



A High Energy Musical At Broadway Palm

by Di Saggau

The musical *Kinky Boots* has won every major best musical award, and after seeing the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre production of the show, I now know why. Based on true events, this hit show tells the story about two people who have nothing in common. Well, at least not at first meeting. Charlie (Luke Yellin) is the owner of a faltering shoe factory and Lola (David LaMarr) is a fabulous entertainer with a wild idea. Why not make thigh-high red boots for drag queens? That means making them sturdy enough for a man's body and yet with a style that as Lola says, offers "two-and-a-half feet of irresistible tubular sex." Both lead characters take a huge journey learning to trust themselves and one another. And both are impressive in their numbers.

An unexpected highlight of the evening began before the show when Will Prather, owner of Broadway Palm, came on stage in a blue suit, wearing thigh-high red patent leather boots and addressed



Lola (David LaMarr) and Charlie (Luke Yellin) get ready to strut in their kinky boots

photo provided

the audience. This was an opening night special appearance I'm sure, and one we won't forget. I applaud you, Will.

With songs by Cindi Lauper and a book by Harvey Fierstein, along with direction and choreography by the amazing Amy Marie McCleary, this

delightful show is one way to discover that sometimes the best way to fit in, is to stand out. Adding to the romantic tension, Charlie has to choose between a selfish fiancée (Sami Doherty) and funny co-worker Lauren (Payton Reilly) who sings and dances up a storm during one

of the show's best numbers, *The History of Wrong Guys*.

The flashiest role, naturally, is Lola who is likable and vulnerable, and the stage is alive when she's performing. Lola convinces Charlie to manufacture boots for men who like to wear high heels. There is also Don (Tim Beekman Davis), a factory worker who reveals how the actions of one man can affect the responses of others. At one point, a member of the ensemble says, "You can change the world when you change your mind." Lola's drag queens, the Angels, sport a variety of exotic costumes while doing splits, cartwheels and amazing kicks. They even parade on conveyor belts before their climactic catwalk display.

As Lola and Charlie embrace their differences, and become friends, they create a line of sturdy stilettos unlike any ever seen before. The finale, *Raise You Up/Just Be*, with the full company, is sensational. *Kinky Boots* serves up a fabulous show with 16 original songs and dazzling costumes and dance numbers. This is one not to be missed. It plays through April 4 at Broadway Palm. Tickets are available by calling 278-4422, online at www.broadwaypalm.com or at the box office, located at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.✧

Small Stage Symphonies Series And Gala

The Southwest Florida Symphony continues its 59th season with Small Stage Symphonies: Cabaret with Kabaretti at two Lee County venues. This program features the multi-talented Broadway legend, soprano Lisa Vroman, who is known for playing the role of Christine Daaé in *The Phantom of the Opera* in both New York and California, as well as for singing the role of Johanna in the Emmy-award winning *Sweeney Todd in Concert* on PBS.

Vroman and Maestro Nir Kabaretti will combine their talents with those of the Southwest Florida Symphony's musicians to dazzle audiences with the timeless cabaret classics of George Gershwin, Cole Porter, Stephen Sondheim, Andrew Lloyd Weber, Gilbert and Sullivan and others.

The Small Stage Symphonies Series takes the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra on the road to bring the music out into the Lee County community.

The performance at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, 2301 First Street in downtown Fort Myers, will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 4. Tickets are \$30.

A special dinner gala performance



Lisa Vroman

photo provided

will take place at the Cape Cabaret, 4725 Vincennes Boulevard in Cape Coral, at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 5. This limited ticket, up-close-and-personal performance and mingle will include wine, appetizers, gourmet dinner, dessert and a Champagne toast to end the evening. Tickets are \$159 per person.

Tickets may be purchased online at www.broadwaypalm.com

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Something's Afoot In Devonshire

by Di Saggau

Sherlock Holmes and his sidekick Doctor Watson have been part of our culture since the 1890s, and you'll meet them in a new way in *Baskerville: a Sherlock Holmes Mystery* by Ken Ludwig, now showing at Theatre Conspiracy. Holmes is played by Rob Green and Watson by Madelaine Weymouth. In their singular roles, the two try to figure out who killed the elder Mr. Baskerville. The remainder of the cast, Thomas Marsh, Shelly Sanders and Jordan Wilson, play multiple roles portraying over 40 characters. Old, young, male, female and from all over the social spectrum, it's a fast-paced change of costumes and accents for this talented cast. The many transformations are often manic and wacky, as they change in a few seconds and come back on stage as a completely different character. Think *Indiana Jones* mixed with *Monty Python*.

I was impressed with the set, which consists of suspended puzzle pieces that change constantly, reflecting the background for various scenes. It's up to Holmes and Watson to follow the clues and solve the puzzle. In one scene, three characters are facing strong

continued on page 14



From left, Madelaine Weymouth, Jordan Wilson and Thomas Marsh help try to solve the puzzle

photo provided

Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

Washington’s Birthday Parade, Once A Tradition



by Gerri Reaves, PhD

Today, George Washington’s Birthday is barely acknowledged compared to how it was celebrated in the years leading up to World War I. The day had long been declared an official national holiday – in 1885 – but in the early 19-teens, Fort Myers really got serious about honoring the first U.S. president. The holiday was important enough for schools to suspend classes and the community to celebrate for an entire day. Besides the level of observance, another contrast to more than a century ago is how Washington was described. Although now he’s typically referred to as “the father of our country,” news reports in 1912 referred to him as the “country’s illustrious founder” and “the founder of the republic.”

Those descriptions now apply more appropriately to a group of founders, John Adams, Benjamin Franklin and Thomas Jefferson among them, not to one man, however revered. Before 1912, the parade was sometimes incorporated into Fort Myers Day, which had been started in 1909. In 1911, there had been one and picnic afterwards, but the festivities didn’t live up to those of the following three years. The 1912 celebration on Tuesday, February 20, was particularly special, because it was the great man’s 180th birthday. The historic photo taken from First and Hendry illustrates the extravagance of that occasion. Children dressed as Uncle Sam and Columbia ride in a wagon followed by a “float” overflowing with children from Edgewood Grammar School. Note the sign with the school’s name. The children carried American flags and girls draped red, white, and blue scarves over their shoulders. Like the students, the horses and oxen are in “costume,” decorated with



The 1912 Washington’s Birthday Parade on First Street approaches the Hendry intersection. Note the spectators on the Bradford Hotel balcony and the Carlton Hardware sign (left) at the northeast corner. photo courtesy SWFL Historical Society



The Bradford has expanded and lost an extensive balcony, and the former corner hardware store is now a bank photo by Gerri Reaves

flowers, flags, or other finery. As was usual with Fort Myers parades, an American flag theme dominated, and businesses and residences were also adorned with patriotic bunting and flags. For a small town, the turnout was tremendous along the street, and the flag-festooned balcony of the Bradford had a pretty good crowd too. That parade was also special because the Andrew D. Gwynne Institute, the town’s first modern school, had opened the previous October, as had Edgewood School, and students from both featured prominently. Some people were surprised to see how many children lived in Fort Myers. The Gwynne Institute at Second and Jackson was the hub of the day’s activities, and proceedings began in the school auditorium. George (aka Mr. Hunter) and Martha Washington (aka Mrs. RW Gilliam, Jr.) led the procession, followed by veterans of both Union and Confederate veterans – the Blue and Gray. Much was made over the unity of former Civil War enemies marching under one flag. Spanish-American War veterans also marched. Uncle Sam sat on a white horse and circulated throughout the parade. Other participants were the Fort Myers Military Band, various civic groups and fraternal orders, and the school board. People in their cars or wagons brought up the end. Special speakers and musical programs at the Gwynne auditorium were scheduled after the parade. At an afternoon Arbor Day celebration, students planted trees on their new campus. The parade honoring Washington lasted only until 1914 but, in 1917, it was incorporated into the three-day Conquista de Florida, which was held for only two years in late February. It included Indian Day, Spanish Day and American Day. In 1917, American Day corresponded to Washington’s Birthday and patriotism was the theme. But Conquista never resumed after World War I. Since the 1968 Monday Holiday Law, which created three-day weekends, Americans lump together February 12 and 22 – Washington’s and Lincoln’s birthdays, respectively – and call it Presidents Day, but it certainly lacks the sparkle of the 1912 parade. Walk down First Street and imagine a time when Washington’s Birthday was a really big deal in Fort Myers. Then learn more about the town’s many parade traditions at the following research centers.

The Southwest Florida Historical Society is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization continued on page 16

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Ann Ziehl, Manager
Amanda Hartman
Justin Wilder

Reporters
Gerri Reaves, PhD
Jeff Lysiak

Contributing Writers
Jennifer Basey
Kay Casperson
Suzy Cohen
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THE RIVER
WEEKLY NEWS
FROM THE BEACHES TO DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS

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Guest Maestro Returns To Lead Symphony

The Southwest Florida Symphony continues its 59th season of pops concerts with Mashupalooza: Beyoncé to Beethoven at Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall on Saturday, February 29 at 7:30 p.m.

Rising classical-pop fusion star Steve Hackman makes a highly anticipated return as conductor/composer/arranger of this concert. The event will also provide the occasion for a special announcement about the symphony's upcoming 60th season.

Maestro Hackman has become a favorite guest conductor with the symphony because his innovative arrangements, which fuse classical with contemporary music, delight audiences. In this concert, he will take the audience on a trip to an imaginary music festival where both classical and popular artists perform together. The musical journey will feature mash-ups of Beethoven plus Beyoncé, Bach plus Bruno Mars, Shostakovich plus Muse plus Chance The Rapper, Wagner plus Adele, Mahler plus John Mayer, Brahms plus Lady Gaga, Stravinsky plus Daft Punk plus Kanye West, Beethoven plus Mumford and Sons and more.

Tickets range from \$15 to \$109 and may be purchased online at www.swflso.org or at www.bbmannyh.com,



Maestro Steve Hackman

by calling the symphony box office at 418-1500 or the Barbara B. Mann Hall box office at 481-4849.

This concert has also inspired two social events, which will keep the party going all weekend. The first is a pre-concert gathering of the symphony's meetup.com group, Adventurous Audiophiles Unite, at LYNQ at 5:30 p.m., Tickets for the pre-concert gathering are \$35. Guests may register at www.meetup.com/adventurous-audiophiles-unite.

The second social event is the Hair of the Maestro: The Morning After Concert Cure on Sunday, March 1 from 11 a.m.

to 3 p.m. It includes a meet-and-greet with the wild-haired Maestro Hackman and a round-trip shuttle service on a luxury coach from the symphony's office to the Seminole Hotel Casino, the after party's venue, where guests will be treated to heavy hors d'œuvres, a poolside open bar and a musical appearance by Maestro Hackman. A limited amount of tickets will be sold for this limited opportunity to interact with classical crossover music's hottest rising star. Tickets are \$100 each and may be purchased by visiting www.swflso.org, or by calling the symphony's box office at 418-1500.✪

photo provided

Friends Of Hope Luncheon And Fashion Show

The annual Friends of Hope Luncheon at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa on Monday, March 16 will feature a fun afternoon of boutique shopping, raffle prizes and a fashion show presented by Kathryn's Collection to benefit Hope Hospice and Rainbow Trails Camp.

Shopping begins at 10:30 a.m. with a collection of silk scarves, leather handbags, fine jewelry, pottery, glasswork and accessories. The luncheon and fashion show begin at 12:30 p.m.

Tickets are \$100; "Girlfriends Tables" are available for 10 guests and include two bottles of wine, signage and recognition for \$1,350. To purchase tickets or to donate, visit www.donate.hopehcs.org/Lunch2020.

Led by Hope President and CEO Samira K. Beckwith, the luncheon is planned by Chair Etta Smith and Co-chair Heather Clegg, along with committee members Billie Jans, Ellen LaFazia, Claire McMahon, Nancy Near, Jean Paradis, Reggie Polsenberg, Donna Roberts, Patt Suwyn, Adele Waddell, Sylvia Weiss, Carol Wood and Signe Wynne.

Hope Healthcare is a not-for-profit health care organization dedicated to providing care and comfort to every individual and their loved ones as they fulfill life's journey. For more information, visit www.hopehcs.org.✪

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Marie Ackord photos provided

Tickets On Sale For Grande Dames Tea

Tickets are now available for PACE Center for Girls, Lee County's 2020 Grande Dames Tea celebration on Tuesday, March 10, which will honor three local women – Marie Ackord, Marilyn Stout and Barbara Watt-Biggs – for their roles in business, community and philanthropy.

Admission is \$60 per person and \$500 for tables of eight and includes an



Barbara Watt-Biggs

afternoon tea menu. Proceeds from the event benefit PACE and its strength-based, gender-specific programs that guide PACE girls in finding their voice and achieving their potential.

Each year, PACE's Grande Dames Tea honors women who exemplify the organization's guiding principles and have made a significant impact on the community through decades of service and helping others. The event's theme, The Wisdom of Time – Honoring the Female Spirit, represents the unique perspectives and powerful insight that these women have gained throughout their life journeys, and the importance of passing this knowledge along to future generations.



Marilyn Stout

During the inspirational event, 2020 Grande Dames Ackord, Stout and Watt-Biggs will share words of wisdom and advice during a question-and-answer session led by the girls and young women of PACE. Guests will also enjoy special performances by the PACE girls.

Presented by the Gunterberg Charitable Foundation, the 12th annual Grande Dames Tea event will be held from 1 to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, March 10 at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre, 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.

Attendees are encouraged to wear their favorite tea party hat.

To purchase tickets for the event or to learn more, visit www.pacecenter.org/locations/lee or call 425-2366.*

program begins at 11 a.m. and includes space-themed student art on display, lunar rocks, meteor samples and special presentations. It will conclude at 1 p.m. when the in-flight interview is over.*

Buffett Tribute Band To Perform At The Estates

Edison and Ford Winter Estates will host the Jimmy Buffett tribute band, Caribbean Chillers, on the Ford lawn along the Caloosahatchee River on Friday, February 28. Gates open at 5:30 p.m. and the concert starts at 6 p.m.

The band plays Buffett's top hits and crowd favorites for an authentic show. The setting offers a river view and a chance to see a sunset. Guests should bring a folding chair and a sweater if the weather is chilly. A food truck and cash bar will be available. No coolers are permitted.

Online tickets before the day of the event are \$25 per person or \$20 for Edison Ford members. Tickets at the door are \$30.

Free parking is available in the main Edison Ford parking lot at 2350 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers.

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

Free Movie In The Park

There will be a free movie in the park at Veterans Park on Friday, February 28 from 6 to 9 p.m.

The PG-rated live action adventure *The Lion King* will be the main feature at this fun night out for the family. Experience a grand, epic adaptation of the animated classic brought to life.

The Lehigh Acres Fire Department will provide free popcorn. The Currywurst Food Truck will offer bratwurst, curry, grilled cheese, loaded fries and hot dogs for sale. Guests are encouraged to bring blankets or chairs.

Veterans Park is located at 55 Homestead Road South in Lehigh Acres. For more information on Veterans Park events, call 369-1521 or visit www.leegov.com/parks/centers/veterans.*

Continental Women To Meet

The Continental Women's Club will hold its monthly meeting at The Hideaway Country Club on Thursday, March 5 at 11:30 a.m.

Victoria Moreland, director of communications and marketing for Lee County Port Authority, will be the guest speaker. She will give us insights into the operation of the Southwest Florida International Airport.

Continental Women's Club monthly meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month. Cost to attend the luncheon is \$24.

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

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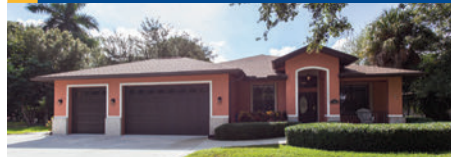


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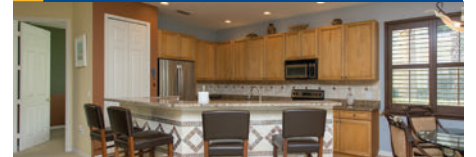
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Fort Myers Art:

Ten-Time Tony
Nominee Coming
To New Phoenix



by Tom Hall
Coming to New Phoenix Theatre on February 27 for four full weekends is Terrence McNally and David Yazbek's *The Full Monty*. Based on the cult hit film of the same name, this 10-

time Tony Award nominee is filled with honest affection, engaging melodies and the most highly anticipated closing number of any show.

A group of unemployed Buffalo steelworkers spying on their wives at a girl's night out at Tony Giordano's club are chagrined when they see how much they are enjoying watching the male strippers. Jealous and feeling emasculated, the men come up with a bold and unclothed way to make some quick cash. They'll become male strippers too! In fact, they'll perform under the name Hot Metal. But in order to appeal to Tony Giordano's female patrons and prove that they're all in, they'll do the Full Monty.

