

Vol. 20, No. 5

From the Beaches to the River District downtown Fort Myers JA

JANUARY 29, 2021



Artwork by Kate Swanstrom images provided

Opening Reception With The Artists

Arts for ACT Gallery will host an opening reception for three artists during Art Walk on Friday, February 5 from 6 to 9 p.m. Surrealist Del Holt will diplay his artwork in the main gallery, while Tom

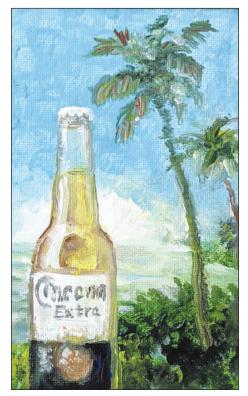
Surrealist Del Holt will diplay his artwork in the main gallery, while Tom Breckenridge and Kate Swanstrom will exhibit small works in the White Gallery. ACT co-op artists and volunteers will also



Saving the San Remo Tomatoes by Del Holt

be displaying a variety of Valentine art. Holt, a fine artist and illustrator, was educated in Sweden, Hawaii, California, Arizona and Ohio. He spent more than 10 years teaching art in Arizona and California, and his impressive body of work includes mural, graphic design projects, album and book covers, furniture and various painting media.

Holt paints his creatures, which range from dogs, to birds to monkeys, within familiar and almost human settings. His canvases refer to our world, often in whimsical and thought-provoking ways.



Artwork by Tom Breckenridge

Holt's art can be found in the collections of Malcom Forbes, Jan Goodall, William Paley, John Houseman, and H. David. Breckenridge was born in Keosauqua, continued on page 14



Earth's Baptism, fiber art by Carol Murphy of Weavers of Char-Lee photos provided

Art Council Winner Circle Exhibition Awards

The Alliance for the Arts announced winners from the Art Council of Southwest Florida's Winner Circle Exhibition, which featured over 50 awardwinning artists from art organizations including Alliance for the Arts, Cape Coral Art Center, Cape Coral Art League, Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs, Fort



The Bluebirds of Happiness, silk painting by Nuch Owen of Center for the Arts Bonita Springs

Myers Beach Art Association, Pine Island Art Association, Sanibel Captiva Art League, Southwest Florida Pastel Society, Southwest Florida Fine Craft Guild and the Weavers of Char-Lee.

The winners are:

Best in Show – Geoffrey Hamel, You Have to Do Your Part, Mixed Media, Alliance for the Arts

First Place in 2D – Christine Wyatt, *Two Young Girls*, Acrylic and Charcoal, Alliance for the Arts

First Place in 3D – Shannon Vickers, Wishes or Weeds, Glass and Concrete, Cape Coral Art Center

Second Place in 2D – Nuch Owen,



Wishes or Weeds, glass and concrete sculpture by Shannon Vickers of Cape Coral Art Center

The Bluebirds of Happiness, Silk Painting, Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs

Second Place in 3D – Karen E. Harris, Let's Dance, Stone and Paper Clay, Centers for the Arts Bonita Springs Third Place in 2D – Tom Werdin, Lake continued on page 17

Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now: Winter Home And Laboratory Put Fort Myers On The Map



by Gerri Reaves, PhD

'n the winter of 1884 to 1885, like many northerners who had health concerns, Thomas A. Edison was sailing around the Florida peninsula and enjoying the warmer climate. Who could have predicted significant influence that an

unplanned visit to Fort Myers would have on the town to this day? In March 1885, the inventor was told by George Schultz at Punta Rassa's Tarpon Inn that giant bamboo grew up the Caloosahatchee in a settlement then officially called Myers. Bamboo was of great interest to Edison because of its use as

filament in his electric light bulbs. So up river went the yacht Jeannette and docked at the Hotel

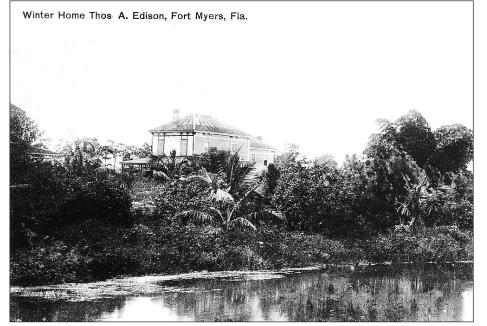
Keystone's wharf, which was east of the small business district. The town had a population of only about 350. Nevertheless, it was the largest town on Florida's gulf coast south of Tampa.

The town was not even officially a town, for the vote to incorporate would not occur until the following August. It's especially fortunate that Schultz mentioned bamboo, because most travelers of

that period simply skipped the time-consuming trip upriver to visit an unremarkable settlement, instead opting to head for more populated areas.

Edison explored downtown, wandering into Edward L. Evans's store, where he and the proprietor discussed fishing. Evans offered to show him bamboo growing on Billy's Creek.

Edison also contacted a realtor and subsequently visited 13 acres south of town on the river that became his future property, the Samuel and Kate Summerlin place. The unplanned visit made such a favorable impression that before departing town he gave the



Thomas and Mina Edison's winter home, photographed from the dock in 1909 photos courtesy Florida State Archives



This 1972 photo of the rear of the home illustrates the estate's manicured look of subsequent years

realty office instructions to purchase the property if the price was suitable.

