try to keep it fresh, have a good attitude and have some fun."

I've always wondered how announcers prepare for the inevitable rain delays, blowouts, etc. I know they need lots of stories to keep listeners tuned in. "I started this date in baseball history and keep it up. I have great partners in the booth – Ron Coomer and Zach Zaidman.

Zach always has baseball brain teasers ready. You want to keep your audience so you do whatever you can. Storytelling is a big part of the job."

The average listener thinks you have a glamorous job. You get to watch baseball every day, meet and talk to the ballplayers and get all this nice travel. What's part of the job we don't see?

"The travel is hideous. You are gone from your house over 100 days a year. I miss my family and a lot of things with my kids. I don't sleep in my bed, sit in my favorite chair, read a local paper. People don't understand. For example, we have a lot of Sunday night games. Say we play in St. Louis Sunday night and in Pittsburgh Monday night. Sunday runs longer – ends at 11:30 (p.m.) central time – by the time you pack up the gear it's minimum an hour. Then a half hour to the airport. Flying from St. Louis to Pittsburgh you lose an hour. It's 2 a.m. when you leave and land at 3:30 a.m. when you get there. A 45-minute bus ride to the hotel and, at 4:15 a.m., you stumble into the lobby and wait 50 minutes for luggage. Finally, you get to the room, hang up clothes in your closet and if you're lucky you're in bed and get some sleep at 6:30 a.m. And this is right in the middle of 15 games in a row with no days off. You have to be ready and the audience don't care about your travels."

Sounds like travelling can take its toll. What do you do to stay in shape? "I work out constantly to keep the body in shape. I've had some replacement parts, and I need to do all I can to stay fit. I loved golf at one time before my injuries."

Given the fact that you see so much baseball, do the players or coaches ever ask you for advice, what are you seeing? "They don't ask me for any advice. They may ask former player Ron Coomer. I could be the grandfather of some of the players. They don't care what I have to say."

What do you think about being the voice of the Cubs? "My goal was to be the voice of one of the great sports franchises," and he said he was very lucky to have that. "Only six to eight teams fit that. In football, you have the Packers, Patriots, Bears, Dolphins, Raiders, Steelers and Cowboys. In basketball you have the Lakers, Warriors, Celtics, Knicks and Bulls. In baseball it's the Cubs, Yankees, Dodgers, Red Sox,

Giants and Cardinals. I love to tease some of my friends announcing football about how hard they must have to work to prepare for one game every week."

"My job is difficult to do and difficult to get. When I was in college, I broadcast football, basketball and baseball and could have done any of the three. Baseball is the one sport where you can make a full time living."

I asked Hughes what he wanted to do in the future. He said he enjoys mentoring young people and wouldn't mind being a teacher or professor.

In concluding the interview, I asked what has changed in baseball the past 10 to 20 years. I expected him to say the specialization of players today, the shifts, etc. He said "the financial structure of the game has changed. Otherwise it is basically the same. It is a difficult job to be a big-league ballplayer. I don't have to worry about defense. I put on a show and no one gets in the way. Every second during a game there's a guy on the other team trying to make you look bad. The pitcher is trying to make you look bad, the batters are trying to make you look bad, etc. On average, baseball careers are very short – usually two to three years. I have great respect and admiration for those that play the game." And I have even greater admiration for those that announce the game. Play ball!

Next week: Sports predictions for the year. Contact me at hprager@gmail.com by Sunday, December 28 to be included in this special column.

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.✱✱

Grouper Closures Start In January

Gag grouper will close to recreational harvest in Gulf state and federal waters on January 1. The same day, several species of grouper will also close to recreational and commercial harvest in Florida state waters of the Atlantic and all state waters off Monroe County. This Atlantic seasonal closure includes gag, black, red, yellowmouth and yellowfin grouper; scamp; red hind; rock hind; coney; and graysby. A similar closure will also occur in Atlantic federal waters.

For gag grouper, state waters off Franklin, Wakulla, Taylor and Jefferson counties will reopen to harvest April 1 through June 30 and September 1 through December 31. All other Gulf state waters (except waters off Monroe County, that follows the Atlantic state season) and all Gulf federal waters will reopen June 1 through December 31.

In the Atlantic and state waters of Monroe County, several species of grouper, including gag, will reopen May 1.

For grouper information, including Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico grouper regulations, visit www.myfwc.com/ fishing and select "Saltwater Fishing" then "Recreational Regulations" and "Groupers."✱✱

SPORTS QUIZ

1. When was the last time before 2018 that the Boston Red Sox were at least 40 games above .500 at some point in the season?
2. In 2018, the Angels' Mike Trout became the second major-leaguer to hit at least 30 homers and steal at least 20 bases in a season three times by the age of 26. Who else did it?
3. Name the last team before the Pittsburgh Steelers in 2017 to win a playoff game without scoring a touchdown.
4. How many consecutive years has Gonzaga's men's basketball team made the NCAA Tournament?
5. Who holds the Edmonton Oilers' franchise record for career shutouts by a goaltender?
6. In 2019, LAFC's Vela reached 20 goals in a season faster than anyone in Major League Soccer history (20 games played?) Who had been the fastest?
7. What was the biggest upset in the Breeders' Cup Juvenile race before Storm the Court won with 45-1 odds in 2019?

ANSWERS

1. It was 1949. 2. Willie Mays. 3. Indianapolis, in 2006. 4. Twenty-one consecutive seasons entering 2019-20. 5. Tommy Salo, with 23 shutouts (1999-2004). 6. In 2018, Atlanta United's Josef Martinez needed 22 games to tally 20 goals. 7. Vale of York won the 2009 Juvenile at 30-1 odds.

Is your Estate Plan providing you COMFORT, CONFIDENCE & CLARITY?



Craig R. Hersch

Florida Bar Board Certified Wills, Trusts & Estates Attorney, CPA
"Will Power" Columnist, *The Island Sun*



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Students and mentors at the inaugural Job-A-Palooza

photo provided

Career Fair For Students With Disabilities

Calling all super heroes. Students, mentors and businesses are wanted. LARC (Lee Association for Remarkable Citizens) will hold its 2nd annual Job-A-Palooza, the ultimate ‘speed-jobbing’ experience, at Crowne Plaza Fort Myers Bell Tower on Saturday, January 18 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

At Job-A-Palooza, students ages 14 to 21 with disabilities can discover their superpowers and meet local employers

while peer-mentors assist them in navigating the job fair experience. Students will explore job skill stations from local businesses in industries such as retail, food service, administration, automotive and more. There will be demonstrations, friendly competition activities, awards and more.