As they rehearse their choreographed number, they're not only physically exposed, they're emotionally bare as well. Although they fear that their audience might be just as critical of them as they are of the women they see in a Victoria's Secret catalog (*The Goods*), they press on. And as they conquer their fears, self-consciousness and prejudices, the men come to discover that they're stronger as a group, and the strength that they find in each other gives them courage to "Let It Go." *The Full Monty* isn't just about showing off the outside, it's about what we all have inside as well.

The Full Monty is a story full of heart. Right to the end, audiences will be wondering if these lovable misfits will really pull it off. With a raucous mix of razor-sharp humor and toe-tapping pizzazz, this heartwarming, upbeat comedy will have audiences begging for



photo courtesy www.artswfl.com

more.
The Full Monty was nominated for 10 Tonys, including Best Musical, Best Book of a Musical and Best Original Score and the Drama Desk Award for Outstanding Music, along with 10 other Drama Desk nominations. It runs at New Phoenix February 27 through March 22.

New Phoenix Theatre is located at 13211 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. For more information or tickets, call 284-5214 or visit www.newphoenixtheatrefortmyers.org.

Neil Simon Comedy Based On His Early Days In Television

Neil Simon's hilarious comedy *Laughter on the 23rd Floor* is on stage at Players Circle Theatre through Sunday, March 8 with performances Tuesday through Saturday at 8 p.m. and Wednesday and Sunday at 2 p.m.

The uproariously funny comedy emanates from Simon's early days in show business, when he worked as a jokesmith for Sid Caesar's *Your Show of Shows*.

"It's about the early days of TV, when Caesar and his writers wrote a very smart comedy, a biting comedy," said Director Robert Cacioppo. "It was definitely the precursor to *Saturday Night Live!*" *Variety* called it "The funniest comedy on Broadway in years and likely to remain the funniest

comedy on Broadways for years."
Players Circle Theatre is located at the Shell Factory, 16554 N. Cleveland Avenue in North Fort Myers. Call 800-3292 for tickets or more information.
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.**

Gladiolus Food
Pantry Benefit

Peace Lutheran Church will host an evening of comedy, culture and community to benefit the Gladiolus Food Pantry on Friday, March 6. There will be heavy appetizers and dessert at 5 p.m., followed by entertainment, comedy, music and a silent auction at 6 p.m. Bring a canned good to bless the food pantry.

Comedian Al Ernst will perform at the fundraiser. Featured at the 2019 Florida Bahamas Synod Assembly, Ernst's clean and wholesome humor had Bishop Pedro and the assembly rolling in laughter about life, church and world.

The Gladiolus Food Pantry serves as a lifeline for many people in the community. Many servants from Peace Lutheran help with the Wednesday food distributions.

Peace Lutheran Church is located at 15840 McGregor Boulevard in Fort



Al Ernst photo provided
Myers. For tickets, visit www.eventbrite.com/e/gladiolus-food-pantry-benefit-tickets-87800025239.*



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Or consider not using any rat poisons at all. Instead, seal all entry points to your home.



FutureMakers Launches Public Bus Campaign

In late 2019, the Early Childhood Communication Project Team of the FutureMakers Coalition unveiled their Power of Pre-K tools, which include children's books, posters and rack cards and a website that highlights the importance, availability and access to free, quality voluntary pre-kindergarten (VPK).

Now a public bus campaign through LeeTran has been added for 2020 to further reach parents of upcoming VPK eligible children.

The books, posters, cards, website and now bus feature kid-friendly, colorful illustrations showing pre-kindergarten students with information on the importance of children accessing quality, free VPK and how to find out more information and enroll children locally.

All of the tools are being used to increase engagement with parents on the importance of obtaining quality, early childhood education and that it is free. The books, posters and rack cards also serve as a resource to employers for their employees, as well as area pediatricians who also have a high cross-section of VPK-aged children as patients.

"The Early Learning Coalition is always trying to reach families about the opportunity to send their children to VPK. It is free and widely available,"



Kristi Biffar and Susan Block

photo provided

said Susan Block," chief executive officer of the Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida and FutureMaker. "We are excited to be able to take the fun, colorful graphics supplied by local artist Doug MacGregor for the printed materials and with the help of LeeTran transform them into larger than life graphics on public transportation that will be seen all over Southwest Florida."

The group has also launched a social media campaign asking the public to take a photo of the bus when they see it around town and post to

the FutureMakers Facebook page for the chance to win local restaurant gift certificates.

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

The FutureMakers Coalition provided a \$33,000 grant for development of the

books, posters and rack cards, including funds for printing, content creation and curators.

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

In addition to Block, the FutureMakers Early Childhood Communication Project Team members responsible for the development of the campaign include the Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida, Kristi Biffar, Jennifer Black, Nancy Coker and the Southwest Florida Community Foundation.

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

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



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Along The River

Major League Baseball **Spring Training** games begin this Friday, February 21 at both stadiums in Fort Myers. The Boston Red Sox will take on Northeastern University at **JetBlue Park** at 1:05 p.m., while the Minnesota Twins play the University of Minnesota at **CenturyLink Sports Complex** at 6:05 p.m.

On Saturday, February 22, the Red Sox host the Tampa Bay Rays at 1:05 p.m., while the Twins host the Toronto Blue Jays on Sunday at 1:05 p.m.

JetBlue Park is located at 11500 Fenway South Drive in Fort Myers. For tickets and full schedule, visit www.mlb.com/redsox/spring-training. CenturyLink Sports Complex is located at 14100 Six Mile Cypress Parkway in Fort Myers. For tickets and full schedule, visit www.mlb.com/twins/spring-training/ballpark.

The downtown **Fort Myers River District** will again be the scene for **Music Walk** this Friday, February 21. Restaurants, bars, art galleries and shops will showcase a wide range of music during the evening from 6 to 10 p.m. Expect live jazz and blues, to rock and drums. Each month brings new energy to the historic streets of downtown Fort Myers.

To learn more, visit www.fortmyersriverdistrictalliance.com.

The third concert in the **Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center** Chamber Music Series will feature renowned **American String Quartet** joined by



Fenway South at JetBlue Park

guest cellist **Andrés Díaz** this Friday, February 21. Cocktail hour is at 7 p.m., while the performance begins at 8 p.m.

The American String Quartet is internationally recognized as one of the world's finest quartets. Díaz claimed first prize in the Naumburg International Cello Competition, and has been delighting audiences as well as critics with his intense and charismatic performances ever since.

The Chamber Series is part of the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center's yearly music programming.

The Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center is located at 2301 First Street

photo courtesy www.tripadvisor.com

in downtown Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.sbdac.com/american-string-quartet or call the box office at 333-1933.

Experience the beautiful birds of **Bunche Beach** with a **bird patrol guide** this Saturday, February 22 at 8 a.m.

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

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

There will be a **National Pancake Day Celebration** fundraising event at **Arden Courts** of Fort Myers on Tuesday, February 25 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. All proceeds will benefit The Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimers Resource Center.

Admission for the pancake breakfast buffet is \$10 per person, cash or check made payable to The Alvin A. Dubin Alzheimer's Resource Center. There will also be a 50/50 raffle. Tickets are \$1 each or six for \$5 (cash only). There will also be door prizes throughout the event.

Arden Courts of Fort Myers is located at 15950 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. RSVP prior to February 24; call 454-1277 or email ftmyers@arden-courts.com.

Shell Point Retirement Community's 2019-20 Fine and Performing Arts Series continues with a performance entitled **Embraceable You: The Music of George Gershwin** at The Village Church auditorium on The Island at Shell Point on Thursday, February 27 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$40.

During the performance, guests will enjoy dance numbers, nostalgic ballads and romantic comedy, all backed by live musicians and set in the post-war Paris of 1948.

The Village Church is located at 15100 Shell Point Boulevard in Fort Myers. For more information or tickets, visit www.shellpoint.org/concerts or call 454-2067.✴

First Aid And CPR Certification In Cape Coral

Four Freedoms Park will host CPR/AED certification and first aid certification classes on Saturday, February 22. The CPR/AED session will be from 8 a.m. to noon, while the first aid class is from 1 to 4 p.m.

Both classes will be taught by instructors from the Southwest Florida Safety Council. In the CPR class, all participants will receive hands-on training including the correct use of the automated electronic device (defibrillator) along with adult, child and infant CPR.

During the First Aid class, all participants will learn the proper techniques to provide immediate care for a suddenly ill or injured person until more advanced medical care arrives to take over. Learn how to recognize an emergency and take appropriate actions so you can always be ready to help those you care about in your home, and community.

Each certification is \$45. Register for one or both certifications. Pre-registration is required. A two-year certification is awarded upon completion for each program.

Four Freedoms Park is located at 4818 Tarpon Court in Cape Coral. For more information, call 574-0804.✴

Free Wood Carving Exhibit At Iona Gardens

Wood carvers – both experienced and novices – will be exhibiting their carvings and demonstrating their various carving techniques at the annual Wood Carving Exhibit at the Iona Gardens Civic Association clubhouse on Saturday, February 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There is no charge for admission or parking.

All carvers, wannabe carvers, or spectators are invited to see a variety of carving styles and levels of carvings at the event presented by the Paradise Carvers Wood Carving Group. Attendees will be able to view carvings from recent competitions as well as completed projects and carvings in progress. Wood carving supplies and equipment will be available for purchase.

Paradise Carvers Wood Carving Group meets weekly throughout the year on Thursday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon. Instruction is available for beginners, and advanced carvers enhance their skills during the regular club sessions. Membership is free and newcomers are welcome.

The Iona Gardens Civic Association clubhouse is located at 15720 Fern Drive in Fort Myers. For more information, contact Steve Wilensky at pamwilensky@yahoo.com.✴

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Environmental Educator Richard Finkel, left, shows students from Florida SouthWestern State College what came out of the trawling net photo provided

College Students Take Field Trip To Cayo Costa

Students from Florida SouthWestern State College had the opportunity to get an up close look at the back bay estuary and beach ecology recently, courtesy of Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation's (SCCF) and Captiva Cruises' No Child Left On Shore (NCLOS) environmental education outreach project.

"Despite the cool and drizzly conditions, the students were eager to explore the shoreline of Cayo Costa State Park and were very excited to be able to observe dolphins, birds as well as fish, sea stars and other marine life pulled up with the trawling net," said Richard Finkel, environmental educator.

NCLOS is a hands-on learning program that fills a vital need to provide the younger generation of Southwest Florida with an informative and fun way to gain experiential knowledge of the ecology of the marine environment. This enriching initiative enables local youth to form a deeper connection to their coastal

surroundings and to spark their curiosity.

Since 2010, SCCF and Captiva Cruises have joined forces to provide these environmental education field trips. Now averaging about 10 trips per year, the program offers students the opportunity to get out on the water.

"I had never been on a boat before," said one middle school student. "I really enjoyed it, and loved seeing all the life like the sea hare we pulled up in the trawling net. I want to go back and see new things."

NCLOS field trips are offered to deserving schools or organizations that specialize in youth programs as well as special needs groups. Captiva Cruises uses a motor catamaran vessel for these field trips, which can accommodate up to 45 children or young adults and their teachers or adult supervisors.

A field trip typically consists of cruising around Pine Island Sound, exploring beach ecology on Cayo Costa State Park and time to discover the importance of the back bay estuary through hands-on learning activities such as the trawling net experience.

For more information about the program or to sponsor a field trip, call SCCF at 472-2329.✱

Lakes Park Foundation Gala

The second annual Evening Under the Stars, a gala benefitting the Lakes Park Enrichment Foundation's work enhancing Lakes Regional Park, will be held at Amavida Living on Thursday, March 5 from 6 to 9:30 p.m.

Evening Under the Stars features food, wine and live entertainment to raise funds to support the foundation's mission, which is to enhance the beauty and experience of Lakes Regional Park. Current projects include the music park in the Children's Garden, replacement of raised beds in the Community Garden and funding of STEM programming (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) for Lakes Park's summer

campers.

Business sponsorships range from \$500 to \$2,500 and include event tickets plus social media promotion and multi-media signage at the event. They are available at www.lakespark.org.

The gala will feature a specialty cocktail designed by Amavida's culinary team especially for the foundation, which can be purchased using one of the two drink tickets included with the event ticket. Also included with the event ticket are live entertainment and a variety of heavy hors d'oeuvres including charcuterie, fresh fruit, seafood and a specialty slider bar. Raffle and auction opportunities round out the event.

Amavida Living is located at 7650 Gladiolus Drive in Fort Myers. For more information, tickets, to register or donate online, visit www.lakespark.eventbrite.com.✱

Call To Artists For Billboard Campaign



Cheryl Fausel's artwork on billboard is located along Gladiolus Drive photo provided

The Alliance for the Arts seeks local artists in Lee County to submit their work to the Art Lives Here campaign to transform billboard space into public art. Selected artwork will be displayed on billboards throughout Lee County.

The campaign, which began in the spring of 2019, was founded on the vision to bring more art to more people by providing free access to the arts. Art Lives Here is made possible by Alliance season sponsor Carter-Pritchett Outdoor Advertising.

An entry may consist of one to three artworks. A non-refundable entry fee is

\$20 for one entry and \$35 for two or three entries for Alliance for the Arts members or \$25 for one entry and \$45 for two or three entries for nonmembers. Alliance for the Arts memberships are \$55 and are good for one year.

All entries must be submitted online no later than March 13. Artists can at www.artinlee.org/artliveshere. Not all submissions receive a billboard. You may become a member to submit.

Call 939-2787 or visit www.artinlee.org/artliveshere for more information or to download the prospectus and submit work online.✱

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One of the homes on the house tour photo provided

Park To Turn 100

Dean Park, one of the oldest subdivisions in Fort Myers, will celebrate its 100th birthday on Saturday, March 28 with a Historic House Tour of 10 bungalows and other historic homes.

The homes – dating from 1917 to 1955 – will be open to the public from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Refreshments, a Dixieland band and antique cars will add to the fun. Advance tickets are \$20, while tickets are \$25 on the day of the tour, which starts from “The Triangle” park at the intersection of Providence

Street and Rhode Island in Dean Park. Dean Park is located at 2685 Rhode Island Avenue in Fort Myers. For more information and advanced tickets, visit www.deanpark.org or the Franklin Shops, 2200 First Street, Fort Myers.✧

Play To Raise Awareness For Mental Health

Kids Minds Matter, a Lee Health initiative focused on combating the nationwide children’s mental health epidemic, is sponsoring the play *Every Brilliant Thing* at the Florida Repertory Theater.

The play, which runs February 25 through March 29, is a one-man show focusing on the struggles of growing up in a home broken by suicide and trying to cope with mental illness. Described as “striking a delicate balance between sobering loss and cathartic laughter,” the narrator, with help from the audience, builds a list of “brilliant things” that make life worth living.

Through Kids Minds Matter’s sponsorship, more than 1,200 students from 14 Lee County high schools will have the opportunity to experience the play. In addition to field trips,

the play will also travel for a special performance at Bonita Springs High School. The Lee County School District is also providing support to help offset the cost of busses.

“We are very excited to provide an artistic, rather than clinical, experience for Lee County students to better understand how the issue of suicide is affecting millions of families around the world,” said Dr. Paul Simeone, vice president medical director of behavioral and mental health at Lee Health. “This will likely be the first play many of these students have attended, and we are grateful to collaborate with Lee County schools and the Florida Repertory Theater to help fulfill the Kids Minds Matter goal of increasing mental health awareness in our community.

The March 3, 10 and 25 performances will feature “talk-backs” after the show, in which the actor and mental health professionals, including Dr. Simeone, discuss the play with the audience. This provides a unique experience to look into the mind of the main character, and discuss ways to help people cope with the devastating costs of suicide.

Florida Repertory Theater is located at 2268 Bay Street in downtown Fort Myers. To learn more about the show or order tickets, visit www.floridarep.org/the-season/every-brilliant-thing.✧

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.functftmyers.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@embarqmail.com, facebook.com/nbcministry, 8505 Jenny Cae Lane, 656-0416.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE METROPOLITAN
Sunday 10 a.m., 3049 McGregor Boulevard, 344-0012.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CROW Case Of The Week:

Southern Black Racer



by Bob Petcher

The southern black racer (*Coluber constrictor priapus*) is a non-venomous snake that is mainly black in color except for a white chin. That light-colored chin often confuses

people who think the snake may be a dangerous cottonmouth, but racers are more docile and more similar in appearance to the garter snake, indigo snake or the rat snake.

Black racers may come from the constrictor family but, unlike the boa constrictor, it is less ominous and less likely to subdue prey by squeezing them to death. They prefer to attack frogs, lizards, rodents and other small mammals, and crush them into the ground before dining on them.

However, keep in mind that they are snakes. While they may decide to “race” away and are quick as their name implies, they will attack if cornered and are not afraid to charge at people to frighten them or strike time and again with extreme force to defend themselves.

At CROW, a black racer was



Patient #20-491 is reportedly on the mend after being attacked by a cat

photo by Brian Bohlman

admitted after being attacked by a cat in Cape Coral. On exam, the snake was alert and responsive. It reportedly appeared healthy and stable with only a minor puncture wound about halfway down the body. The wound did not seem to be causing it any pain.

Due to a high risk of infection from bacteria in the cat’s mouth, the snake was given antibiotics upon intake.

“Both domestic and feral cats have the same dangerous bacteria in their

mouths that can kill smaller animals like snakes and birds, even if the trauma from the bite was minimal,” said Dr. Megan Cabot, CROW veterinary intern. “All animals, including humans, have normal bacteria in their mouths. Cats and dogs both carry bacteria that can cause disease or infection from a bite wound.”

The patient is being monitored over the next few days for developing signs of infection.

“Snakes are stoic, but can show subtle signs of illness such as decreased appetite and energy. In severe cases, they may develop skin lesions that suggest systemic infection,” said Dr. Cabot.

After roughly six days at the clinic, this black racer appears to be getting healthier and may be released if the prognosis continues to be positive.

“The black racer is doing well in the hospital and if the wound continues to heal and the snake is still bright and active after a round of antibiotics, it will be cleared for release,” said Dr. Cabot.

The cat that attacked the black racer was reportedly a domestic cat that is probably used to living indoors. However, all cats do share the same instincts.

“While feral cats pose the biggest threat to wildlife, all domestic cats will hunt prey if released outdoors,” said Dr. Cabot. “Cats that live or are allowed outside are also exposed to dangers such as being hit by a car, being attacked by a larger wild animal and many diseases. Keeping domestic cats indoors can help keep wildlife and your cat safe.”

CROW (Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife, Inc.) is a non-profit wildlife hospital providing veterinary care for native and migratory wildlife from our local area. The hospital accepts patients seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mail donations to P.O. Box 150, Sanibel, FL 33957. Call 472-3644 or visit www.crowclinic.org.

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Over the past few weeks season in Southwest Florida has kicked into high gear. This amazing stretch of weather we are experiencing over the past 10 days is what winter in Florida is all about. Once away from the more travelled waterways, there are plenty of places to get away from the crowds and catch fish while enjoying the tranquility that being with nature is all about.

Though its a little unusual, spring-like weather in February did wonders for our fishing. In less than one week, our waters came to life as water temperatures rebounded more than 10 degrees and back into the low 70s. Anglers quickly scrambled to switch patterns from the normal wintertime shrimp fishing to shiner fishing. After a two-week break from catching shiners, my mornings are now starting as they do most of the year by throwing a cast net to catch bait on the flats. Once loaded with these magical baits, fishing for snook, redfish and big jack crevalles kept the rods bent.

Although this warm up is bad news for sheepshead fishermen, it did not take me long to realize how much I had missed shiner fishing. Most of our grass flats are covered with birds diving on baitfish along with the mackerel, trout and ladyfish that are feeding on them. Seeing the bay come to life makes me feel like spring has arrived early. What has happened in the past few years is that, after a winter warming trend, we get slammed by one or two more strong cold fronts in March or even early April.

Clients this week got to experience some of the most crazy wide-open fishing I have seen in a long time. Chumming live shiners and having fish blow up everywhere is what our fishing is all about no matter what month it is.

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.✧



Tim from Minnesota with a snook caught while fishing with Capt. Matt Mitchell this week

photo provided

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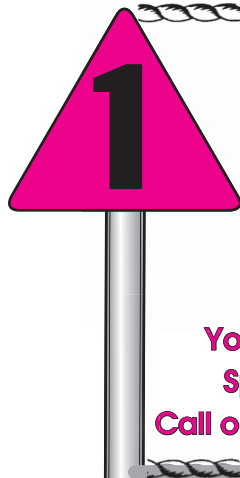
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The flower clusters are miniscule

Plant Smart

Black Medic

by Gerri Reaves

Black medic (*Medicago lupulina*) is a common weed found throughout Florida in sunny locations, usually along roadsides and in fields and disturbed areas.

Other common names include nonesuch, hop clover and yellow trefoil.

A native of Eurasia, this member of the pea, or legume, family has nitrogen-fixing nodules and a taproot. It is used as food for grazing animals.

Because it was used as a potherb in the Old World, it was introduced to the U.S. more than two centuries ago, as indicated by an 1807 seed catalog.

In addition, the seeds were reportedly cooked or ground into flour and consumed by Native Americans in California. However, currently no plant parts are widely recommended for human consumption.

Low-growing and spreading, it is multi-branched and has alternative trifoliate leaves on which the center terminal leaflet has the longest stalk, or petiole.

The square stems are one to two feet long and covered with white downy hairs.

Each leaflet is generally rounded – obovate to elliptic – and toothed near the tip, which has a small spur.

photos by Gerri Reaves



Non-native black medic is a common weed throughout Florida

The thimble-like clusters of very small yellow flowers at the tips of the stems are spherical.

The plant produces tiny black coiled one-seeded pods.

Sources: *Weeds of South Florida ID Guide* by George Rogers, www.eattheweeds.com, and www.edis.ifas.ufl.edu.

Plant Smart explores the diverse flora of South Florida.✱

Wildlife Day At Refuge



Bring your own bike for a four-mile refuge tour

photo provided

Take a free guided bike tour, play wildlife trivia games, watch a free film and take advantage of Refuge Nature Store specials during National Wildlife Day at JN “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Monday, February 24.

Bring your own bike and helmet to join the four-mile bike tour at 9 a.m. Win prizes in Wildlife Jeopardy for adults and Kids’ Wildlife Trivia in the afternoon. A free showing of the Our Planet film *Coastal Seas* takes place at 2:45 p.m. in the Visitor & Education Center auditorium. The first 20 people to show up for the screening will receive a 10 percent discount coupon for the Refuge Nature Store.

“My interns and I decided to celebrate this special day by drawing attention to and educating people about wildlife and the importance of its preservation,” said Conservation Educator Sara Hallas, whose

team is organizing the event.

Below is the full schedule for wildlife-friendly and free fun throughout the day:

9 to 11 a.m. – Free guided four-mile bike tour; meet at the flagpole with your bicycle

Noon to 1 p.m. – Wildlife Jeopardy with prizes in the Visitor & Education Center Classroom

1:30 to 2:30 p.m. – Kids’ Wildlife Trivia (device with cellular data required) with prizes in the Visitor & Education Center Classroom

2:45 to 3:35 p.m. – Free showing of the Our Planet film *Coastal Seas* in the Visitor & Education Center Auditorium
“Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge supports the National Wildlife Day celebration at the refuge. For more information, call 472-1100 ext. 236 or visit www.dingdarlingsociety.org/articles/events.✱

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Wintering shorebirds

photo provided

It's Snowbird Time At The Beaches

The Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) weekly Speaker Series continues with Wintering Shorebirds of Sanibel & Captiva by Audrey Albrecht on Tuesday, February 25. Check-in begins at 3:30 p.m., and the programs begin at 4:15 p.m.

Albrecht, the shorebird program manager for Sanibel Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF), will give an in-depth look at the interesting life histories of some of the most commonly observed shorebirds on the beaches of Sanibel and Captiva. Many species migrate thousands of miles each way to join us each winter. Learn

about the threats they face across their range, and how the recent water quality crisis in Southwest Florida has affected these birds.

Speaker Series programs presented by LCEC are held in the CROW Visitor Education Center, located at 3883 Sanibel Captiva Road on Sanibel and are approximately one hour in length. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for teens (ages 13 to 17) and free for children age 12 and younger. Space is limited, so advanced registration is highly recommended.

CROW's 2020 Speaker Series runs through April 14. For a full schedule of talks, more information or to register in advance, visit www.crowclinic.org/articles/2020-speaker-series-presented-by-lcec.✱

Education For A New Humanity Colloquium

Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) will host the fifth biennial Education for a New Humanity colloquium with a series of guest speakers in Rush Auditorium, Building J-103 on Saturday, February 22 from 3 to 6 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The colloquium will open with three guest lecturers focused on the topic of Humanizing Deportation.

Artist and activist Lizbeth De La Cruz Santana will present her latest work, the Playas de Tijuana Mural Project, a highly visible and interactive community mural in Friendship Park on the U.S.-Mexico Border. The project brings public art of high artistic quality and enduring value to one of the busiest land border crossings in the world. At the same time, it intends to transform the public perception of deportability through institutional and societal engagement.

Terry Coonan, executive director of the Center for the Advancement of Human Rights, will discuss the legal dimensions to our current policies at the border. Coonan is an internationally known human rights lawyer who has advised U.S. judges on immigration and refugee law. He worked with the United Nations and the

U.S. Justice Department, and litigated asylum and torture victim protection cases for more than two decades. He has done leading advocacy and policy work regarding human trafficking and has trained law enforcement, service providers and judges nationwide on the topic. Coonan serves as an associate professor in the College of Criminology and Criminal Justice and a courtesy professor in the FSU College of Law and the FSU Film School. He teaches courses on international human rights, human trafficking, refugee and asylum law, and human rights and film.

Danilo Castillo, interpreter and chair of Immigration for Fresno's WILPF, is the co-creator of Migri Map, a one-stop shop of resources for asylum-seekers, deportees and migrants in Tijuana, Mexico. He has been interpreting for asylum interviews in San Francisco for over 15 years and will discuss how being granted asylum has been a life-changing event for many refugees.

Additional colloquium presentations will include a poetry reading by poet Julie Marie Wade at 12:30 p.m. on Monday, March 16, and a presentation by fine art and documentary photographer Jared Ragland at 12:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 26.

FSW Lee Campus is located at 8099 College Parkway in Fort Myers. For more information, contact Dr. Monica Krupinski at 489-9302 or mkrupinski@fsw.edu, or Dr. Elijah Pritchett at 489-9471 or epritchett@fsw.edu.✱

Aquarium Exhibits Coming Soon To Shell Museum

The Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum will unveil a major expansion next month, adding living animal aquariums to its world-renowned shell collection here in the shelling capital of the world.

The new experience sharpens the focus on mollusks, the live animals that create the stunning shells prized by beachgoers and collectors alike, telling the remarkable story behind the museum's displays of rare and record-breaking shells from around the world.

"Sanibel's remarkable beaches are actually the second-best places to find stunning shells," said Dorrie Hipschman, the museum's executive director. "Visitors should stop by the museum, too, because once they see these exhibits, they'll never again look at the beach the same way."

The expansion consists of 11 aquarium exhibits ranging in size from 100 to 900 gallons, and their residents include gastropods, octopuses, nudibranchs, giant clams and nautilus. Two 15-foot-long touch tanks let young visitors get their hands wet as they explore the world of mollusks, furthering the museum's educational efforts that already reach thousands of schoolchildren each year.

Interactive interpretive exhibits will reveal fascinating hidden worlds behind these species. For instance, a giant Pacific octopus, typically 15 feet across, is a mollusk, too, related to scallops, oysters, snails and slugs – it's just seen its shell disappear over millions of years of evolution.

The museum also emphasizes the environmental dangers today facing the shell-builders, which are threatened by rising sea temperatures, habitat loss and overharvesting. Although there are more mollusks in the ocean than any other animal, many are endangered, going extinct faster than new species can be named. And as key parts of the ocean's food web, as mollusks decline, so will other marine species, such as whales and dolphins. The new expansion calls on visitors to learn how they can help.

"Conservation is hampered by a lack of awareness," said Hipschman. "It's hard to save animals when people don't know they exist. We're taking visitors who love shells and inspiring them to care deeply about the animals that make them, and that leads to the next step of wanting to protect them."

Museum marine scientists conduct research about local shelled animals, documenting new species and researching and recording their lifespans, habitats and diet requirements. This science is critical because most major aquariums in the world have few invertebrates and don't contribute substantially to the knowledge of these critical species.

The expansion comes as the Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum celebrates its 25th anniversary, having welcomed more than one million visitors to date. The nonprofit museum is an integral part of Sanibel Island, a curving

Gulf of Mexico barrier island that's home to more than 400 species of shells. Sanibel is known worldwide for its efforts to protect that natural resource, and today local, county and state laws prohibit the taking of live animals in their shells.

"Sanibel is simply a unique place, and there's no other community in the world like this," said Hipschman. "Its residents truly care about these animals and are invested in their health, and our expansion honors that commitment."

For more information, visit www.shellmuseum.org or call 395-2233. Daily beach walks are always available and can be reserved by calling the museum.✱

Scholarships And Waivers At Hodges

Hodges University awarded over \$1 million in student scholarships and tuition waivers for 2019.

"For the year 2019, these scholarships and waivers helped 400 of our students continue with their educational goals," said Dr. John Meyer, president of Hodges University. "Over 40 percent of our students identify as Hispanic, and 62 percent of our students are women. Many of our students work full-time jobs, and are raising families. This is why these scholarships and waivers are critical so they can realize their career goals."

Scholarships came from the Earl & Thelma Hodges Veterans Scholarship, the Hawks Scholarship Fund and the Meftah Foundation Scholarship for Single Mothers. Discounts and waivers were awarded from the university's active duty military, corporate/employer partners, the Hodges Graduate Discount and the Veterans Discount.✱

From page 1

Something's Afoot

winds, and without a wind machine, they make it look so real. It was truly amazing. The sound effects throughout are also very clever.

The play is based on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's 1902 novella *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. The twisty plot involves Holmes and Watson visiting the treacherous moors, gloomy Baskerville Hall, railway stations, London streets and numerous other locations. One line spoken early on leads them on, "Mr. Holmes, they were the footprints of a gigantic hound." Ludwig has fused suspense with humor, and it makes for a very entertaining experience.

Is there a wild hellhound in the moors of Devonshire and, if so, can our heroes discover the truth in time? This is a comedic melodrama that pits Sherlock Holmes against a terrifying monster. It's a play for all ages. Seated next to me was a family with three children not yet teenagers and they loved the show. *Baskerville: a Sherlock Holmes Mystery* is directed by Rachael Endrizzi and it plays through February 23 at Theatre Conspiracy at the Alliance for the Arts, located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. For tickets, call the box office at 939-2787 or visit www.artinlee.org/theatre.✱



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Superior Interiors

Four Pieces Of Furniture That'll Save You Space



by Katie Frederick

Decorating a home and filling it with furniture that makes the space more comfortable is key. It can be difficult, however, if you have a smaller living space and want to ensure the space

is still functional and efficient. If you're in the middle of a home revamp or you're moving into a house or condo with less space than your last, now's a great time to consider multifunctional furniture.

Essentially, these pieces serve more than one purpose and prioritize functionality. Furniture that can offer comfort, relaxation and storage (on top of looking stylish) is a trend that will never die. Any way you can make your furniture multitask is a great way to maximize your space.

Beyond looking chic, multitasking is putting your furniture to work for you. Here are four pieces that'll save you space and add functionality to your living arrangement:

Ottomans with storage – Today's ottoman is more multifunctional than ever. It can be the cocktail table in front of the sofa, while also safe to use to put your feet up to relax. It's the extra seating for the conversation with those on the sofa or can be moved around the room as seating. There are also ottomans that have a secret storage capacity to help eliminate clutter, games or items we all have that we don't want to leave lying around.

Sofa tables – The name is in itself... coffee tables are perfect for setting a nice fresh brew in the morning while you're in between sips. But this piece of furniture can also be useful as a desk when you're taking care of bills, catching up on work or completing your favorite crosswords. There are expandable options that elevate to your chest level, so you don't have to bend down and hurt your back in the process of using it, definitely something to consider.

Expandable kitchen tables – When you love to have guests over, having enough space to accommodate each person is a must. But why take up the living space all the time when they're only visiting for a few hours of the week? Expandable kitchen tables allow you to offer that extra level of accommodation while saving the room when the visitors head home.

Multi-purpose cribs – This tip is great for the grandparents and soon-to-be moms and dads out there. The baby's crib can take up a lot of space. Once the two-year mark is up, you may find yourself sending it right to the basement or storage if you don't plan on having any other little ones around. Thankfully, there are a few options out there that make the crib more efficient for the modern-day home. For starters, there are options that include a changing table and storage system attached to the side, which can save you space that would otherwise be taken up in

the room. Additionally, some cribs are now three-in-one beds, which converts from a baby's crib to a toddler bed, right on to a young child's bed. These are all options that can save you time, space and money over a couple of years.