“We could not be more excited about Job-A-Palooza,” said Angela Katz, LARC development director. “Job-A-Palooza gives individuals with disabilities the opportunity to showcase their abilities to potential employers and for the employers to see how capable the individuals are.”

Job-A-Palooza is just one of the ways LARC helps people enter the workforce. LARC’s supported employment program



Be a superhero and mentor at the second annual Job-A-Palooza

offers job seekers with job placement assistance, training and support to those who are hired. Employment specialists partner with businesses to discover and help create career opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

“LARC is a training center for success,” said Kevin Lewis, LARC executive director. “When individuals receive the training and resources they need, capabilities naturally surface and lives change for the better.”

Space is limited and students must pre-register for the event by visiting www.larcleecounty.org or calling Pamela Jenkins at 334-6285 x226. Through the generous support of the Arc of Florida and Vocational Rehabilitation, there is no cost to participate and lunch is included.

Businesses can be superheroes by providing a work station to help students learn about work opportunities in our community, gain insight into their own potential and be a part of the future workforce.

Mentors, who are needed to help students compete and develop job skills, can earn a \$100 Visa gift card, but must first pass a Level II background check to participate.

Crowne Plaza Fort Myers Bell Tower is located at 13051 Bell Tower Drive in Fort Myers. To register or learn more about business and mentor opportunities, visit www.larcleecounty.org or call Angela at 334-6285 x 229.✱

Medical Center Earns Leapfrog Hospital Award

Gulf Coast Medical Center has been named a Top Teaching Hospital nationally by The Leapfrog Group, a national watchdog organization focused on health care quality and safety. More than 2,100 hospitals were considered for a Top Hospital Award, and Gulf Coast Medical Center is one of just 120 hospitals in the country to earn this recognition. The hospital is one of three top teaching hospitals in Florida and the only Leapfrog top hospital in Southwest Florida.

Performance across many areas of hospital care is considered in establishing the qualifications for the award, including infection rates, practices for safer surgery and the hospital’s capacity to prevent medication errors. The rigorous standards are defined in each year’s Top Hospital methodology.

“Patient safety is our top priority, and we are honored to be named among the very best hospitals in the entire country,” said Dr. Jon Velez, vice president of operations and chief physician executive at Gulf Coast Medical Center. “We are committed to meeting the needs of our community and, as we continue to grow, residents and visitors alike can be certain they are receiving the best possible care



Staff members of Gulf Coast Medical Center

photo provided

when they come through our doors.”

The Top Hospital Award comes on the heels of Gulf Coast Medical Center’s “A” Hospital Safety Grade earlier this year. The Leapfrog Group issues their safety grades twice per year, and all Lee Health adult hospitals earned straight As on both 2019 report cards.

“We are pleased to recognize Gulf Coast Medical Center as a 2019 Leapfrog Top Hospital,” said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. “This demonstrates

extraordinary dedication to patients and to the Southwest Florida community. We congratulate the board, staff and clinicians whose efforts made this honor possible and know they share pride in this achievement.”

To qualify for the Top Hospitals distinction, hospitals must rank top among peers in the 2019 Leapfrog Hospital Survey, which assesses hospital performance on the highest known standards for quality and patient safety, and achieve top performance in its

category. To see the full list of institutions honored as 2019 Top Hospitals, visit www.leapfroggroup.org/tophospitals.✱

Hospital Partnership Benefits Children

A partnership to benefit the children of Southwest Florida has come to fruition as Lee Health and Children’s Miracle Network hospitals team up to help patients at Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida.

The new partnership will help fund the growth of services while maintaining nationally recognized care at Golisano Children’s Hospital. Through this partnership, the community can support their local children’s hospital by purchasing a paper Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals “Miracle Balloon” at checkout from participating retailers, joining Extra Life, a 24-hour gaming and fundraising marathon or supporting other Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals partner campaigns and events. Donations will support research and training, purchase equipment and pay for uncompensated care.

“This is a great day for the children of Southwest Florida. Children’s Miracle Network Hospitals is a national leader in helping children’s hospitals care for

continued on page 24

Beautifulife:

Peace On Earth

by Kay Casperson



Around the holidays, there is so much talk about peace, love and joy, and the words peace on earth are displayed on everything, from greeting cards to our favorite

Christmas songs. Have you ever wondered if you can really have peace on earth?

First, let's talk about what having peace on earth really means. I believe that there will always be some sort of chaos around us, whether it be world issues, community challenges, or even something closer to home. The fact is, no matter what is happening around you, you can have peace if you allow yourself to manifest it in your own life, every day.

I am not talking about the "just feeling OK right now" kind of peace, but the wholeness, nothing missing, nothing broken sense of peace that can only come from looking within towards your faith, your love and your happiness. Don't get stuck on the temporary things that might imitate peace, but instead search for the real and lasting things that will continue to

bring you a wonderful sense of being calm, content and peaceful every day.

So, the big question is... how can I get this peace and how can I keep it? I believe that peace comes from God, your faith, prayer, sacrifice, giving, serving and ultimately, living the beautiful life that you were given to the fullest. This is the time of year that we celebrate the Prince of Peace and I believe that we can have peace on earth, at least our own little slice of it, if we ask for it, search for it, look within and pray.

Most of us have heard the song *Let There Be Peace On Earth* but if you pay attention to the words to that song, you will see that it is all about where peace begins, and that is with you. So, as we end another year, another holiday season and another decade, I wish you "real" peace and a wonderful New Year of living your most beautiful life, wherever you may be.

My affirmation for you this week is: "I am looking within my heart to have peace in my life and no matter what things look like around me, I will remain calm and will carry on to live my beautiful life every day."

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.

Hams Donated To Foundation



From left, Richard Morales, Mike Simmonds, Facilities Director Peter Haight, Drummond Camel, Mary Franklin and Melissa Barlow photo provided

Cypress Cove officials recently donated one-half ton of hams to The Heights Foundation/The Heights Center for its annual Christmas give-away to needy families in the Harlem Heights community.

Since Thanksgiving, the Life Plan community of Cypress Cove has donated nearly 1,800 pounds of food to The Heights Foundation/The Heights Center.✱

Share your community news with us,
call 395-1213 or email press@riverweekly.com

From page 1

Art Walk

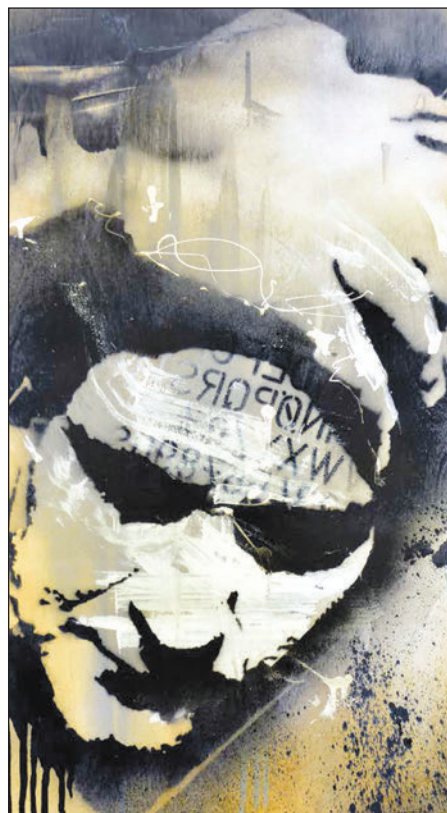
was working on his style and evolution as a visual artist, and he used street art as an outlet with subjects like urbanization, homelessness, animal cruelty and other social issues, creating awareness in the community.

Gerhard completed his master of fine arts degree at Arizona State University in 2013. He is currently employed as an adjunct professor of art at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) and gallery director of the Alliance for the Arts in Fort Myers.

Gerhard has created a series of mixed media oil and acrylic paintings bursting with tropical plants, fruit trees and edible landscaping for his show. Over the past three years, Gerhard has been planting and landscaping his property to provide habitat for wildlife and food for his pantry. He depicts the natural world with an emotional range of colors, textures and mark-making. By placing emphasis on the expressive qualities of his medium, he guides the viewer into an immersive experience that overwhelms the visual senses.

Working somewhere in between scientific observation and romantic idealism, Gerhard's goal is to create a living image that breathes and moves. Each successive layer of paint is imbued with the joy of discovery, fear of the unknown and tension between life and death.

The exhibits are curated by artist



Prosecutor by Frank Henriquez

image provided

Cesar Aguilera. Both shows will be on display through January 31.

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

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

The Doctor & the Dietitian
Ross Hauser, MD & Marion Hauser, MS, RD

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
Wishing you all the best of health
this holiday season and in 2020!

CARING MEDICAL FLORIDA
9738 Commerce Center Ct.
Fort Myers, FL 33908
(239) 303-4069
CARINGMEDICAL.COM

dearRPharmacist

New Medications Of The Year 2019



by Suzy Cohen, RPh

Dear Readers:
Dear Readers,

It's time for my annual article regarding new medications of the year. In 2019, a variety of novel entities received FDA approval, and some

drugs were approved after just a few dozen people were tested. What you are reading is syndicated worldwide, however I will only list American brand names so please ask your medication specialist to find out a medication name as it is known in your country.

Happy New Year everyone!
Vyondys 53 (Golodirsén), Rx, Injection – This medication was granted a fast track to approval for patients with Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD). Characterized by muscle deterioration and weakness, DMD occurs due to a genetic mutation and symptoms are evident in children at age 3 or 4. Jerry Lewis was a famous actor, comedian and singer who hosted telethons for Muscular Dystrophy until 2010 and would be pleased about new treatments for DMD.

Oxbryta (Voxelotor), Rx, Injection – This treats Sick Cell Anemia which causes red blood cells to be shaped abnormally (as a crescent or “sickle” shape). This restricts blood flow and oxygen to tissues which results in pain, organ damage and inflammation. Oxbryta inhibits a pathway in the body that improves blood flow. Common side effects include headache, diarrhea, abdominal pain, nausea, fatigue, rash and pyrexia (fever).

Fetroja (cefiderocol), Rx, Injection – This is a new antibiotic for Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs) that gets injected into your blood stream. It is in the category of beta-lactams so don't take it if you're allergic to Penicillin or Cephalosporins. Fetroja is a hospital antibiotic used to treat complicated UTIs and pyelonephritis that become life-threatening, not your regular UTI.

Reyvow (Lasmiditan), Rx, Oral – This medication is for adults with migraines (with or without aura) and should not be taken if you plan to drive. It can cause intense drowsiness. It just received FDA approval as the first and only medication in its category. It is used for acute relief and is significant because migraine pain is severe and incapacitating for many people. If you'd like more information, I've written a wonderful book on this called *Headache Free*.

Treatment may cause some adverse events and the most frequently reported ones include dizziness, fatigue, paresthesia, sedation, nausea and/or vomiting and muscle weakness.

Jeuveau (PrabotulinumtoxinA-xvfs), Rx, Injection – Think of this as the new type of Botox. It contains a botulinum derivative that temporarily erases frown lines between your eyebrows (glabellar lines). It's pronounced Ju-Vo. Jeuveau was

evaluated in five different clinical trials that encompassed more than 2,100 people, mainly women.

Ibsrela (Tenapanor), Rx, Oral – For Parkinson's, this is a pill that you take twice a day; not injection. It's used to treat Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS) with constipation in adults. This medication may cause serious dehydration, especially in children or elderly. The most common side effects from the initial trials are diarrhea, which sometimes may be severe, abdominal distention, excessive gas and dizziness.

Accrufer (Ferric Maltol), Rx, Oral – These are capsules of iron to help people with iron deficiency anemia. The iron drug was approved by the FDA based upon three different clinical trials. Accrufer was useful in increasing levels in the patients that took the drug twice daily. Common side effects with this medication were gas, diarrhea, constipation, stool color change, nausea, vomiting and abdominal discomfort, bloating and pain.