Katie Frederick is an interior designer on Sanibel/Captiva Islands. She can be reached at katie@coindecnden.com.✱

Airport Reports Record-Breaking December

During December, 1,077,818 passengers traveled through Southwest Florida International Airport in Fort Myers, an increase of 12.4 percent compared to December 2018. Year-end passenger traffic was up 9.1 percent compared to last year.

"December 2019 was the best December in the 37-year history of the airport and we reached a new annual traffic record of 10,225,180 passengers," said Ben Siegel, CPA, CM, acting executive director of the Lee County Port Authority. "We appreciate the support of our airline partners in providing excellent air service and thank the traveling public for continuing to use RSW as their airport of choice."

The traffic leader in December was Delta Air Lines with 187,064 passengers traveling to and from Fort Myers. Rounding out the top five airlines were Southwest (161,041), Spirit (138,925), Frontier (137,715) and American (137,090).

Southwest Florida International Airport had 9,314 aircraft operations, an increase of 9.5 percent compared to December 2018. Page Field saw 9,926 operations, an 18.2 percent increase from December 2018.

Southwest Florida International Airport served more than 10.2 million passengers in 2019 and is one of the top 50 U.S. airports for passenger traffic. No ad valorem (property) taxes are used for airport operation or construction. For more information, visit www.flylcpa.com or www.facebook.com/flyrsw.✱

Beach Council Candidate Debate

The Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce will be holding its annual Fort Myers Beach Town Council candidate debate titled Commotion by the Ocean at Beach Baptist Church on Thursday, March 5 from 6 to 9 p.m.

This debate is open to the community and is a great opportunity to get to know the candidates and where they stand on local issues. A meet and greet will be held at 6 p.m., and the program will begin at 7 p.m. Questions can be submitted by the community and will be picked at random during the event.

Submit questions to events@fmbchamber.com by Monday, March 2.

Beach Baptist Church is located at 130 Connecticut Street. For more information, call 454-7500.✱

Life Insurance

Getting Cash From Life Insurance



J. Brendan Ryan, CLU, ChFC, MSFS

In a recent column I recommended the use of one's life-insurance cash value for temporary cash-flow needs. The examples I gave related to pension income. If one retires early, the

cash value of life insurance can bridge the gap between the retirement date and the start of ones' normal retirement income and/or the start of Social Security income.

I also used the example of retirement reserves invested in the market. When the market is down, better not to make a regular withdrawal for cash-flow needs since such a withdrawal during a down market can permanently damage remaining fund balance. Better to ride out the depressed-market period using the cash value in one's life insurance for cash flow, thus preserving the strength of the remaining retirement fund.

This discussion, of course, applies just to whole life and universal life. The other type, term insurance, does not have cash value.

How does one get to the cash in a life-insurance policy? Through policy loans, partial surrenders and full surrenders. But one must be aware of the tax ramifications of each.

With a policy loan, there is no income tax (unless the policy is a modified endowment contract or MEC). The cash value is reduced dollar-for-dollar by the amount of the loan until the loan is repaid, if ever. Annual interest is charged. If the

insured dies with the loan outstanding, the death benefit is reduced by the amount of the loan and any accrued, unpaid interest.

If one surrenders the policy partially or fully, there can be tax implications. First, recall the definition of a policy's "taxable gain." This is equal to the excess of the policy's cash value plus any untaxed dividend credits less the total paid into the policy (the "cost basis").

Some policies, such as universal life, permit partial withdrawals. As long as the policy is not a MEC, one can withdraw an amount equal to the cost basis without tax. That is considered a tax-free return of after-tax dollars paid in. Such tax-free withdrawals can be done as a one-time event or a series of withdrawals up to the cost basis. The death benefit is reduced dollar-for-dollar.

Any further withdrawal will create taxable income, taxed at ordinary, not capital-gains, rates.

If the policy is a MEC, things are different. A MEC is a policy for which too much premium has been paid in during the early years. That threshold amount is defined for each policy by a formula laid out in tax law.

If a policy is a MEC, loans and withdrawals are taxed differently. A loan or a withdrawal is taxed as ordinary income to the extent that there is an untaxed gain in the policy. After that, any loans and withdrawals are received tax-free as a return of after-tax dollars paid in. If such taxable income is received before age 59 1/2, the will be an additional 10-percent surtax levied. But the death benefit of a MEC policy like other policies, is received tax-free.

So, how should one get to the cash? It depends on one's cost basis, the amount needed, the willingness to pay tax and future ability to pay back any amount borrowed. It is usually best to consult the agent, one's attorney and/or accountant before acting.

J. Brendan Ryan is a Cincinnati insurance agent. He can be reached at jbryanclu@aol.com.✱

Collaboratory To Hold Film Screening

In partnership with Lumina Foundation, the Southwest Florida Community Foundation's Collaboratory will screen the film *Unlikely* on Tuesday, February 25. Doors will open at 5 p.m. and the screening will begin at 5:30 p.m. A discussion of the film will follow the screening. The cost is free but attendees must register by visiting <https://events.blackthorn.io/36ojFe6/4a4H1RlwEb>.

Set in the cities of Akron, Atlanta, Boston and Los Angeles, *Unlikely* follows five individuals failed by America's higher education system fight for a second chance at opportunity.

Unlikely is directed and produced by husband and wife filmmaking team, Jaye and Adam Fenderson, the founders of Three Frame Media and producers of the award-winning documentary film *First Generation*.

Collaboratory is located at 2031

Jackson Street in Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.unlikelyfilm.com.✱

From page 2

Historic Downtown

open Wednesday and Saturday between 9 a.m. and noon and Wednesday 4 to 7 p.m. It is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard on the campus of the Lee County Alliance for the Arts. Call 939-4044 for more information.

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

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

Sources: The Archives of the Southwest Florida Historical Society and the *Fort Myers Weekly Press*.✱

Journalist Joins Race For Cape Coral City Council

Tom Hayden, an accomplished journalist whose voice impacted community awareness and change for over four decades, recently announced his candidacy for Cape Coral City Council in District 3.

Hayden, 62, wrote for newspapers throughout the country in various roles, most notably 11 years as the Cape Coral editor of *The News-Press* followed by eight years as the voice of reason, writing editorials for *The News-Press*.

As a 24-year resident of Cape Coral, Hayden is well-versed in the issues facing the growing city of approximately 190,000 residents through his roles as a journalist and community member. As Cape Coral editor of *The News-Press*, he led community-wide events and storytelling on the city's utility extension project, land and development issues with the former golf club, downtown and Pine Island Road development, residential growth, water quality for Cape Coral's 400-mile network of canals and the city's role in education.

Over his eight years writing editorials, he met and discussed these key issues with municipal councils throughout Lee County, county commissioners, state legislators and members of Congress. Hayden has met with over 300 political candidates running in various city, county, state and federal races. He also moderated numerous election debates in Cape Coral and throughout Lee County.



Tom Hayden

photo provided

Those relationships resulted in editorials that provided guidance, approval and disapproval for quality of life issues impacting the community.

Hayden serves on the Cape Coral Caring Center and Quality Life Center boards. He has worked collaboratively on many projects with Cape Coral's service groups and has helped the nonprofits Lifeline Family Center, Valerie's House and United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee Counties. This year, he and his wife, Joanne, are co-chairs of the Valerie's House fundraising gala.

To learn more about Hayden and his priorities, or to make a donation, visit facebook.com/tomhaydenforcapecitycouncil.✪✪

District Employee Of The Year

The Lee County School District has announced that Davina Perez is the 2019-20 School-Related Employee of the Year. Perez is the student services secretary at Lehigh Senior High School. She also serves as the girls' cross country coach and softball coach.

When students come to student services, Perez is the first person they come in contact with. Some are upset, some are angry or facing discipline, and Perez is credited with always knowing what to do. "Davina, being the first person students see, always chooses the right way to interact with each student," said Assistant Principal Liam Farrell. "Whether the situation calls for being stern, kind or sensitive, Davina has the emotional intelligence to connect and support each individual human being with whom she interacts with."

Perez is also described as the kind of employee that goes out of her way to help others. She is currently doing double duty and also working as the principal's secretary. At the end of the school day, she volunteers, runs fundraisers, attends student events and coaches. Her work ethic is described as an 11 out of 10. "I have never worked with a person who gives as much attention to detail as she does, as well as her willingness to take on the difficult task of supporting the needs of our department and especially our students," said Assistant Principal Veronica Young. "If it was not for Davina, I could not get through the daunting task to serve



Davina Perez

photo provided

the needs of all my students."

Superintendent Dr. Greg Adkins, district administrators and school staff will surprised Perez with the Support Person of the Year Award on February 7.

The School Related Employee of the year represents the thousands of dedicated staff members that work in Lee County Schools every day. They are the counselors, psychologists, social workers, helping teachers, paraprofessionals, secretaries, cafeteria staff, custodians and more.

The district congratulates all the nominees and finalists for this award, saying it is getting continually harder to name just one school-related Employee of the Year.✪✪

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Book Review

Cat Tale



by Di Saggau

Cat Tale: *The Wild, Weird Battle to Save the Florida Panther*, by Craig Pittman is an exceptional book about how Florida's panthers were saved from extinction. Not too long ago,

the Florida panther was close to extinction and the fact that it still exists today is nothing short of a "Hail Mary" pass in 1995, involving "genetic augmentation" that saved Florida's state animal. You'll meet the people involved in a desperate experiment that led to a remarkable comeback. Some call it a miracle. This is a story that needs to be told and Pittman uses not only sharp writing and extensive research, he also uses his ironic humor to tell the tale.

Big cats, tigers, lions, jaguars and leopards are in danger of going extinct all around the world and the big cats of North America, including the Florida panther, haven't fared much better over the years. A 1992 study predicted the Florida panthers would disappear by 2016, but they hung on. How this happened is what this book is all about. Panther hunts and loss of habitat were the greatest threat to the panther. The latter still exists. As suburbs, shopping centers and other developments spring up, the marshes and other habitats that sustained the panther, disappear. In the mid 1990s, in South

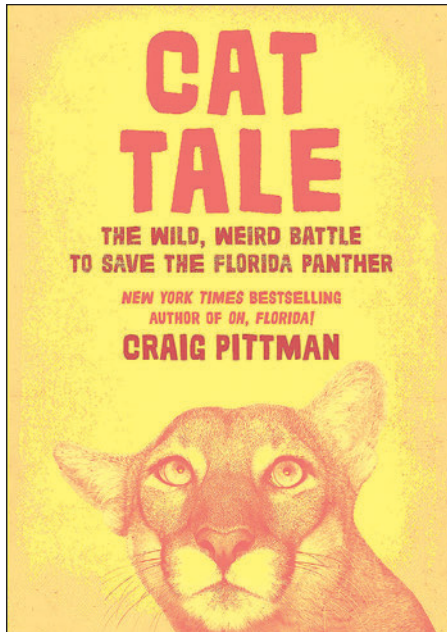


image provided

Florida, were fewer than 30.

Often the panther was killed out of fear, even though there is no documented panther attack on humans in Florida in the 20th or 21st century. Craig Pittman tells a story few knew about. It's an extraordinary story about those who helped save the panther and those who nearly caused it's permanent demise. Gilbert King, author of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Devil in the Grove*, wrote: "Craig Pittman has a remarkable talent for telling stories set in the Sunshine State that never fail to fascinate and entertain. Sure, *Cat Tale* has plenty of laughs and Florida weirdness, but Pittman has written a truly inspirational

story about the panther's brush with extinction and the human beings who were determined to save the species. You won't be able to put *Cat Tale* down." There you have it.

And if you are on Sanibel on Friday, February 28, you may want to take part in the JN "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society's annual lecture series that will feature Pittman at both 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. He is an award-winning journalist at the *Tampa Bay Times* and resides in St. Petersburg. Following his presentations, Pittman will sign copies of his books, which are available for purchase in the Refuge Nature Store, profits from which benefit refuge conservation and education programs.*

School Smart



by Shelley M. Gregg, NCSLP

Dear Readers,

Many of the questions I receive are about reading. When should a child master specific skills in order to become a good reader is a frequent

one. So today, I'm posting a list of general reading milestones by age to provide a framework for parents to understand the progression of skills in reading. Keep in mind that kids develop reading skills at their own pace, so they may not be on this exact timetable.

If you think your child is struggling with reading, take notes on what you're seeing. Share your concerns with your child's teacher or doctor. Keep in mind that some schools focus on different skills in different grades.

Babies (younger than 12 months)

Begin to reach for soft-covered books or board books
Look at and touch the pictures in books
Respond to a storybook by cooing or making nonsense sounds
Help turn pages

Toddlers (Ages 1 to 2 years)

Look at pictures and name familiar items, like dog, cup and baby
Answer questions about what they see in books

Recognize the covers of favorite books
Recite the words to favorite books
Start pretending to read by turning the pages and making up stories

Preschoolers (Ages 3 to 4 years)

Know the correct way to hold and handle a book
Understand that words are read from left to right and pages are read from top to bottom

Start noticing words that rhyme
Retell stories
Recognize about half the letters of the alphabet

Begin matching letter sounds to letters (m makes a mmm sound)

May start to recognize their name in print and other often-seen words, like those on signs and logos

Kindergartners (Age 5 years)

Match each letter to the sound it represents

Identify the beginning, middle and ending sounds in spoken words like dog

or sit

Say new words by changing the beginning sound, like changing rat to sat

Start matching words they hear to words they see on the page

Sound out simple words

Begin to recognize some word by sight

Ask and answer who, what, where, when, why and how questions about a story

Retell a story in order, using words or pictures

Predict what happens next in a story

Start reading or asking to be read books for information as well as entertainment

Younger Grade-Schoolers (Ages 6 to 7 years)

Learn spelling rules

Keep increasing the number of words they recognize by sight

Improve reading speed and fluency

Use context clues to sound out and understand unfamiliar words

Go back and re-read a word or sentence that doesn't make sense

Connect what they're reading to personal experiences, other books they've read and world events

Older Grade-Schoolers (Ages 8 to 10 years)

In third grade, move from learning to read to reading to learn

Accurately read words with more than one syllable

Learn about prefixes, suffixes and root words, like those in helpful, helpless and unhelpful

Read for different purposes (i.e., for enjoyment, to learn something new, etc.)

Explore different genres

Describe the setting, characters, problem/solution and plot of a story

Identify and summarize the sequence of events in a story

Identify the main theme and may start to identify minor themes

Making inferences/reading between the lines by using clues from the text and prior knowledge

Compare and contrast information from different texts

Refer to evidence from the text when answering questions about it

Understand similes, metaphors and other descriptive devices

Middle-Schoolers and High-Schoolers

Keep expanding vocabulary and reading more complex texts

Analyze how characters develop, interact with each other and advance the plot

Determine themes and analyze how they develop over the course of the text

Use evidence from the text to support analysis of the text

Identify imagery and symbolism in the text

Analyze, synthesize and evaluate ideas from the text

Understand satire, sarcasm, irony and understatement

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.*

EPIC FIRES OF FORT MYERS

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



THOMAS P. HALL
ROBIN C. TUTHILL, EDITOR

Available at
www.Amazon.com
www.OutSkirtsPress.com

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

Tax Collector Hires Relations Specialist

Nadege Pierre understands the enormous value of connecting with people and building relationships. She will apply those values in her new role as community relations specialist for the Lee County Tax Collector.

Her life's journey – from previous academic achievements to building a successful nonprofit – has prepared her in extraordinary ways for being the connecting voice and face between the tax collector's office and the community.

"I will plant seeds and grow relationships in the community to help change perceptions of what the tax collector's office does," Pierre said. "Everyone comes in contact with the tax collector's office in one way or another. We want to engage with customers in a very positive way and build those relationships."

Pierre has multiple academic degrees, including a master of business administration degree from Nova Southeastern University. She pledged her talent to a non-profit ministry, The New Beginnings, dedicated to empowering single mothers to get an education while also providing them with housing and life skills.

Pierre's work earned her the 2018 Young Professional of the Year award from *The News-Press* and a 2019 Women of Distinction award from the Republican Women of Cape Coral.

In her new role, Pierre is focused on using her community connections to advance the mission of the Lee County Tax Collector's Office and educate Lee County residents through speaking



Nadege Pierre photo provided

engagements and events as she visits various city and county chambers, civic groups and other organizations.

"I am a people person, and I want people to feel like the tax collector's office is there for them," said Pierre. "We want to connect with the community and do a lot to educate as well."

Pierre sees building collaborative relationships with other government departments, like the property appraiser's office, to help people understand the different roles and responsibilities of each office.