Xpovio (Selinexor), Rx, Oral – This medication pronounced, X-Po-Vee-O comes as a 20mg pill and was approved in July 2019 to treat Multiple Myeloma, a blood cancer. The drug is intended to be used along with a corticosteroid (such as dexamethasone) in patients who are unresponsive to at least four prior treatments. Xpovio was fast tracked through the FDA's approval program to allow earlier patient access and was based upon evidence from only 202 patients. It works by binding “Exportin 1” which slows cancer cell growth.

Side effects that may be experienced include reduced platelet counts (which could lead to uncontrolled bleeding), neutropenia, respiratory infections and neurological dysfunction. That last one is vague and may be better described as dizziness, fainting, confusion or other mental status changes. This drug should not be given to pregnant women.

Balversa (Erdafitinib), Rx, Oral – A medication approved to treat bladder cancer, this may be used in local, advanced or metastatic cancer whose chemotherapy did not work well enough. This med was speeded through the FDA's approval process to make it available quickly. Thirty-two percent of 87 patients who were studied experienced either complete or partial shrinkage of their tumors. Balversa may negatively affects vision and may lead to retinal detachment. Blood phosphate levels need to be evaluated.

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.✽

Overeaters Anonymous

If food is a problem for you, Overeaters Anonymous can help. Meetings are held in Room 130 at Sanibel Community Church on Tuesdays from 5 to 6 p.m. and on Fridays at 4 p.m.

For more meeting information, visit www.southwestfla.org.

Sanibel Community Church is located at 1740 Periwinkle Way.✽

Collaboration To Combat Mental Health Crisis

The Lee County School Board has unanimously approved a proposal to integrate mental health navigators into two Lee County schools. Through a collaboration with Lee Health, this pilot program will help children and families at Ray V Pottorf and Colonial elementary schools who are struggling with mental and behavioral health issues. The salaries for the two navigators are funded by Lee Health's Kids' Minds Matter initiative and Suncoast Credit Union.

The goal of the program is to intervene as early as possible to help students receive the care they need as their young minds are rapidly developing. Students suffering with mental and behavioral health conditions often struggle to find the resources they need, not only for the lack of availability, but due to difficulties getting connected with the right doctors, therapists and counselors. A mental health navigator bridges that gap and helps families find the right treatments, programs and support to address their children's mental health needs.

“I want to thank our partners, the School District of Lee County and Suncoast Credit Union, for helping us bring this important program to fruition. When we first asked the school district how we could help, they told us mental health navigators were the single most important thing they needed,” said Dr. Paul Simeone, vice president medical director of behavioral and mental health at Lee Health. “There is no one size fits all approach to tackling mental health, it is truly a community-wide effort and

navigators help connect children and their families to all of the resources our community has to offer.”

To become a mental health navigator in the program, someone must have extensive experience working with a family member of their own who has suffered from mental or behavioral health conditions. This gives them hands-on experience in navigating the resources available and the personal knowledge of the empathy and patience required to care for someone with mental health disorders.

“We are pleased to work with Lee Health to help fund this program that will greatly benefit Lee County's students,” said Cindy Helton, executive director of the Suncoast Credit Union Foundation. “More and more children are struggling with their mental health in today's fast-paced world, and we are honored to help them access the support they need to enjoy a brighter tomorrow.”✽

Morning Stretch At Bunche Beach

Each Monday, there will be a gathering for a Morning Stretch on the beachfront of Bunche Beach. Bring a mat or beach towel. The free sessions will combine classic stretch with yoga and pilates moves to get your day started right. Calm your mind, unwind and feel great. You know your own body best, and you will stretch to your fitness level.

Bunche Beach is located at 18201 John Morris Road in Fort Myers. For more information go to Facebook and search for “Stretch Fort Myers” for updates on class times and weather conditions.✽

From page 22

Partnership

pediatric patients and their families, and we're proud to partner with them to continue providing the very best care for children in our region,” said Armando Llechu, chief administrative officer of Golisano Children's Services.

While local businesses have been raising money for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals for years, this partnership will allow the dollars raised in Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Glades and Hendry counties to stay local to help Southwest Florida's children. The money raised through this partnership will be maintained in a designated fund within the Lee Health Foundation and earmarked for use exclusively to benefit Golisano Children's Hospital. Visit www.leehealthfoundation.org/cmn to find out more.

“Countless community leaders worked diligently to bring this partnership together. It's their support that made this possible, and ensures that Children's Miracle Network Hospitals donations made at Southwest Florida's retailers and through partner campaigns and events will remain in our community to support children's medical services,” said Chris Simoneau, Lee Health chief foundation and development officer.

Established in 1994, Golisano

Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida has been named a “Top Hospital” by The Leapfrog Group for the past three years. It is the only recognized children's hospital in Southwest Florida and provides specialized care for kids between Tampa and Miami.

In 2017, Lee Health opened the freestanding 134-bed Golisano Children's Hospital through the generosity of the Southwest Florida community. It includes comprehensive pediatric services including a 24-hour pediatric emergency department, hematology-oncology unit, milk lab, regional Perinatal Intensive Care Center, and Level II and Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit with 70 private rooms.

“We are thrilled to welcome Lee Health and Golisano Children's Hospital into our network of fundraising partners,” said John Lauck, president and CEO of Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. “This partnership will allow us to raise more money to help more kids. These funds will help us change kids' health and change the future of pediatric healthcare in Southwest Florida.”

Children's Miracle Network Hospitals' partners in Southwest Florida include: Walmart & Sam's Club; Costco Wholesale; Ace Hardware; Publix Super Markets, Inc.; Speedway; Dairy Queen; Love's Travel Stops; Marriott International; Marriott Vacations Worldwide; Wawa; IHOP; and RE/MAX.✽

PETS OF THE WEEK

photos provided

Lee County Domestic Animal Services

Bella And Abba



Bella ID# A539158

People make millions of New Year's resolutions each January. Lee County Domestic Animal Services invites you to "Skip the Jog and Walk a Dog" as part of yours. Make pets a part of your New Year's plan and consider that a new pet can help you achieve many of the most popular goals set each year. The adoption fee for dogs over 30 pounds will be just \$25 through January 31 to assist potential pet owners in finding a new exercise partner and best friend.