"Nadege has tremendous communicative skills and will be a strong voice connecting our office with the community," Lee County Tax Collector Larry Hart said. "She will have an extensive role to meet and educate people in all parts of Lee County."✴

Entry Call For Image Awards

The Southwest Florida Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association is accepting submissions for its 2020 Local Image Awards competition, and event held annually that recognizes the best public relations, communications and marketing efforts in Southwest Florida during the past year. The contest is open to FPRA members and non-members as well as students. Winners will be announced at the Local Image Awards dinner on April 23. Entries must be received at www.fpraimage.org no later than 11:59 p.m. on Friday, March 6.

The competition includes four divisions: Public Relations Programs; Printed Tools

of Public Relations; Digital Tools of Public Relations; and Student Projects in Public Relations. Within these divisions are multiple categories. Submissions for awards must be presented in a detailed and specific format as directed by the Call for Entries on the Recognition page at www.fpraswfl.org.

The local FPRA chapter Image Awards competition is the precursor to FPRA's Golden Image Awards where the winners participate in a state-wide competition. Entries can vary from a print brochure, commercial, website and viral video to a full public relations campaign. Winners will be evaluated based on evidence of sound research and planning as well as having met the highest standard of production, execution and evaluation of results and budget.✴

Bank Official Gains Service To Africa Award

Beth Countryman was recently honored with the Service to Africa Award from the African Network of Southwest Florida (ANSWFL). The award is given to a Southwest Florida resident who has worked selflessly and tirelessly toward the improvement of the lives of people in the African continent.

Countryman led the charge to change the way ANSWFL fundraises to support their projects. Using her extensive banking experience, she implemented a system for the organization to accept credit card donations and utilize auto debit for checking accounts, and she developed a follow-up protocol for collecting pledged donations.

Countryman is the vice president of treasury management, responsible for supporting business clients in using the bank's suite of digital products and services. She has more than 26 years of banking experience. Active in the Southwest Florida community, she is the vice-chair of the City of Fort Myers Mayor's diversity and inclusion advisory committee. Countryman graduated from North Fort Myers High School and attended Florida SouthWestern



Beth Countryman photo provided

State College.

The African Network of Southwest Florida is a nonprofit networking organization with the primary goal of promoting Africa's rich heritage and diverse cultures in the five counties of Southwest Florida. To learn more, visit www.africannetworkofswflorida.org.

Founded in 2003, Sanibel Captiva Community Bank has two locations on Sanibel and five locations in Fort Myers. To learn more, visit www.sancapbank.com.✴

Our email address is press@riverweekly.com

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Craig R. Hersch

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



SHEPPARD, BRETT, STEWART,
HERSCH, KINSEY & HILL P.A.
Attorneys at Law



9100 College Pointe Court
Fort Myers, FL 33919
Phone 239.425.9383
Fax 239.334.3965

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Will Power

Planning Around The State And Local Tax Deduction Cap



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

Do you own a residence here in Florida and another somewhere else? Do the property taxes exceed the cap that you may deduct on your federal income tax return? I'm going to use my credentials as a board certified wills, trusts and estates attorney and CPA to show you how you can maximize this deduction despite the \$10,000 cap that now exists.

For 2018 through 2025, the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act limits the total deduction a taxpayer can claim for state and local taxes unrelated to the taxpayer's trade or business or other profit-seeking activity to \$10,000. Further, the deduction for foreign real

property taxes on property unrelated to a business or investment activity was repealed entirely.

The law puts many Floridians who own a primary residence in Florida and another residence somewhere else at a tax loss. Before the 2017 Tax Act, they could deduct all of the state and local property taxes paid on both residences. With the new law, only the first \$10,000 in state and local taxes is deductible.

Is there anything that you can do about this?

Why yes, there is!

One strategy is to place your personal residences into a limited liability company (LLC) and then transfer the LLC interests into one or more trusts that are taxed as separate entities. Each such trust can then claim up to \$10,000 in state and local real property taxes as a deduction.

This strategy employs the use of non-grantor trusts. A grantor trust, as I explained in my column last week, is one that uses your social security number as its taxpayer identification number because it so qualifies under certain provisions of the Internal Revenue Code. For income tax purposes, at least, a grantor trust is you.

This strategy will typically use irrevocable non-grantor trusts. An irrevocable non-grantor trust is one where you make an irrevocable gift to the trust. You are not the beneficiary of the trust. Your spouse can be a beneficiary, and your spouse can establish a trust for you too. If we use the spouse strategy, the trusts must be dissimilar enough to avoid the IRS "reciprocal trust doctrine" problem.

The reciprocal trust doctrine says that if you and your spouse create similar trusts for

one another, then both are collapsed as if you did nothing. A qualified estate planning attorney knows how to circumvent this issue.

Let's illustrate what this looks like.

Assume that G owns two residences, each of which requires that G pay \$20,000 annually in property taxes. G transfers the two residences to a LLC, along with other investment assets that generate \$40,000 of income. G then gives 25percent interests in the LLC to four separate non-grantor trusts. (A non-grantor trust is a separate taxpayer from G). Through this strategy, each trust has around \$10,000 in annual income, offset by its \$10,000 share of the property tax deduction. Effectively, the entire \$40,000 in property taxes may be deducted each year, and G still has the opportunity to deduct another \$10,000 in personal state and local tax.

Florida residents who claim a homestead exemption need to be careful here, as you wouldn't want to lose the homestead exemption and the corresponding Save Our Homes property tax cap on the increased taxable base of the homestead's assessed value. So if this is important to you, the plan needs to consider the homestead exemption.

What happens if a future law changes that allows more than a \$10,000 state and local tax law deduction? This transaction could be fairly difficult to unwind without consuming the non-grantor trusts' beneficiaries' gift tax exemptions.

Is this a problem? Currently, each of us has a \$11.5 million exemption from gift and estate tax, so unless your beneficiaries have or will have a large estate, unwinding the transactions with gifts might not be a relevant issue.

That \$11.5 million exemption, however, sunsets on December 31, 2025. Without further action from the president and Congress, the gift and estate tax exemption will return to prior levels, which would approximate \$6 million.

If one of the Democratic progressive candidates wins the White House in November, however, the estate and gift tax exemptions may fall further. Bernie Sanders' platform, for example, calls for a reduction of the federal gift and estate tax exemption to \$3 million. Elizabeth Warren has not only proposed a lifetime wealth tax, but also includes reductions to the federal gift and estate tax exemptions.

Consequently, unwinding this transaction could be more difficult in the future. I would venture to suggest that in a scenario where Congress is looking for more money, it won't reinstate the generous state and local tax deductions that we had up until 2017. In other words, when those laws sunset at the end of 2025, I wouldn't hold my breath hoping the full state and local tax deduction will reappear. My guess is that Congress extends that cap.

No one has a crystal ball. But if you're adversely affected by the state and local tax deduction cap of \$10,000, it's worth your while to sit down with a qualified estate planning attorney who can walk you through these scenarios and others that might apply to determine if one is right for you and your family.

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Reserve Storage Suites During Phase Three

Allan Development Group LLC is now accepting reservations for phase three of Island Storage Suites – customizable, temperature and humidity-controlled man caves – located at 10950 Old South Way in Fort Myers. In demand and selling quickly, phase two sold out of 48 units in a record 18 months. Phase three is currently under construction. Pricing for the man caves starts in the \$200,000's.

"The response we received in phases one and two has been amazing," said Scott Allan, president of Allan Development Group. "As development of the last phase begins, it is very rewarding to know that we are providing a product that is in demand and brings excitement to our clients."

Far from ordinary storage units, these man caves offer two floor plans as well as secure, discreet, climate-controlled, garage-style storage suites to preserve and enjoy one's most prized possessions. Island Storage Suites are perfect for "toys" like exotic and/or vintage automobiles, Class-A recreational vehicles, boats and recreational watercraft, sports memorabilia or personal collections. Mezzanine spaces can be added for an additional investment as well as designed for entertainment and relaxation. Plus, interiors are customized to reflect the buyer's personal style. These man caves are ideal for get-togethers and gatherings as well as events like

Cigar-B-Que's, Coffee & Cars and RV enthusiast meetings.

Island Storage Suites feature individual utility connections, 125-amp electric, Cat-5 wiring-cable, stubbed-out plumbing for optional restroom, shower and mezzanine as well as wall LED strip lighting and oversized ceiling fans. Amenities include a high-pressure wash bay, commercial-grade vacuum system, RV and boat flush, tamper-proof surveillance cameras and entry gate with entrant identification.

For more information, call 333-3637 or visit www.islandstoragesuites.com.

Awards Banquet For County Hall Of Fame Inductees

The School District of Lee County recently announced the Lee County Athletic Conference Hall of Fame inductees for 2020. The inductees will be honored at a banquet at the Crowne Plaza Fort Myers at Bell Tower on Thursday, April 23 at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$25 per person.

Lee County Athletic Conference Hall of Fame Class of 2020 will include Kurt Benkert, Tommy Bohanon, Lynda Brown Case, Brodrick Jenkins and Kacy Smith in the Athletes category; and Cyndi Capel, Frank Drake, Stephanie Martin and Andre McGill Sr. in the Contributor category.

Benkert played football at Island Coast High School. His senior year he threw for 2,261 yards along with 20 touchdowns. He was First Team All- Area and Third

Team All State. At the University of Virginia, he is third all-time for career passing yards and touchdowns. He signed with the Atlanta Falcons as a free agent.

Bohanon played football at North Fort Myers High School where he was All-District, All-Conference and All Area in football and baseball. He was selected MVP of the Rotary South All Star Football Game. He attended Wake Forest on a football scholarship and was team captain in 2012. He was drafted in the 7th round by the New York Jets.

Case played golf at North Fort Myers High School from 1971 to 1976 where she was the schools Most Valuable Golfer. She went on to be the Southwest Florida Amateur Winner, Florida State Amateur Winner, Southern Amateur Winner and made the Intercollegiate All State Team. She turned pro in 1983 and won four mini-tour tournaments from 1983 to 89 along with qualifying to play in three US Women's Opens 1983, 1985 and 1996.

Jenkins, graduated in 2009 from South Fort Myers High School. He was a three-sport athlete (football, basketball, track). While in high school, Jenkins was voted Class 3A Third-Team All-State, he was one of seven Southwest Florida players invited to play in the Florida Athletic Coaches Association North-South All-Star Game and was the District 16 Player of the Year. He went on to play at West Virginia University.

Smith ran at Estero High School for legendary coach Jeff Sommer. In 2010, she was the individual Girls State Cross Country Champion. To go along with the individual cross country state title, in 2012, she won two state titles in track – the 1,600 meters and as a member of

the 4x800 meters state champion relay team. After high school, Smith ran at the University of Mississippi.

Capel started as the athletic administrative assistant at Cypress Lake High School in 1997. In 2002, she went to Mariner High School in the same role. She has been instrumental for all of the processes and procedures in that role at both schools and has been a guiding force for all of the athletic administrative assistants during that time. Her 22-plus years of experience, knowledge and work ethic is unmatched.

Drake coached wrestling at North Fort Myers High School from 1980 to 2015. Because of the successful career he had, he was inducted in both the National Wrestling Hall of Fame and the Florida State Wrestling Hall of Fame in 2018.

Martin has been coaching in Lee County for 29 years (Cape Coral, Cypress Lake and Fort Myers.) She has accumulated over 600 wins as a coach, along with Coach of the Year honors spanning 22 years. Her teams have been to the state finals eight times. She is a member of the Florida Athletic Coaches Association Hall of Fame.

McGill Sr. coached basketball in Lee County for 38 years. He is one of only two coaches in the history of Lee County to lead both a boys and girls high school team to the FHSAA Final 4. His 1984 girls' team at Fort Myers High lost in the finals and his Dunbar 2008 and 2015 boys' teams lost in the semifinals of the FHSAA State Championship Tournament

The Crowne Plaza Hotel is located at 13051 Bell Tower Drive in Fort Myers. For tickets, email David LaRosa at davidpl@leeschools.net.

Frankly Speaking



by Howard Prager

The NBA All-star game last weekend was truly one for the ages. Despite the high score of 157 points, the 4th quarter not only mattered for a change, it was probably the most

intense quarter of the game. That's typical of a regular season game but not an all-star game. And starting lineups were playing the fourth quarter. The first team to 157 (24 above the high score at the end of the third quarter) would win. The 24 reference, of course, was Kobe Bryant's number, and he was remembered throughout the weekend. To top it off, the MVP trophy is now named the Kobe Bryant Allstar MVP and was won the first time by Kawhi Leonard. Also new to an Allstar game, despite a seemingly no defense score, was some great defense played throughout the fourth quarter. Best of all, the teams were playing for two Chicago charities. What a great idea. It was truly a fun and meaningful weekend.

Speaking of experiences, it was also a reunion of Michael Jordan and Bulls owner Jerry Reinsdorf. Although they have seen each other before, it gave the two of them and Chicago Bulls fans a chance to relive some great memories and history seeing them at the United

Center, the house that Jordan built.

The Houston Astros continue to get bombarded by players complaining about the sign-stealing scandal. Alex Bregman and Jose Altuve both apologized but, ironically, Astros owner Jim Crane said let's just move on. We'll see how that plays out this season. New manager Dusty Baker is concerned. And I don't know what's taking the commissioner so long to figure out about Boston's involvement with sign stealing. He was supposed to have an answer before spring training. You know this is going to be a part of the collective bargaining agreement with players and owners next year. It doesn't leave a good image for baseball.

Speaking of changes in baseball, fewer pitching changes will be happening this year with the rule change that says pitchers have to face either 3 batters or finish an inning, unless they are hurt. This will change how managers face lefty-righty situations and not bringing in pitchers for just one hitter. It should speed up the game a bit where some managers may have used several pitchers in an inning, but it takes some strategy away too. It also means pitchers may be less of a specialist than they have been because they will be facing several hitters rather than one or two. The active roster will increase by one for the season to 26 players, but only increase to 28 players for September rather than 40 September call-ups. Manager challenges with a video review has been cut from 30 seconds to 20 seconds. A few other changes involving time on the injured list increasing from 10 to 15 days

minimally for pitchers and, for day-night doubleheaders, teams can add one additional player to 27.

A first in professional hockey. Katie Guay, Kelly Cooke, Kristen Welch and Kendall Hanley played hockey their whole lives. They wanted to still skate. They have done so as officials, becoming the first women to officiate at a pre-season NHL rookie tournament. They also officiated at the Women's U.S. vs. Canada 3-on-3 game for the NHL All-Star Skills. Good for them, and good for the NHL.

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.

Charity Golf Tournament

The top private club golfers in Southwest Florida will soon square off in a new charity competition. The Coastal Club Classic brings together the two best qualifiers from 36 clubs around the region for a one-day shamle-style golf event to feed hungry children. It begins with a shotgun start on Friday, May 16 at the Club at Mediterra in Naples.

Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the Southwest Florida chapter of Blessings in a Backpack, a nonprofit dedicated to filling the gaps of the free

and reduced-price school lunch program. Each player who takes part in qualifying will receive commemorative gear and is asked to make a \$100 tax-deductible donation, enough money for the organization to feed one child each weekend of the school year.

"We're known for our top-flight golf around here, but fewer people are aware of just how many Southwest Florida children go hungry," said Cecilia St. Arnold, executive director of the local Blessings in a Backpack chapter. "We're thankful to Scott Fischer Charities for hosting the Coastal Club Classic and designating us as the beneficiary. The event will raise awareness of the magnitude of the hunger crisis as well as the money necessary to address it."

More than 60,000 elementary school students in Lee and Collier counties receive free and reduced-price breakfasts and lunches during the week, but the federal program doesn't cover them on the weekends. Blessings in a Backpack gives thousands of those children nutritious kid-friendly, easy-to-prepare meals each Friday afternoon to take home for the weekend.

Clubs interested in becoming one of the 36 to participate in the tournament can contact local Blessings in a Backpack Advisory Board member David Teets at 595-8066 or merlin33159@comcast.net. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

For more information on Blessings in a Backpack Southwest Florida, visit www.blessingsinswfl.org. Details about the Coastal Club Classic are at www.coastalclubclassic.com.



Verandah golf course

photo provided

Charity Golf Classic Set For Verandah Club

Registration is now open to reserve a player spot in the 10th annual Goodwill Golf Classic, scheduled for April 30 at Verandah Golf Club. The annual four-person scramble is presented by Sullivan Benefits, and proceeds benefit programs and services offered through Goodwill that help people with disabilities and disadvantages remove barriers to their independence.

"We invite players to enjoy a top-notch area golf course while also supporting our mission of helping more than 24,000 individuals annually in Southwest Florida improve their lives," said John Nadeau, Goodwill Industries of Southwest Florida CEO/president.

Players will tee off at 8:30 a.m. on the Whispering Oaks course at Verandah, followed by lunch and prizes in the club restaurant. The top prize will be a \$7,500 golf vacation to play at Pebble Beach, including airfare, hotel and golf accommodations. To win, a player must score a hole-in-one on the designated hole during the tournament.