Hello, my name is Bella. I am a super senior girl with the calmest demeanor and temperament that is very common with former momma dogs. I am an 11-year-old female pit bull mix who will play around outside for a bit, and then be perfectly content sitting next to you for attention. I am very curious and will keep myself occupied just watching what is going on around me. I am just looking for the perfect family to



Abba ID# A800410

spend my golden years with.

My adoption fee is \$25.

Hi, I'm Abba. I am a 3-year-old female domestic shorthair who is a volunteer and staff favorite at LCDAS. I am front and center in the cat room so that volunteers can greet me as soon as they enter the building. If someone misses saying hello, I will get quite offended! I am quite the character. I am so animated that you cannot help but notice me in my little cat room. Be sure to stop by today and visit with me.

My adoption fee is \$50, and you can adopt me and get a feline friend for free.

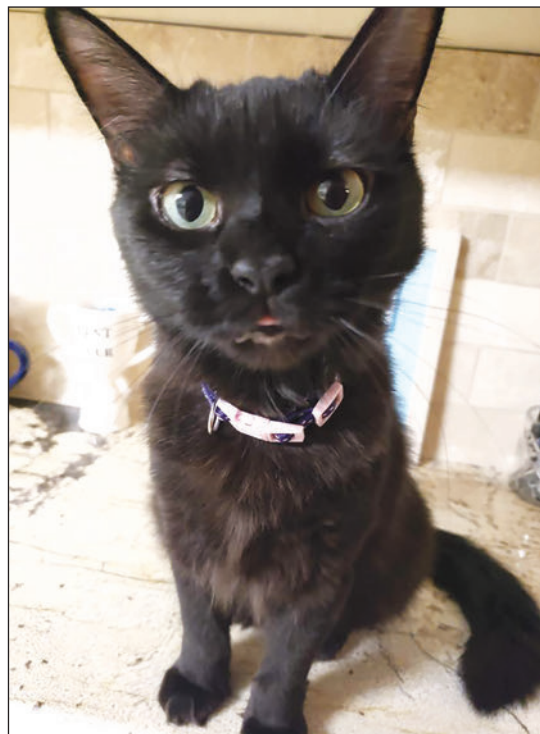
The shelter is open to the public Monday through Saturday at 5600 Banner Drive in Fort Myers. Adoptions are available 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For information, visit Lee County Domestic Animal Services at www.leegov.com/animalservices or call 533-7387.*

Haven on Earth Animal League

Eve

Hi There! My name is Eve -- perfect for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. I'm only about two or three years old, so I'm still young and playful. I've had a rough life so I'm looking for someone to love me forever. I was found in a garden center, trying to protect my five kittens. I was emaciated, full of tapeworms and missing fur. Luckily, someone from Haven on Earth Animal League took me in and fostered me. I'm all better now and ready to spend my life being pampered, as I should be. I am very affectionate and like to cuddle in bed or on the sofa with my human. I get along with other cats, and I even like the dogs in the house -- but don't tell anyone. If you want to meet me, call Aviva (my foster mom) at 204-6849 or email Haven on Earth Animal League at haveneonearthanimalleague@yahoo.com.

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



Eve



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

MIX OF FISH

- ACROSS**

1 Creole cooking pod

5 Early Andeans

10 Concert stage items

14 Disgrace

19 Cover thickly

20 Declines

21 Wrongful act, legally

22 Of the ear

23 Grabs hold of a fish?

25 Give a fish medication?

27 Choose (to)

28 Baseball stat

29 Like spoiled cooking oil

30 Clamor

31 Fish smeared with black gunk?

34 Cheeky

37 Have bills

38 Mineo of "Giant"

39 Suffix for an enzyme

40 Not as cruel

41 Turn liquid

44 Old horse

47 Fish drifting about aimlessly?

50 Actor Stiller

51 Baseball stat

53 Hoppy quaff
- 54 Wash. bigwig

55 Fish covered with more grit?

59 Modifies

64 Conceal

65 Fake ID

66 1,051, in old Rome

68 Larch, e.g.

69 Makes a fish more softhearted?

71 Honey-colored fish?

74 Score — with (impress)

75 It's south of Can.

76 Eye parts with irises

77 Splits

78 Triplets of adjacent nucleotides

80 Cures a fish by salting and drying?

85 Western treaty inits.

87 Hide — hair

88 Actress Davis of "The Matrix Reloaded"

89 Ending for Bronx

90 Fish that's a sainted guardian?
- 96 O'er there

97 For fear that

98 Runner Bolt

99 "Botch- —" (Rosemary Clooney hit)

100 It precedes Sept.

102 Barely obtain, with "out"

104 Gratify, as a base instinct

106 Accept a Facebook request from a fish?

112 Boat in Genesis

113 Twilled fabrics

115 Old's opposite, in German

116 Yellow tropical fruit

117 Teach a fish privately?

120 Catches a fish in a net?

122 Flee to get hitched

123 Lance cpl.'s org.

124 Free-for-all

125 Fair shelter

126 Philly's train system

127 Light meal

128 French river to the Rhone
- DOWN**

1 Eightsome

2 Aussie critter

3 Leaf-gathering tool user

4 Had to admit an error

5 Theoretical things

6 Unclothed

7 Bow of "It"

8 Holy tables

9 Atlanta-to-Miami dir.

10 Perfumery oil

11 Bards' A.M.

12 On-the-nose

13 Furniture finishers

14 Went unused

15 Palette part

16 Erté's style

17 Seafarer

18 Hyundai compact

24 Crock-Pot meal

26 Grid stats

29 Puts more ammo in

32 AI — (pasta preference)

33 Seafarer

35 Long side up

36 Max. or min.

39 "I'll second that"

129 Singer Anita or Aubrey
- 41 Samantha Bee's station

42 Expulsion

43 Earthworm, e.g.

45 2009 "Star Trek" director J.J.