Dozens of other prizes will be

available through course contests and raffles. Cost is \$125 per player or \$500 per foursome. A limited number of sponsorships are available, such as lunch (\$1,500) or hole sponsors (\$250).

Players and sponsors can register online at www.goodwillswfl.org/golffclassic2020.

For more information, contact a member of the communications team at 995-2106. A limited number of volunteer opportunities will give preference to multi-generational families, which will help Goodwill

qualify for an All for Good award. Contact Susan at 652-1613 to volunteer.

Goodwill SWFL is committed to serving people with disabilities or disadvantages by offering life-changing opportunities to achieve independence. Programs include employment, skills training, small business courses, and affordable housing.

Whispering Oaks Course is located at 12202 River Village Way in Fort Myers. Visit www.goodwillswfl.org for more information.

SPORTS QUIZ

1. Name either of the starting pitchers before Chris Sale and Jacob deGrom in 2018 to face each other with a sub-2.00 ERA and at least 100 innings pitched for that season. (Hint: The year was 1985.)
2. Washington Nationals rookie Juan Soto set a record in 2018 for the youngest player (19) to steal three bases in a game. Who had been the youngest?
3. Minnesota's Adam Thielen tied an NFL record in 2018 by having eight straight games of at least 100 receiving yards. Who else holds the mark?
4. When was the last time before 2019 that a first-time men's basketball champion was crowned in the NCAA Tournament?
5. The Detroit Red Wings swept the Stanley Cup Finals two consecutive years (1997 and 1998). Name either team the Red Wings beat.
6. Name the only driver other than Lewis Hamilton and Sebastian Vettel to win the Formula One season championship between 2010 and 2019.
7. Entering 2020, how many of tennis star Serena Williams' 23 grand slam titles were won in the decade of 2010-19?

ANSWERS

1. Dwight Gooden and John Tudor. 2. Rickey Henderson was 20 years, 241 days old when he did it for Oakland in 1979. 3. Detroit's Calvin Johnson, who did it in 2012. 4. It was 2006 (the University of Florida). 5. The Philadelphia Flyers in 1997 and the Washington Capitals in 1998. 6. Nico Rosberg, in 2016. 7. She won 12, with four of them at Wimbledon.



Addisyn Heinz and Moana Toa

Radiothon Raises Funds For Kids With Cancer

The 18th annual Mel's Diner Helping Kids with Cancer Radiothon recently raised more than \$75,000 from the Southwest Florida community, money that will fund lifesaving cancer treatments for children at Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida.

The radiothon, broadcast live by Cat Country 107.1 from Mel's Diner in Cape Coral, generated support for Barbara's Friends – Golisano Children's Hospital Cancer Fund. Barbara's Friends provides equipment, medical services, therapeutic activities and financial help through the Kimmie's Angels Family Assistance Program so parents can focus on helping their children get well.

Since last year's radiothon, the Southwest Florida community has given more than \$860,000 to Barbara's Friends, which is celebrating its 25th year in 2020. Barbara's Friends is named in honor of the late Barbara Haskell, a breast cancer patient who was in awe of the bravery displayed by

photos by Caronchi Photography

children who were battling cancer.

"Every year for the last 18 years, the radiothon has not only generated donations for Barbara's Friends, but it has educated our community through the compelling stories shared by patients and hospital leadership how these donations are saving children's lives in Southwest Florida," said Al Kinkle, chairman of Barbara's Friends. "Golisano Children's Hospital provides exceptional pediatric health care programs and specialized services, and we are so grateful to be celebrating 25 years of Barbara's Friends and helping so many children and their families in their fight against cancer."

Golisano Children's Hospital does not deny treatment for any child as a result of their family's inability to pay.

Co-hosted by Cat Country 107.1 FM on-air personalities Mike Tyler and Amy Lynn, donors made pledges through telephone, website and text message, as well as onsite at all five Mel's Diner locations in Southwest Florida who also offered special \$5 donation breakfasts. Valvoline, Tamiami Ford, Hyundai and Genesis of Naples, 21st Century Oncology, Fox 4, Crestwell School of Fort Myers and other corporate partners contributed to Radiothon, making this year's event a great success.

Throughout the day, Cat Country



Kayla Polhemus and Reanna Thompson



From left, Amy Lynn, Al Kinkle and Susan Mitchell

107.1 listeners and Mel's guests heard from doctors, nurses, hospital administrators, celebrity guests, pediatric cancer patients and their families, each of whom shared compelling stories of hope and healing.

"Our mission is to bring world-class care to the children of Southwest Florida," said Armando Llechu, the

hospital's chief administrative officer. "We cannot live that mission without the support and partnership of our community's residents, businesses and philanthropic organizations. Their support helps fund exceptional medical programs and specialized services that otherwise wouldn't be offered to the children of our community."✪



From left, Golisano Children's Hospital nurses and team members cheer for donations as they volunteer at the Radiothon phone banks



Christina Soriero and Brianna Jackson

Weight Loss To Be Discussed At Speakers' Series

As part of the Lee Health National Speakers' Series, Michael Greger, MD, FACLM, will present a program called Evidence-Based Weight Loss – The Groundbreaking Science of Healthy, Permanent Weight Loss.



Dr. Michael Greger

A founding member and Fellow of the American College of Lifestyle Medicine, Dr. Greger is a physician, New York Times best-selling author and internationally recognized speaker on

nutrition, food safety and public health issues. He has lectured at the Conference on World Affairs, testified before Congress and was invited as an expert witness in the defense of Oprah Winfrey in the infamous "meat defamation" trial.

In 2017, Dr. Greger was honored with the ACLM Lifestyle Medicine Trailblazer Award. He is a graduate of Cornell University School of Agriculture and Tufts University School of Medicine. His book *How Not to Die* became an instant New York Times best seller. He has videos on more than 2,000 health topics freely available at www.nutritionfacts.org. All proceeds he receives from his books, DVDs and speaking engagements are donated to charity.

The free talk is open to the public and will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, March 2 at the First Christian Church, 2061 McGregor Boulevard, in Fort Myers.

To register, visit www.leehealth.org/classes. For more information, call 424-3234.✱

Secret Garden Gala For Mental Health Care

Kids' Minds Matter's fourth annual Secret Garden Gala will be held at Southwest Florida Event Center on Wednesday, March 4 at 5:30 p.m. Over its three-year history, the gala has raised awareness and nearly \$2.2 million in philanthropic support for pediatric mental and behavioral healthcare initiatives in Southwest Florida.

This year's keynote speaker is mental health advocate and best-selling author Kevin Hines, who will share his personal struggles with mental illness and the story of his miraculous survival following his near-fatal jump off the Golden Gate Bridge.

The event features hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, dinner, entertainment and exclusive experiences available through a live auction. Tickets are \$500 per person. Recommended attire is "Garden Cocktail."

The goal of Kids' Minds Matter is to provide youth and their families with a proper diagnosis, resources and treatment options. An estimated 46,000 Southwest Florida children are impacted by mental and behavioral health disorders like anxiety, depression, eating disorders, psychosis, substance abuse, autism and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

Philanthropic support for Kids' Minds Matter has allowed Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida to: implement a tiered model of care that clinically aligns community, inpatient and outpatient care; hire additional psychiatrists, child advocates and other mental health professionals; offer Mental Health First Aid training to local pediatricians, emergency service providers and others who work directly with children; renovate an outpatient center in Fort Myers where a child's needs can be addressed in a therapeutic setting; and launch a first-of-its-kind pediatric digital cognitive behavioral health diagnostic and treatment protocols interlaced with tele-psychology support

to treat anxiety, depression and trauma. Most recently, Kids' Minds Matter introduced mental health care navigators into Lee County Schools who will help families find resources and care to address their child's mental healthcare needs.

NBC2 anchor Kellie Burns will emcee the event, and benefit auctioneer Rick Gallo will lead a Fund the Need auction to generate additional support.

Sponsorships for the Secret Garden Gala start at \$1,500 and can include event tickets, reserved seating, meet-and-greet opportunities with the keynote speaker, public recognition and other acknowledgments through marketing, advertising and promotions.

The Secret Garden Gala is presented by Dr. Rick and Ellie Klein of Bonita Springs. Sponsors include Dorothy and Ron Fitzgerald, Susan Goldy and Scott Spiegle, Audi Fort Myers, Audi Naples, FineMark National Bank & Trust, Fort Myers Florist, Jill Kushner, The Kim Foundation, LeeSar and Stock Development.

Organizing committee members include Albert Abdo, Jeanne Beaulieu, Shavon Chester, Kathy Courtnage, Larry Courtnage, Gillian Draper, Dorothy Fitzgerald, Anne Frazier, Rick Gallo, Susan Goldy, John Halstead, George Hamilton, Tina Keating, Jennifer Parisi, Dr. Paul Simeone, Phil Simon, Bill Skidmore, Pat Smart, Scott Spiegle and Laura Tombs.

Southwest Florida Event Center is located at 11515 Bonita Beach Road SE in Bonita Springs. For ticket and sponsorship opportunities, visit www.kidsmindsmatter.com or call 214-0921.✱

From page 1

Small Stage

www.swflso.org, by visiting the Southwest Florida Symphony box office, located at 8290 College Parkway, Suite 103 in Fort Myers or by calling 418-1500. Tickets may also be purchased at the door for the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center performance only, one hour prior to the concert. Gala tickets must be purchased in advance.✱

Beautifulife:

Love Power



by Kay Casperson

I can't think of anything more important in life than to love without boundaries and to accept love with open arms. There are certain times or circumstances in our lives that can leave us questioning how

love could end up in a way that leaves us vulnerable, disappointed, or downright hurt. But, the truth is, that no matter what our love experiences are along the way, we must never stop striving for the love that lasts, is real and conquers all fears.

As we celebrate another Valentine's week, let's try to remember that love is a gift that we give to ourselves every day and to others whenever we can. The more love you give, the more love and fulfillment you get. Don't wait for someone to say, I love you because, although it is something we should all hear regularly, it is not always there when we need it.

I am such a huge fan of affirmations daily and affirming to yourself that you are loved, strong, beautiful and well. The reason behind that is, we cannot wait for others to give us those words. If we do, we may wait for too long, and it might be

a bit too late.

I encourage you to reach out to those around you that might not have someone near to them to say I love you or I appreciate you. Give a hug, a kind word, a thoughtful gesture, or anything you can to show love to those who need it.

The power of love will overshadow even the darkest and loneliest moments in life. More people should stop to take the time to pay attention to those that need to be loved and to feel love instead of passing right by and worrying about their day-to-day situations.

You might be the only love that a person gets to experience at that moment, and they might really need it at that time. I believe we are all here for a purpose, and each and every situation in life presents itself because it ultimately leads you to your final destination.

Yes, Love Power is real, it is lasting, and it is a vital part of living your most balanced and beautiful life. It is the fuel that keeps burning within, no matter what is happening around you. Love will never fail, love will never die and love will heal the heart.

My affirmation for you this week is:

"I will love without boundaries and will accept love with open arms."

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.✱

YOUR NEUROLOGICAL SYMPTOMS MAY HAVE A STRUCTURAL CAUSE!

- Balance problems
- Blurred vision
- Dizziness / vertigo
- Fainting / drop attacks
- Swallowing or speaking difficulties
- Tinnitus or hearing problems
- Torticollis / cervical dystonia
- And many more!

The Hauser Neck Center at Caring Medical Florida specializes in unique, dynamic diagnostic tests that find what traditional MRI scans can miss, and Comprehensive H3 Prolotherapy to treat the underlying structural cause of chronic neck pain, migraines, and neurological symptoms.



Ross Hauser, MD

Learn more at **CaringMedical.com** and contact our team to review your case!



Hauser Neck Center
Caring Medical Florida
9738 Commerce Center Ct.
Fort Myers, FL 33908
(239) 308-4725
DrHauser@CaringMedical.com

HELPING THE WORLD SEE CERVICAL INSTABILITY WITH 2020 VISION!

dearRPharmacist

Identify Hidden Food And Drug Allergies



by Suzy Cohen, RPh

Dear Readers: Adults can tell pretty easily if they react to a specific food but it may go unrecognized in kids.

Symptoms associated with food allergies vary greatly from individual to

individual. Most people know about skin rash, hives, itch or tingly sensation in the mouth and lip/tongue swelling. Also, abdominal cramps or swelling of the throat and/or vocal cords. Other symptoms include: flushed or hot skin; diarrhea; nausea (or vomiting); coughing, sneezing or wheezing; dizziness; and fainting or lightheadedness.

If you experience any of these symptoms, get help. Taking Benadryl isn't the answer for everyone, some people need emergency medical care, an inhaler to help breath or an EpiPen, and/or a Medrol Dosepak (or steroid equivalent).

The following are some common food allergens to look out for:

Peanuts – Peanuts are highly allergenic to millions of people, so I've always thought it was in poor taste to serve them on planes. Southwest Airlines stopped doing it on August 1, 2018. Good for them! There is peanut oil in the medication Prometrium and Depakene (Valproic Acid, a drug used for seizures and nerve pain). Hidden sources of peanuts include marzipan, beer nuts, nougat and weirdly, artificial nuts. FYI, the first peanut antidote type of medication was just FDA-approved (January 2020) and it is called Palforzia.

Eggs – Obviously, you can avoid eggs for breakfast as well as quiche, but did you know you should also read labels and probably avoid many baked goodies, some canned soups, frosting, mayonnaise, marshmallows, meatloaf and certain brands of coffee drink foam and ice cream? The surgical sleep-inducing anesthetic called "propofol" contains egg proteins.

Fish and Shellfish – This type of allergy usually causes breathing difficulties and can be very severe. Hidden sources of fish-based ingredients are found in Worcestershire sauce, Caesar dressing, surimi and caviar. As for shellfish, think of lobster, crab, prawns, shrimp and crawfish. You will need to avoid glucosamine as well, because this is derived from shellfish. Tropomyosin is the most predominant compound in shellfish that people are allergic to, and may cause you to feel faint, lightheaded, dizzy or foggy. This may ruin your appetite for lobster and crab, but just so you know, tropomyosin is also common in cockroaches.

Milk – Allergies to milk are due to the protein called "casein." Milk alternatives on occasion have dairy-derived whey protein in them, which fools people into

thinking their safe when they're laden with milk-derived proteins. So check your label on pea, oat, soy, almond, coconut or flax milk just to be 100 percent sure it doesn't have any milk-derived allergens in it.

You know the obvious ones to avoid like cow's milk, ice cream, butter, cow's milk-based cheese, sour cream, cream cheese and yogurt. But dairy hides in deli meats, gravy, baked goods and batter-fried foods.

Some breathing medications/inhalers such as Advair Diskus, Flovent Diskus, Asmanex and Pulmicort contain lactose monohydrate which contains milk proteins like casein. So be aware of this if you're treating a milk/dairy allergic reaction with an inhaler that contains trace amounts of it! For a more comprehensive list of food and drug allergens, read the longer version of this article at my website at www.suzycohen.com.

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.✱

Free Life-Saving CPR Classes

Lee Health and Florida SouthWestern State College (FSW) are teaming up to offer two free CPR classes in recognition of American Heart Month. The classes will be held on Monday, February 24 from 9 to 11 a.m. and noon to 2 p.m. in Room 115 of Building B on FSW's campus, located at 8099 College Parkway in Fort Myers.

The classes will teach participants how to spring into action should they witness someone suffering from cardiac arrest. Each class is limited to 25 participants.

According to the American Heart Association, more than 350,000 cardiac arrest episodes occur outside of a hospital setting and nearly 500,000 Americans die from cardiac arrest each year. However, the same data also shows that when bystander CPR is promptly executed, over 45 percent of cardiac arrest victims ultimately survive.

"We know that when CPR is immediately performed on a cardiac arrest victim we can double, or even triple, their chances of survival," said Dolan Abu Aouf, director of academics and medical education at Lee Health. "We are very excited to work with FSW to provide this life-saving training to our community, and we look forward to continuing to provide similar courses throughout the year."

The two-hour training will feature demonstrations and education on proper CPR technique, as well as training using automated external defibrillators (AED). If you witness someone experiencing cardiac arrest, experts advise taking the following steps: immediately call 911; start CPR; and, if an AED is available, attached the pads to the victim and follow the AED instructions and continue to apply CPR until emergency services arrive.

To RSVP for either class, email cme@leehealth.org.✱

Doctor and Dietician

How Does Food Taste To You?