46 Seepage of methane, e.g.

48 Heavyweight great

49 Put on TV again

51 Suffers

52 Dog part

56 "I'll second that"

57 Informer

58 Envoy's building

60 Just clear of the bottom, as an anchor

61 Boarding school student, informally

62 Some china ensembles

63 Divinity sch.

67 Not as much

69 Bud

70 Actress Sarandon

71 Rd.'s cousin

72 No more than

73 Cheese type

76 Hubbubs

79 Not a soul
- 81 As to

82 Old man

83 Baseball Hall of Famer Ralph

84 On Soc. Sec., often

86 Operated on smaller than a national level

90 Transforms, as larvae

91 In general

92 Sleeveless casual shirt

93 Free (of)

94 Lovingly, in music

95 Rapa —

97 Ushered in

101 Music styles

103 53-Across containers

105 Q-U queue

106 Sell for

107 Writer Zora — Hurston

108 Super- —

109 Got along

110 A Trump ex

111 Spruced up

114 They support teeth roots

118 Choose (to)

119 Stephen of "Utopia"

120 Texter's "Didn't need to hear that!"

121 Notice

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				
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90	91	92	93						94							95				
98									99							100				
104																101				
112																102	103			
117																107	108			

King Crossword

- ACROSS**

1 Grill fill

6 Easily split rock

12 Give in

13 Beer gut

14 Fitting

15 "Camelot" role

16 First victim

17 Bullets and such

19 Big brother

20 Director Kazan

22 Unruly group

24 Trouble

27 Taj Mahal city

29 " — Mis-behavin'"

32 New Orleans neighborhood

35 Criterion

36 Yanks

37 Sauce source

38 That girl

40 Send forth

42 Raw rock

44 Sheltered

46 Capri, e.g.

50 Swiss city

52 Country

54 TV's Superman portrayer

55 Nasal qualities

56 First-born

57 Have a hunch
- 11 "Comin' — the Rye"

12 Masseur's workplace

18 Theater cano-py

21 Fond du —, Wis.

23 Scull need

24 Sternward

25 Anger

26 Diminished

28 Increases

30 Ultramod-ernist

31 Have a go at

33 Ultimate
- 34 " — was say-ing ..."

39 Icicles' homes

41 Saturn's larg-est moon

42 Storybook baddie

43 Stagger

45 Survive

47 Deadly septet

48 Playgoers' box

49 Type mea-sures

51 Previous night

53 Shock and —

COMPANIES
MAGIC MAZE ● LISTED ON THE NASDAQ

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

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

Amgen	Comcast	Google	Qualcomm
Apple	Costco	Intel	Teva
Celgene	DIRECTV	Microsoft	Vodafone
Cisco	eBay	Oracle	



"In case I get any electronic toys,
this is for Santa to fill up with

!"

Answer on page 31

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!

Gleam	REKLASP				
Charter	TYRATE				
Wretched	JETCAB				
Cylinder	POINTS				

TODAY'S WORD

		5			4		7	
9				3				6
	2		8			3		
		4		5				1
	3		2				8	
7					9	2		
8				9			1	
	1				5			7
		7	6			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. Plant on mantel is missing. 2. Man has moustache. 3. Fireplace has more stones. 4. Mitten is black. 5. Shirt zipper is gone. 6. Earuff has added band.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY

SCREENING

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FRIDAY

Mostly Sunny

High: 75 Low: 71



SATURDAY

Partly Cloudy

High: 76 Low: 72



SUNDAY

Mostly Cloudy

High: 74 Low: 70



MONDAY

Sunny

High: 75 Low: 71



TUESDAY

Sunny

High: 73 Low: 69



WEDNESDAY

Mostly Cloudy

High: 71 Low: 67



THURSDAY

Mostly Sunny

High: 72 Low: 68

Redfish Pass Tides					Point Ybel Tides					Punta Rassa Tides					Cape Coral Bridge Tides				
Day	High	Low	High	Low	Day	High	Low	High	Low	Day	High	Low	High	Low	Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	12:08 am	7:56 am	3:42 pm	6:03 pm	Fri	2:47 pm	7:58 am	11:52 pm	6:05 pm	Fri	12:17 am	7:55 am	2:14 pm	7:28 pm	Fri	2:18 am	11:12 am	5:52 pm	9:19 pm
Sat	12:47 am	8:32 am	4:12 pm	6:49 pm	Sat	3:17 pm	8:34 am	None	6:51 pm	Sat	12:44 am	8:37 am	3:01 pm	8:09 pm	Sat	2:57 am	11:48 am	6:22 pm	10:05 pm
Sun	1:27 am	9:09 am	4:41 pm	7:44 pm	Sun	12:32 am	9:11 am	3:46 pm	7:46 pm	Sun	1:11 am	9:16 am	3:47 pm	8:50 pm	Sun	3:37 am	12:25 pm	6:51 pm	11:00 pm
Mon	2:11 am	9:46 am	5:10 pm	8:48 pm	Mon	1:16 am	9:48 am	4:15 pm	8:50 pm	Mon	1:46 am	9:52 am	4:31 pm	9:31 pm	Mon	4:21 am	1:02 pm	7:20 pm	None
Tue	3:00 am	10:25 am	5:42 pm	10:05 pm	Tue	2:05 am	10:27 am	4:47 pm	10:07 pm	Tue	2:35 am	10:27 am	5:14 pm	10:18 pm	Tue	5:10 am	12:04 am	7:52 pm	1:41 pm
Wed	3:57 am	11:07 am	6:19 pm	11:33 pm	Wed	3:02 am	11:09 am	5:24 pm	11:35 pm	Wed	3:42 am	11:06 am	6:03 pm	11:39 pm	Wed	6:07 am	1:21 am	8:29 pm	2:23 pm
Thu	5:12 am	11:48 am	6:52 pm	None	Thu	4:17 am	11:50 am	5:57 pm	None	Thu	5:07 am	11:48 am	6:45 pm	None	Thu	7:22 am	2:49 am	9:02 pm	3:04 pm

PUZZLE ANSWERS

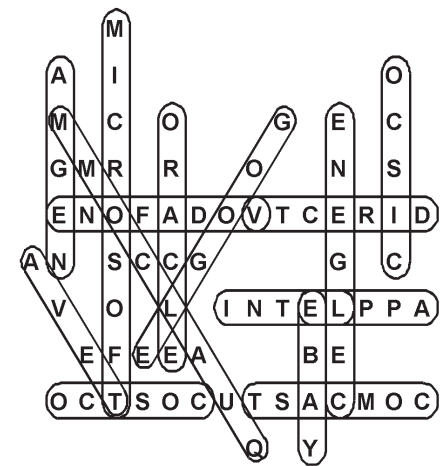
SUPER CROSSWORD

O	K	R	A		I	N	C	A	S		A	M	P	S		S	H	A	M	E	
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KING CROSSWORD

	C	O	A	L	S		S	C	H	I	S	T	
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P	R	O	P	E	R		A	R	T	H	U	R	
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MAGIC MAZE



SUDOKU

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

TRIVIA TEST

1. **Government:** When was the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency founded?