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

Healthy people can taste the five taste sensations on their tongues: sweet, salt, sour, bitter and umami (glutamate or savory). We are seeing more patients at Caring Medical, who have lost some or all ability to taste. This is partly due to an overdeveloped taste for sweet and underdeveloped other tastes. However, more serious reasons exist:

Sweet – Sweetness is the "pleasure" taste, a source of energy, hence people gravitate toward it, even babies. Sweetness complements other tastes and often takes the food to the next level. Unfortunately, many are addicted to the sweet taste.

Salty – A fresh food diet is inherently a low sodium diet. Salt is needed for life, especially living in hot climates with perspiration. This is the simplest taste receptor in the body.

Sour – The sour taste receptor detects acidity in the form of hydrogen ions, hence the mouth-pucker with citrus, as well as

fermented foods such as yogurt, vinegars and sauerkraut. Enhancing food with citrus zest or drizzling with vinegars can improve your sour taste buds!

Bitter – Bitter is the most sensitive taste. Many actually love the bitter taste of beer, dark chocolate and coffee. The high levels of antioxidants in bitter foods account for their taste – thus, they are good for you.

Umami (savory) – Foods with strong flavors such as parmesan, Roquefort cheeses, as well as soy sauce and fish sauce are examples of umami. The taste is most intense when combined with sodium. Since not all glutamate (MSG) produces a savory taste sensation, investigation continues in this area.

What causes an impaired taste?

Infection, such as cold, flu, sinus, strep, or salivary infections; smoking; gum disease; medications especially cancer treatments; autoimmune diseases; nutritional deficiencies, commonly B12 and zinc, and head or neck injuries. All of these conditions may alter one's ability to smell, which highly correlates with the ability to taste. Unfortunately, our facedown lifestyle (cell phone addiction) has significantly contributed to loss of taste, specifically due to glossopharyngeal nerve, also known as cranial nerve IX, impairment. The good news is that we can test and document nerve injury, as well as provide treatments that regenerate them. Bottom line here is if you are losing your sense of taste, do not take it lightly.

This information is not intended to treat, cure or diagnose your condition. Caring Medical Regenerative Medicine Clinics has two locations: one in Oak Park, Illinois, and one in Fort Myers. It was established in 1991 by Ross Hauser, MD, and Marion Hauser, MS, RD. They can be reached at info@caringmedical.com.✱

Medical Center Rises To Four Stars In Quality Ratings

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) have awarded Gulf Coast Medical Center with four stars and Cape Coral Hospital, HealthPark Medical Center and Lee Memorial Hospital with three stars in the 2020 Five-Star Quality Ratings. The scores reflect recent improvements undertaken by the health system to continue improving its quality of care for the Southwest Florida community.

"The CMS star rankings are a benchmark of hospital quality and safety, and we are proud to be recognized for the high level of care we deliver to patients across Southwest Florida every day. This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication the doctors, advanced providers, nurses and support staff bring to providing high-quality, compassionate and safe care at Lee Health hospitals," said Larry Antonucci, MD, MBA, Lee Health president and CEO.

CMS created the Five-Star Quality Rating System to help consumers, their families and caregivers compare hospitals more easily. The scores are based on previously reported quality and safety data points including, patient satisfaction, value

and outcomes.

"The Five-Star Rating program is one of the measures that drive us to continuously reevaluate and advance the quality of care offered at Lee Health. We're committed to constant improvement in our approach to high-quality, compassionate care and will continue to use the CMS report to identify opportunities to build on our success," said Scott Kashman, Lee Health's chief officer, hospital operations. "We're also grateful for the tireless work our entire team puts in to care for patients, especially our caregivers, to create a healing environment and safest experience for all we serve."

The updated CMS rankings follow recent recognitions Lee Health has received for quality and safety. In December, all four Lee Health adult acute care hospitals earned "A" ratings for safety from the Leapfrog Group for the second straight reporting period. Leapfrog also named Gulf Coast Medical Center a "top hospital" in the U.S. The non-profit Leapfrog Group releases its hospital safety grades twice a year, rating hospitals on 27 measures of safety data. Only 32 percent of the approximately 2,500 acute care hospitals Leapfrog graded received an "A."

To learn more about how CMS uses data, visit www.medicare.gov/hospitalcompare/about/hospital-info.html.✱

PETS OF THE WEEK

photos provided

Lee County Domestic Animal Services

Charlie And Max



Charlie ID# A809121

Are you looking for a ruggedly handsome companion that will give you his undivided attention? A unique looking fellow that will not be confused with just any other Joe? Look no further... I am your guy. My name is Charlie. I am a 4-year-old male pit bull and Siberian husky mix who not only has stunning good looks, but is also playful and great with other dogs.

My adoption fee is \$25.

Have you heard that grey is the new black? Just one look at me, and you will think so as well. My name is Max. My platinum coat is gorgeous and silky soft. I am a 2-year-old male domestic shorthair who gets along well with my feline friends so you can take advantage of the adopt one get a feline friend at no additional charge



Max ID# A803465

special. I am laid-back, Netflix and chill kind of guy so maybe a playful cat would be a good combo. The staff would be happy to help find the perfect pair.

My adoption fee is \$25.

Lee County Animal Services kicks off "Give Love" promotion with adoption discounts. Take a departure from the traditional roses and chocolates and "Give Love" this year by adopting a furry Valentine from Lee County Animal Services. From February 1 through February 29, all adoptions of adult dogs and cats will be just \$25 with an approved adoption application.

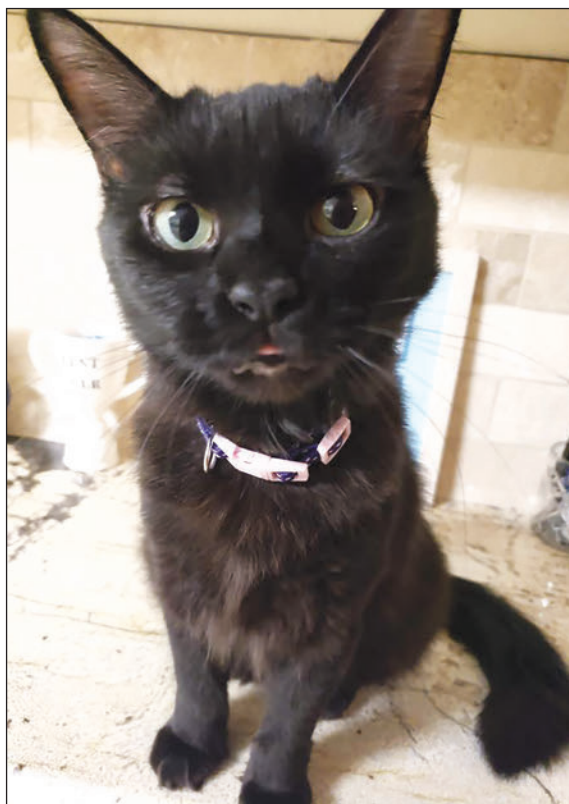
The shelter is open to the public Monday through Saturday at 5600 Banner Drive in Fort Myers. Adoptions are available 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For information, visit Lee County Domestic Animal Services at www.leegov.com/animalservices or call 533-7387.✴

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 haveneearthanimalleague@yahoo.com.

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



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	https://www.audubonswfl.org/
Caloosahatchee Chapter DAR	482-1366
Caloosahatchee Folk Society	321-4620
Cape Coralale 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

DOING PR WORK

- ACROSS**

1 Maize

5 1980s TV's "Kate & —"

10 Bank acct. underwriter

14 Resort isle near Naples

19 Cock- — (mixed dog breed)

20 Pencil end

21 Prehistoric beast, briefly

22 ALF or ET

23 Pool hall champion?

26 Flower calyx part

27 Off — (sporadically)

28 Small flycatcher

29 Christmas songs

31 Omega preceder

32 Passover crackers

34 Place where pizza dough is flattened?

37 "We — not amused"

38 Ripken of the diamond

40 Angriness

41 Actress De Carlo

42 Get the shoe mender on the phone?
- 47 Marine eel

49 Poetic foot

50 Pertaining to the sun

51 Still wrapped

52 In spite of the fact that, for short

55 King Arthur's home

58 Commercial in which all of one's fury is unleashed?

62 Fido's sound

65 Faced

66 Phileas Fogg creator Jules

68 Like a slob's bed

69 Blowtorch the exterior of your launch vehicle?

74 Wind section player

75 Quaint oath

76 Just a — (somewhat)

77 Hissing snake sound

78 Ice-skating food fish?

80 Mexican menu items

84 Blast maker

85 "Mammal" has three

86 "Thank you, Henri"
- 87 Opéra part

91 PR concern

94 Farmer's motto?

97 Risen from sleep

100 Seemingly endless time

101 Park oneself

102 Dwelling: Abbr.

103 Tirades about the trials of being a mother?

109 Not switched off

111 Ace

112 Art style

113 Sofa

115 Spanish for "queen"

116 Wax theatrical

118 Actor Moranis playing a garbage sweeper?

121 12-inch stick

122 Small toiletry case

123 Pay the penalty

124 First-aid plant

125 Fencing blades

126 Part of NYPD: Abbr.

127 Tightly wound
- 128 Give away temporarily

DOWN

1 Squid dish

2 Expanse

3 Sports squad that rarely has home games

4 Vivarin rival

5 Fourth mo.

6 Belt holder

7 Longtime con

8 Split evenly

9 Lucy's TV pal

10 32nd pres.

11 Actress Wiest

12 Disguised, for short

13 Alternatives to Pepsis

14 Tapioca-yielding tree

15 Hoppy drink

16 1972-77 Broadway musical

17 Explanation

18 Queued up

24 Tennyson's "— Arden"

25 More elusive

30 Astron. distance

33 Little pouch

35 Like the vbs. "eat" and "lie"

36 Tiny dog
- 39 Get bested by

43 TV network north of the USA

44 Ty-D- — (bathroom brand)

45 Slo- — (fuse type)

46 Riga native

47 Brawl

48 Athena's bird

51 Sam once in the Senate

52 Trees yielding wood for ships

53 Mythical hell

54 Dramatist Clifford

56 Collect

57 Conductor Zubin —

58 Cake icer

59 Countryish

60 Cell terminal

61 Yukon maker

62 Cut short

63 Harp on gloatingly

64 Anterior

67 Cut short

70 Suffix with neat or peace

71 "— tell ya!"

72 Problems for vain types

73 Tide targets

79 Shin's place
- 81 Noted coach Parseghian

82 Bygone AT&T rival

83 Slump

86 Home of Monte Carlo

88 Vehicle ownership certificate

89 Get drunk

90 Trapped

91 34th prez

92 Corporate marriages

93 Avonlea girl

94 Hide — hair

95 It's nothing

96 Comical Cheri

97 Current unit

98 Pre-race stretch, say

99 "King Ralph" actor Peter

100 Ocular cleansing receptacle

104 One way to mark debits

105 Uninspired

106 Like skim milk

107 Mozart's "Così fan —"

108 "Danke —"

110 Prenatal

114 Egg layers

117 Golf gadget

119 Model-making set

120 "Annabel —"

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121						122					123						124			
125						126					127						128			

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Docket entry

5 Heidi's range

9 One's years

12 Greatly

13 Inquisitive

14 Present

15 Madison's place

17 Exist

18 Ardor

19 Cuts into cubes

21 Extra

24 Rover's friend

25 Difficult

26 Hawk trainer

30 Carte lead-in

31 Eliot's Marner

32 Rotation duration

33 Outwardly curved on both sides

35 Bouquet holder

36 Reed instrument

37 Essential points

38 Prenatal test, for short

40 — morgana

42 Island neckwear

43 Grayish metallic element

48 A Gershwin

49 Author Hunter

50 Medicinal

amount

51 X rating?

52 Force measure

53 Unseen hitch

DOWN

1 Crow's call

2 Clay, now

3 "Help!"

4 Left an impression

5 Actress Paquin

6 Missing

7 Omega preceder

8 Municipal magistrates

9 Huge snakes

10 Bush opponent

11 Rams fans?

16 U.K. ref. bk.

20 Altar affirmative

21 Moby-Dick's pursuer

22 "The Persistence of Memory" painter

23 Severe

24 Linen source

26 Basketball team

27 Brewery product

28 Right on the map?

29 Deli loaves

31 Took a nap

34 Japanese sash

35 Food

37 Classic muscle car

38 Settled down

39 nembellished

40 Drescher or Lebowitz

41 Zits

44 Poison —

45 Charged bit

46 Portion of N.A.

47 "Family Guy" daughter


1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	
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48					49					50			
51					52					53			

MAGIC MAZE ● 3-D WORDS

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

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

Added	Deadhead	Diddle	Doodad
Addendum	Deadwood	Didgeridoo	Sidesaddle
Bedridden	Decided	Divided	Wadded
Coddled	Deeded	Dividend	



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!

Inward

WORNING

Brutal

VAEGAS

Charm

ELFTART

Beg

VOLGER

TODAY'S WORD

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

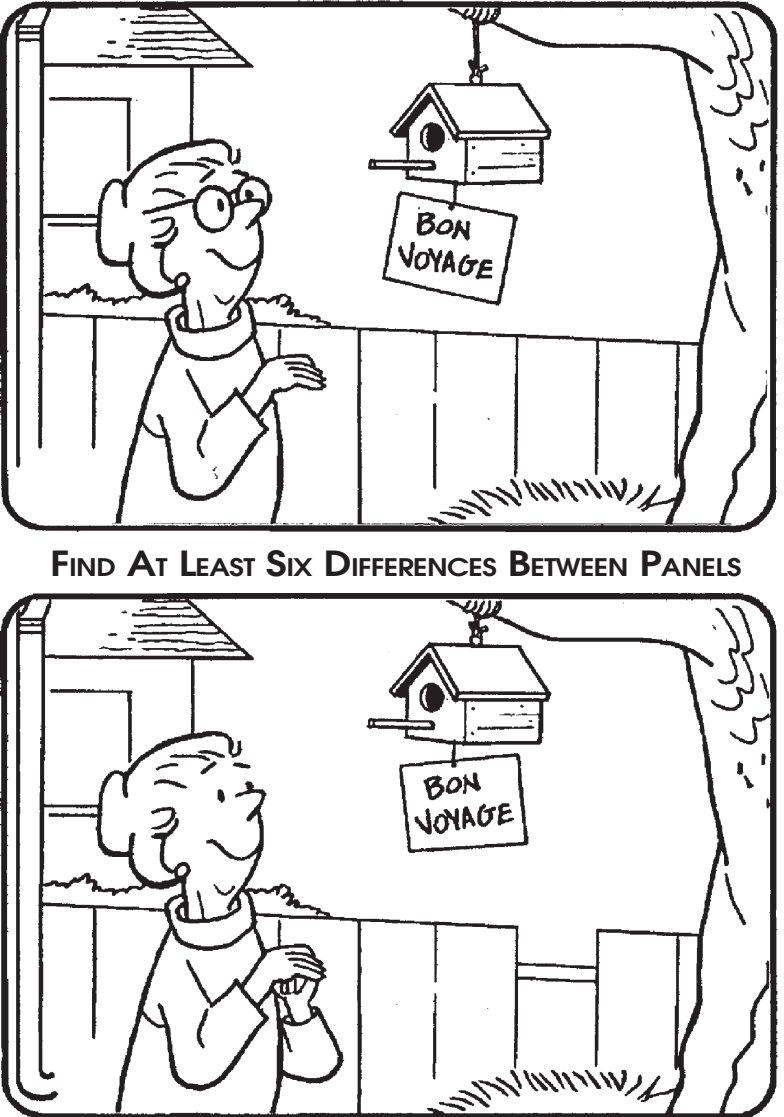
SUDOKU

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. Arm is added. 2. Birdhouse is higher. 3. Sign is moved. 4. Downspout is added. 5. Glasses are added. 6. Fence is broken. 7. Class is removed.



Braised Cabbage, Potatoes, and Sausage

1 pound small potatoes, diced or quartered
1/2 head cabbage, chopped
1 pound smoked sausage, cut into 1-inch pieces
2 Garlic cloves, minced
1 cup vegetable broth
2 tablespoons fresh herbs (such as rosemary, thyme, parsley), finely chopped
1 tablespoon unsalted butter
Oil for cooking
Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste

Preheat large sauté pan over medium-high heat. Sear smoked sausage until brown then remove and set aside. Without wiping pan, add 1 teaspoon oil and 1 tablespoon butter. Add garlic and potatoes and sauté for 5 minutes or until some caramelization occurs. Add cabbage, seared sausage, and broth. Mix to combine, cover, and reduce heat to low. Simmer for 30 minutes or until fork tender. Serve immediately.

Fresh tip: Cabbage is an excellent source of vitamins A, C, K and potassium.*



Braised Cabbage, Potatoes, and Sausage

photo courtesy Fresh From Florida




FRIDAY
Mostly Cloudy
High: 69 Low: 64



SATURDAY
Mostly Cloudy
High: 73 Low: 68



SUNDAY
Sunny
High: 74 Low: 69



MONDAY
Mostly Cloudy
High: 75 Low: 70



TUESDAY
Partly Cloudy
High: 77 Low: 68



WEDNESDAY
Partly Cloudy
High: 73 Low: 70



THURSDAY
Chance Showers
High: 75 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	1:48 pm	6:15 am	11:35 pm	5:09 pm	Fri	12:53 pm	6:17 am	10:40 pm	5:11 pm	Fri	12:36 pm	6:01 am	11:40 pm	5:49 pm	Fri	12:57 am	9:31 am	3:58 pm	8:25 pm
Sat	1:59 pm	6:46 am	None	5:52 pm	Sat	1:04 pm	6:48 am	11:21 pm	5:54 pm	Sat	12:59 pm	6:40 am	None	6:28 pm	Sat	1:45 am	10:02 am	4:09 pm	9:08 pm
Sun	12:16 am	7:13 am	2:08 pm	6:31 pm	Sun	1:13 pm	7:15 am	11:58 pm	6:33 pm	Sun	12:11 am	7:16 am	1:24 pm	7:06 pm	Sun	2:26 am	10:29 am	4:18 pm	9:47 pm
Mon	12:53 am	7:36 am	2:17 pm	7:09 pm	Mon	1:22 pm	7:38 am	None	7:11 pm	Mon	12:41 am	7:49 am	1:51 pm	7:43 pm	Mon	3:03 am	10:52 am	4:27 pm	10:25 pm
Tue	1:30 am	7:58 am	2:28 pm	7:49 pm	Tue	12:35 am	8:00 am	1:33 pm	7:51 pm	Tue	1:10 am	8:18 am	2:18 pm	8:20 pm	Tue	3:40 am	11:14 am	4:38 pm	11:05 pm
Wed	2:09 am	8:19 am	2:43 pm	8:30 pm	Wed	1:14 am	8:21 am	1:48 pm	8:32 pm	Wed	1:43 am	8:42 am	2:40 pm	8:57 pm	Wed	4:19 am	11:35 am	4:53 pm	11:46 pm
Thu	2:50 am	8:41 am	3:03 pm	9:16 pm	Thu	1:55 am	8:43 am	2:08 pm	9:18 pm	Thu	2:26 am	8:59 am	2:53 pm	9:33 pm	Thu	5:00 am	11:57 am	5:13 pm	None

PUZZLE ANSWERS

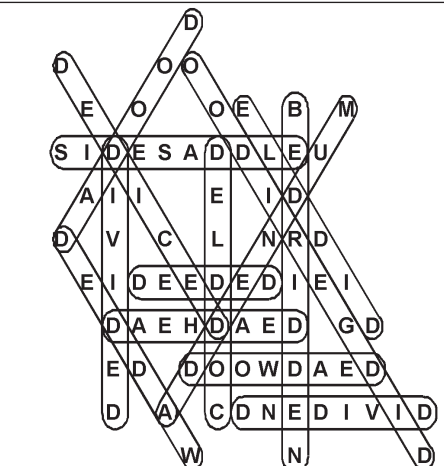
SUPER CROSSWORD

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

KING CROSSWORD

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

MAGIC MAZE



SUDOKU

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

TRIVIA TEST

- Geography:** Which is the least-populated continent?
- Geology:** What metal is produced by refining the ore bauxite?
- Explorers:** Where was explorer Marco Polo born?
- Art:** Which popular American artist referred to himself as “Painter of Light”?
- General Knowledge:** What is the pH value of pure water?
- Animal Kingdom:** What is a group of leopards called?
- Literature:** What was the birth name of author Toni Morrison (a pseudonym)?
- Movies:** In which James Bond movie is the character of Jaws introduced?
- History:** Which country was home to the Contras guerilla force in the 1980s?
- Language:** What is a truel?

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Antarctica 2. Aluminum 3. Venice, Italy 4. Thomas Kinkade 5. 7 6. A leap 7. Chloe Ardelia Wofford 8. The Spy Who Loved Me 9. Nicaragua 10. A fight between three people

My Stars ★★★★★

FOR WEEK OF FEBRUARY 24, 2020

Aries (March 21 to April 19) All that flattery and fawning shouldn't affect any decision you have to make. Keep your focus on the facts and ignore all the hyperbole, especially if it gets uncomfortably personal.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) Your Bovine instincts are on the mark about that “favor” you're being asked to do. Agree to nothing unless you get a full explanation – which you would check out first, of course.

Gemini (May 21 to June 20) A somewhat unsettled recent period should give way to a smoother time going through the week. Use this quieter time to catch up on matters you might have had to let slide.

Cancer (June 21 to July 22) Feeling a little confused is understandable with all those mixed messages. Take time to list the questions you have. Then present them and insist on answers that make sense.

Leo (July 23 to August 22) Cupid can be very helpful for Lions seeking a love connection. The chubby cherub also brings warm and fuzzy feelings to paired Leos and Leonas who already share a special love line.

Virgo (August 23 to September 22) Travel is favored this week, whether you'll be globe-trotting or taking a trip to a nearby getaway. You might be surprised (or maybe not) by who wants to be your traveling companion.

Libra (September 23 to October 22) Getting advice on your next

business-related move is a good idea, but only if your advisers are trustworthy. Get references that you can check out before you make any decisions.

Scorpio (October 23 to November 21) Getting a boost in your self-esteem is one benefit that comes with a job well done. There are other plusses as well, including being noticed by all the right people. Good luck.

Sagittarius (November 22 to December 21) Make time to deal with family matters, especially where they concern your elderly kinfolk. Being there for them from the start can help resolve problems sooner rather than later.

Capricorn (December 22 to January 19) Getting a project started can often be difficult. But the good news is that you won't want for lack of assistance from colleagues who would like to work with you. So, let them!

Aquarius (January 20 to February 18) A lot of work-related issues might be raised this week, and you need to be prepared for whatever comes along. Things should be easier when it comes to matters in your private life.

Pisces (February 19 to March 20) What might appear to be a much unwanted change in your life right now could turn out to be a very welcome event after all. Give yourself a chance to see where it might take you.

Born This Week: You exercise your strong leadership qualities well, which is why people believe in you and feel reassured by you.

playwright Christopher Marlowe is baptized in Canterbury, England, two months before the birth of his fellow playwright William Shakespeare. Historians believe Marlowe served as a spy for Queen Elizabeth while at Cambridge. He was nearly denied his master's degree in 1587, until the queen's advisers intervened.

- On Feb. 27, 1827, a group of masked and costumed students dance through the streets of New Orleans, marking the beginning of the city's famous Mardi Gras celebrations. Early French settlers brought the tradition of Mardi Gras to the U.S. Gulf Coast at the end of the 17th century.
- On Feb 24, 1868, the U.S. House of Representatives votes 11 articles of impeachment against President Andrew Johnson, nine of which cite Johnson's removal of Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton, a violation of the Tenure of Office Act. He was the first president to be impeached in U.S. history.
- On Feb. 25, 1873, Enrico Caruso, the greatest tenor who ever lived, is born. Caruso recorded scores of arias of three and four minutes in length – the longest duration that could fit on a 78 rpm record.
- On Feb. 29, 1940, *Gone with the Wind* is honored with eight Oscars, including one for Hattie McDaniel for her portrayal of “Mammy,” a housemaid and former slave. She was the first African American actor ever to win an Oscar.
- On March 1, 1961, President John Kennedy issues Executive Order No. 10924 to establish the Peace Corps,

MOMENTS IN TIME

- On Feb. 26, 1564, poet and

continued on page 31

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2/14 ★ 4/3

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LEGAL NOTICE

LEGAL NOTICE
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE VIRGIN ISLANDS DIVISION OF ST. THOMAS AND ST. JOHN FRENCHMANS COVE CONDOMINIUM OWNERS' ASSOCIATION, Plaintiff vs. RICHARD O. CHILDRESS and TERRI A. CHILDRESS, Defendants.
ST – 19 – CV 129

SUMMONS
To:Terri A.. Childress
12581 Equestrian Circle Apt. 1001
Fort Myers, Florida 33907

Within the time limited by law (see note below) you are hereby required to appear before this Court and answer to a complaint filed against you in this action and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment by default will be taken against you as demanded in the Complaint, for
DEBT, FORECLOSURE OF LIEN AND BREACH OF CONTRACT.

Witness my hand and the Seal of this Court this 10th day of January, 2020.
ESTRELLA H. GEORGE
Clerk of the Court
By:Donavan Donovan
Deputy Clerk

By: Matthew J. Duensing, Esq.
Attorney for Plaintiff,
Frenchman's Cove Condominium Owners' Association, Inc.
Law Offices of Duensing & Casner
9800 Buccaneer Mall, Bldg. 2, Suite 9
P.O. Box 6785
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00804

NOTE: This defendant, if served personally, is required to file his answer or other defenses with the Clerk of this Court, and to serve a copy thereof upon the plaintiff's attorney within twenty one (21) days after service of this summons, excluding the date of service. The defendant, if served by publication or by personal service outside of the jurisdiction, is required to file his answer or other defense with the Clerk of this Court, and to serve a copy thereof upon the attorney for the plaintiff within thirty (30) days after the completion of the period of publication or personal service outside of the jurisdiction.
2/14 ★ 3/6

GARAGE SALE

YARD SALE
February 22, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Lots of Furniture, Household Items. Jewelry and Gardening Items
2500 Key Lime Place, Sanibel
2/21 ★ 2/21

GARAGE SALE
1199 Par View Drive, Sanibel.
February 28 & 29, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Sports Equipment, Decor Items, Kitchen Goods and
Much More.
2/21 ★ 2/28

From page 28

Moments In Time

which would send trained American men and women to foreign nations to assist in development efforts.

• On Feb. 28, 1983, the celebrated sitcom *M*A*S*H* bows out after 11 seasons, airing a special two-and-a-half hour episode watched by 77 percent of the viewing audience. It was the largest percentage at the time ever to watch a single TV show.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

• It was American cartoonist, humorist and journalist Kin Hubbard who made the following sage observation: “There’s no secret about success. Did you ever know a successful man who didn’t tell you about it?”

• Next time you’re in Iowa, you might want to stop by the rural town of Riverside, which touts itself as the future birthplace of Captain James T. Kirk. Yep, the future birthplace. It seems that *Star Trek* creator Gene Roddenberry asserted that the character of James Tiberius Kirk was born in Iowa, but he didn’t specify exactly where. In 1985, the Riverside City Council voted to declare their town the future birthplace of the character, later writing to Roddenberry and receiving his approval. In honor of its newfound claim to fame, the city began hosting an annual Trek Fest, complete with a Spockapalooza battle of the bands.

• If you enjoy cooking, you might have heard of some of the following cookbooks: *Kill It and Grill It*, *The Joy of Pickling*, *Full of Beans*, *The Stinking Cookbook* and *I Can’t Believe It’s Not Meat!* Then again, maybe not.

• The term “bric-a-brac,” usually used to refer to a collection of tawdry trinkets, comes from the French, where its original meaning was “at random.”

• Most parents of small children know that trampolines can be dangerous, and

they are. Every year, nearly 100,000 people receive emergency-room treatment for injuries sustained while using trampolines. Those injuries are hardly ever fatal, though. Pools, on the other hand, are far more deadly; more than 1,000 people in the United States die in swimming pools annually.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

If living conditions don’t stop improving in this country, we’re going to run out of humble beginnings for our great men. – Russell P. Askue

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after 4 p.m. post the next day. Or you may schedule payment for a later date. A third-party service fee of \$4 applies. Your payment and fee will appear as one combined amount on your credit/debit card statement.

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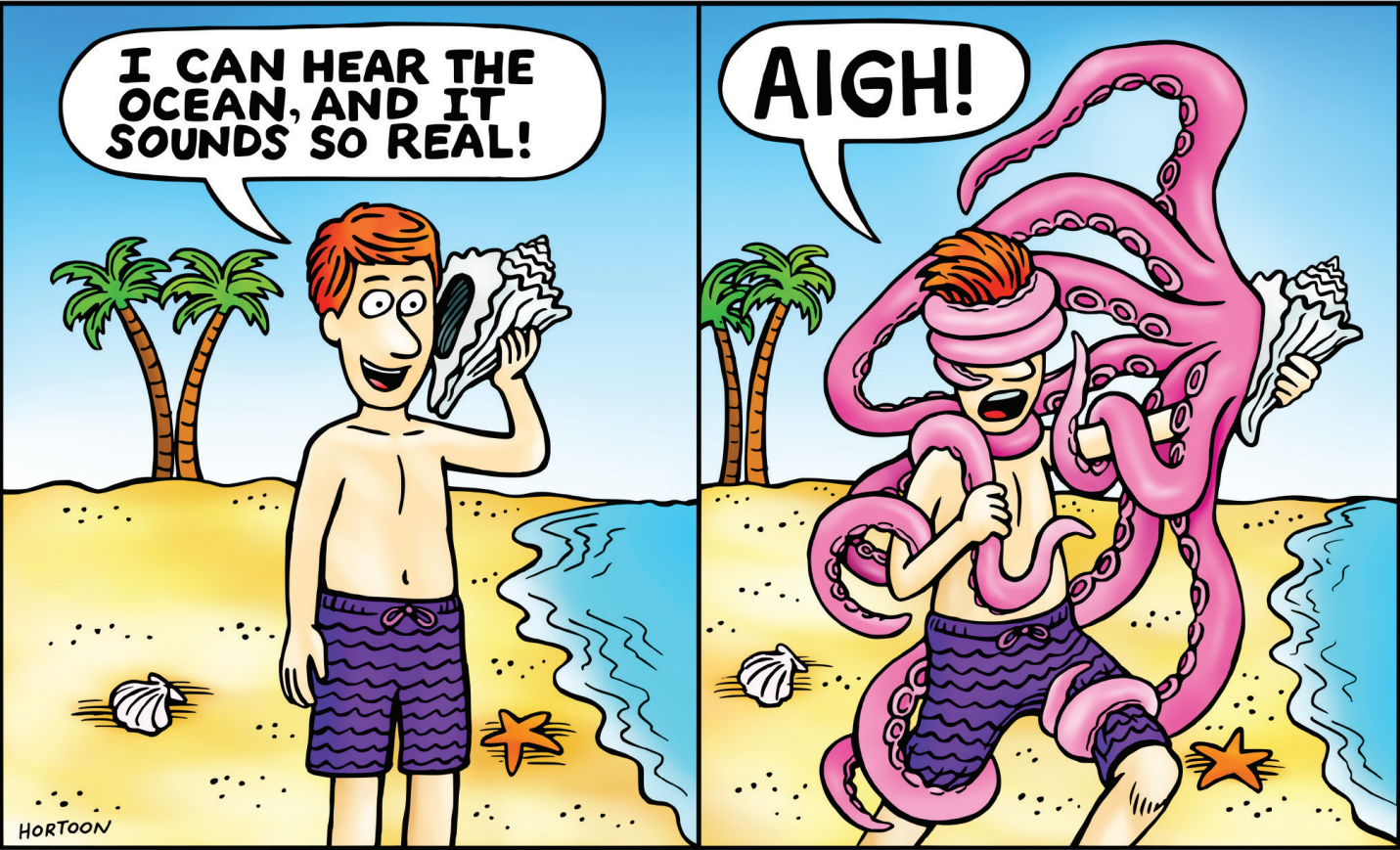
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HORTOONS



SCRAMBLERS

- 1. Ingrown; 2. Savage;
 - 3. Flatter; 4. Grovel
- Today's Word
LEFTOVERS

Top 10 Real Estate Sales

Subdivision	City	Year Built	Square Footage	Listing Price	Selling Price	Days On Market
Laguna Shores	Fort Myers Beach	2014	3,544	\$3,750,000	\$3,400,000	278
Woodlake At Bonita Bay	Bonita Springs	2019	3,990	\$3,350,000	\$3,100,000	33
Laguna Shores	Fort Myers Beach	2009	2,524	\$1,399,000	\$1,300,000	192
Caloosa Shores	Sanibel	2009	2,340	\$1,389,000	\$1,200,000	222
Captiva Beach	Captiva	1996	1,836	\$1,275,000	\$1,225,000	344
Water Shadows Unrecorded Subdivison	Sanibel	1982	2,572	\$1,199,000	\$1,030,000	95
Yachtsmans Cove	Sanibel	1972	2,062	\$958,500	\$885,250	36
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	2013	2,563	\$925,000	\$895,000	29
Dunes At Sanibel Island	Sanibel	1985	1,740	\$850,000	\$851,000	6
Cape Royal	Cape Coral	2019	2,973	\$787,000	\$775,000	47



Randy Wayne White

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