2. **General Knowledge:** What gift arrives on the 10th day in the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*?

3. **Movies:** What was the name of Shirley MacLaine's character in *Terms of Endearment*?

4. **Personalities:** At which sport did Babe Didrikson Zaharias excel in the 1940s?

5. **Animal Kingdom:** How do baleen whales eat?

6. **Famous Quotations:** Which early American statesman once said, "A good conscience is a continual Christmas"?

7. **Music:** Which singer was nicknamed "The Material Girl" in the 1980s?

8. **Bible:** What was Moses' wife's name?

9. **Inventions:** Who is credited with discovering X-rays?

10. **Medical:** What does the Ishihara test gauge?

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. 1947

2. Ten Lords-a-Leaping

3. Aurora

4. Golf

5. Filtration

6. Benjamin Franklin

7. Madonna

8. Zipporah

9. Wilhelm Röntgen

10. Color blindness

My Stars ★★★★★

FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 30, 2019

Aries (March 21 to April 19) Your love of the holidays creates a special bond between you and the people in your life. Use this as a way of building stronger relationships that will carry over well beyond this time.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) A new approach could go a long way toward resolving a painful estrangement, especially at this holiday time. And since your aspects favor friendship this week, why not go ahead and try it?

Gemini (May 21 to June 20) Your positives continue to dominate, and any negative factors that squeeze in can be dealt with easily. The secret is to tackle them at once and not allow them to benefit by your neglect.

Cancer (June 21 to July 22) Good news: A colleague's remarks could help you move toward ultimately resolving that persistent workplace situation. Meanwhile, enjoy the holidays with loved ones.

Leo (July 23 to August 22) No one reflects the bright holiday more than all you Leos and Leonas who love the shimmer and glimmer of the season. P.S.: There just might be a very special something from Santa.

Virgo (August 23 to September 22) Celebrate the holidays by being more receptive to new experiences. Overriding the Virgo reluctance to try new things could be the best gift you've given yourself in a long while.

Libra (September 23 to October 22) Good news about a loved one makes the

holidays even more festive. Expect some unexpected gifts, so be prepared with a few nicely wrapped packages of goodies to offer in return.

Scorpio (October 23 to November 21) The holiday season provides an opportunity to meet new people, some of whom you might even consider "worthy" enough to join the Scorpio's select group of friends.

Sagittarius (November 22 to December 21) You always bring your own wonderful sparkle and light to the holidays, and don't be surprised if this year someone special reaches out to respond to your warmth in kind.

Capricorn (December 22 to January 19) Togetherness is the dominant theme for the Goat's holiday celebrations this year. That means reaching out to bring everyone you care for into your very own special circle of light.

Aquarius (January 20 to February 18) A reminder of a very special moment from the past makes the holidays more memorable for the romantic Aquarian. New friendships hold the promise of a romantic future as well.

Pisces (February 19 to March 20) Getting into the swim of things for all you party-loving Pisceans is easy enough this holiday season. And, of course, you can expect to impress people wherever you go.

Born This Week: Your dedication brings you the success you strive for, and your generosity impels you to reach out and help others on their way up.

MOMENTS IN TIME

• On Jan. 5, 1643, in the first record of a legal divorce in the

American colonies, Anne Clarke of the Massachusetts Bay Colony is granted a divorce from her absent and adulterous husband, Denis Clarke, by the Quarter Court of Boston.

• On Jan. 1, 1818, "Frankenstein; or, The Modern Prometheus" is published. The book by 20-year-old Mary Shelley is frequently called the world's first science fiction novel. In Shelley's tale, a scientist animates a creature constructed from dismembered corpses.

• On Jan. 4, 1896, six years after Wilford Woodruff, president of the Mormon Church, issued his Manifesto reforming political, religious and economic life in Utah, the territory is admitted into the Union as the 45th state. Woodruff's 1890 Manifesto included a renunciation of the traditional Mormon practice of polygamy.

• On Dec. 30, 1922, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) is established, comprising a confederation of Russia, Belorussia, Ukraine and the Transcaucasian Federation. In 1991, the Soviet Union was dissolved following the collapse of its communist government.

• On Jan. 3, 1961, President Dwight Eisenhower closes the American embassy in Havana and severs diplomatic relations between the United States and Fidel Castro's government in Cuba. The action signaled that the U.S. was prepared to take extreme measures to oppose Castro's regime.

• On Jan. 2, 1974, President Richard Nixon signs the Emergency Highway Energy Conservation Act, requiring states to limit highway speeds to 55 mph or lose federal highway funding. It was a result of fuel shortages caused by the

Arab oil embargo.

• On Dec. 31, 1999, the United States officially hands over control of the Panama Canal, putting the strategic waterway into Panamanian hands for the first time. The 50-mile canal, which links the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, officially opened when the SS Arcon sailed through in August 1914.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

• It was 17th-century English philosopher Thomas Hobbes who made the following sage observation: "Curiosity is the lust of the mind."

• At Christmastime in Greece, people

traditionally give small gifts to orphanages and hospitals rather than to each other.

• A traditional Russian Christmas celebration would include spreading hay on a home's floors and tables and clucking loudly. Evidently, this was thought to encourage horse feed to grow and chickens to lay eggs in the coming year.

• The antlers of a bull moose can spread up to 6 feet across – and they accomplish this astonishing growth in only four months.

• The battle between keepers of livestock and the biting flies that pester their herds is as old as the pastoral life. In

recent times, pesticides have been applied with some success, but the expense – and especially the toxicity – worry many people. Japanese researchers have recently discovered a simple and inexpensive way to mitigate this concern: Paint zebra stripes on the cows. After several days of observing a control group of black cattle and a test group of the same breed of cattle painted with white stripes, they found that less than half as many biting flies landed on the striped cattle.

• The first postage stamp commemorating Christmas was issued in Austria in 1937.

• We can thank beloved 19th-century English novelist Charles Dickens for the colorful phrase "eat my hat."

• Wildlife documentarians have captured footage of elephant mothers spanking their calves; sometimes she uses her trunk, and sometimes she goes so far as to pull up a shrub and use it as a switch.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"I stopped believing in Santa Claus when I was 6. Mother took me to see him in a department store and he asked for my autograph." – Shirley Temple

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Vegetable Frittata
2 tomatoes, diced
1 squash, diced
1 zucchini, diced
2 cups spinach
1 cup diced bell peppers
½ onion, diced
2 tablespoons chopped fresh basil
1 tablespoon butter
2 tablespoons oil
½ cup grated Parmesan plus 2 tablespoons reserved
6 eggs, whisked
3 tablespoons heavy cream
Several dashes hot sauce (optional)
1 tablespoon all-purpose seasoning (your favorite)
Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Combine diced tomatoes, basil, 2 tablespoons Parmesan, and 1 tablespoon oil and set aside for last step. Stir heavy cream into eggs and whisk until smooth, set aside. Heat large skillet over medium-high heat and add butter and 1 tablespoon oil. Sauté the squash, zucchini, bell peppers, and onions for 2 minutes, season with salt and pepper. Next add spinach and ½ cup Parmesan and mix to combine. Add the egg mixture, season with all-purpose seasoning and bake for 20 minutes or until eggs are set. Remove from oven and add tomato-basil topping. Serve warm or room temperature.*



Vegetable Frittata

photo courtesy Fresh From Florida

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Stay Safe Around Electricity This Holiday Season

While staying safe around electricity is important year-round, it is especially important to keep electric safety in mind during the holidays.

Inspect all decorations before use – Damaged sockets, exposed wires and bad connections could cause electrical shock or even a fire. After inspection, use caution when plugging in your holiday decorations. Be careful not to overload outlets. If using incandescent lights, do not connect more than three strands as this could potentially blow a fuse, or worse yet, cause a fire. More than one hundred fires happen per year due to issues with decorative and holiday lights.

Keep your tree watered – A dry tree is a fire hazard. Water your tree daily, and be sure to remove it from your home when it has died or immediately after the holiday is over. Hundreds of home fires

start each year because of Christmas trees.

Choose battery-operated candles – Invest in battery-operated candles, which are much safer than normal candles. Normal candles cause nearly half of home decoration fires.

Protect cords – Be sure to never pinch cords, hide them under furniture, place them near a heat source or secure them with nails or staples. Any of these could cause electric shock or a fire. Unplug all cords when not in use to stay safe while saving electricity.

Unplug when not in use – Never leave holiday lights on when not home or while sleeping. It is estimated that half of all home fires happen between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m.

Lee County Electric Cooperative wishes all a happy and safe holiday season. For more tips on staying safe around electricity, visit www.lcec.net.

Save Electricity During The Holidays

It's that time of the year where we shop, eat, visit, bake and just plain have fun. But with that fun can come a larger than expected electric bill in January. Take some time to add these simple ways to save into your holiday plans so you avoid a potentially ho ho ho-rendous electric bill.

Give green – Be sure to look for the Energy Star label when shopping for appliances and electronics this holiday season. This certification label was created by the U.S. Environment Protection Agency (EPA) to promise substantial energy savings.

LEDs are what you need – Whether you decorate your home like National Lampoon's Clark Griswold or just trim a simple Christmas tree, it is wise to invest in LED holiday lights. Not only do LED lights generate a lot less heat than traditional incandescent bulbs making them safer, they use nearly 75 percent less energy than incandescent and last up to 25 times longer.

Keep away grinchy energy vampires – Unplug electronics and appliances when not in use or when going away for a vacation. Keeping things such as computers, gaming systems, toaster ovens, phone chargers and hair dryers plugged in may not account for a ton on your electric bill, but why not play it energy-smart and safe by unplugging these energy-sucking vampires when not in use.

For more ways to save on electricity 365 days a year, visit www.lcec.net.

Narconon

As the New Year approaches a common theme is setting New Year's resolutions for yourself. For those out there struggling, reach out for help. Start off the New Year in a program getting the tools you need to start each year clean and sober!

For more hope on New Year's resolutions, go to www.narconon-suncoast.org/blog/for-2020-and-beyond-be-the-only-resolution-that-matters.html. If you are in need of a referral to a treatment center, call 877-841-5509.

SCRAMBLERS

1. Sparkle; 2. Treaty; 3. Abject; 4. Piston

Today's Word

BATTERIES



Top 10 Real Estate Sales

Subdivision	City	Year Built	Square Footage	Listing Price	Selling Price	Days On Market
Barefoot Bay	Bonita Springs	2006	5,323	\$2,495,000	\$2,250,000	7
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	1975	6,623	\$2,375,000	\$2,150,000	0
Riverbrooke	Estero	2015	4,196	\$2,249,000	\$2,025,000	0
Tuscany Isle	Bonita Springs	2004	5,484	\$2,149,000	\$2,149,000	275
Grand Ole Man	Fort Myers Beach	1984	3,503	\$1,995,000	\$1,945,000	123
Sanctuary At Wulfert	Sanibel	2019	3,445	\$1,849,000	\$1,800,000	176
Shell Harbor	Sanibel	1970	1,981	\$1,349,000	\$1,285,000	0
Cape Harbour	Cape Coral	1999	3,622	\$1,200,000	\$925,000	136
Dunes At Sanibel Island	Sanibel	1997	3,028	\$1,050,000	\$980,000	300
Immokalee Anchorage	Fort Myers	1984	2,720	\$875,000	\$835,000	155

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SATURDAY JAN 4, 11AM-10PM
SUNDAY JAN 5, 11AM-6PM
THE RIVER DISTRICT DOWNTOWN FT MYERS



Participating restaurants, musicians, and performance schedule are found at: seafoodfestivals.com or 941-487-8061 Bands and Showtimes Subject to Change