A sale was soon arranged. The Eden on the Caloosahatchee promised to be an excellent location for plant research, and the existence of bamboo stands on the property reportedly influenced his decision to buy.

Following Edison's initial visit, the town took a keen interest as construction on the property progressed. In February 1886, only a month before Thomas Edison would return to Fort Myers, this time with his new bride, the Fort Myers Press reported that under the direction of a landscape gardener from Philadelphia, the property had "been enclosed by a neat fence and cleared of the palmettoes and other wild growth.

Plantings included limes, lemons, cocoanuts and the entrance was graced by Spanish bayonets, a sharp-spined native plant that didn't exactly spell "welcome mat."

The most notable changes to the property were the two new identical pre-fabricated residences of Maine spruce, one for Thomas and Mina Edison and the other for Ezra T. Gilliand, his business associate. (That house changed hands several times, but in 1906, Mina Edison bought it and joined the two houses with a screened portico.)

The two-story, square-roofed homes facing the river were uncompleted on the interior, but they featured plazas on three sides with a large kitchen attached. Both homes featured large fireplaces for the chilly South Florida winter days.

The house was also wired for electricity, the first in the area. Work on the laboratory was only beginning, and the *Press* speculated that it, not the home, was the priority in expenditures and machinery. A wharf was also constructed.

The circa-1909 photo taken from the wharf gives a glimpse of what the property looked like in the early days. The Caloosahatchee was one and one-eighth miles wide at that time.

When the couple arrived in March 1886, they stayed briefly at the Keystone because the house was not quite ready for occupancy. Edison's decision to buy land had an incalculable effect on Fort Myers, instantly endowing the town with a kind of prestige. His association with the town would later attract other famous people as winter

continued on page 4

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Contributing Writers

Kay Casperson Capt. Matt Mitchell Suzy Cohen Trinette Nelson Linda Coin Howard Prager Marcia Feeney Julie Rosenberg, MD Katie Frederic J. Brendan Ryan, CLU, Shelley Greggs ChFC, MSFS Tom Hall Di Saggau Marion Hauser, MS, RD Jeanie Tinch Ross Hauser, MD Allison Havill Todd Craig R. Hersch





Cast of Til Theft Do Us Part

World Premiere Comedy At Off Braodway Palm

he Off Broadway Palm Theatre will host the world premiere of Til Theft Do Us Part playing now through March 6. This laugh-out-loud comedy is written by Southwest Florida resident and Broadway Palm favorite Victor Legarreta.

The all-new comedy tells of Winston Johnson, an investment banker who was sacked. He didn't have the heart to tell his wife, so he resorted to theft. But when his conscience gets the best of him, he goes back to the homes he robbed to return what he stole. His "outings" cause his wife suspicion so when she tries to "catch him in the act," his life gets turned upside down.

This is the first play at Off Broadway Palm Theatre since closing back in

photo provided

March due to the pandemic. The Off Broadway Palm has adjusted their seating arrangement and is operating at a 50 percent capacity.

For a list of the extensive health and safety measures the theatre has taken, visit www.broadwaypalm.com. It is important to note that guests are required to wear masks while not eating or drinking including during the performance. In addition, a temperature check will be performed on everyone that enters the building and admittance will not be allowed to anyone with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher.

The Off Broadway Palm is located in the main lobby of Broadway Palm at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers. Performances are Tuesday through Sunday evenings with selected matinees. Ticket prices range from \$42 to \$62 with discounts available for groups of 20 or more. Tickets can be reserved by calling 278-4422, visiting www.broadwaypalm. com or at the box office in person. $\overset{\scriptscriptstyle{\mathrm{M}}}{\rightarrowtail}$

Strides For **Education Run Benefits** Youth

he Foundation for Lee County Public Schools is holding its 10th annual Strides for Education 5K Run/Walk on Saturday, February 6. Participants can run at Florida SouthWestern State College or sign up for the virtual option. CDC guidelines will be followed to ensure the safety of all participants.

The title sponsor is Suncoast Credit Union and funds will benefit the foundation's Take Stock in Children scholarship program. Check-in starts at 6:30 a.m. and the race will begin at 7:30 a.m

Schools and businesses throughout Lee County are challenged to create the largest team. More than 1,300business leaders, community partners and educators participated in last year's race. The first 1,100 registered participants will

receive a long sleeve, dry-fit race shirt and goody bag.

Online registration is available until Friday, February 5 by visiting www. flcpsstrides5k.com. Registration will not be available the day of the event.

The Strides for Education 5K raises money for college scholarships to benefit students entering the Take Stock in Children program. Take Stock in Children was established in 1995 as a statewide scholarship program that provides a unique opportunity for deserving low-income youth to escape the cycle of poverty through education. Students enter the program in sixth or ninth grade and commit to remaining crime- and drug- free, maintaining a 2.5 GPA or higher, and meeting with a mentor regularly. Having kept this commitment, students are awarded a four-year college tuition scholarship upon high school graduation.

The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools, Inc. is rated as a Platinum 4-star nonprofit organization by GuideStar. Visit www.leeschoolfoundation.org, on Twitter @FoundationLCPS, and on Facebook.☆

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Fort Myers Art: Call To Artists For Wasteful Compositions



by Tom Hall

'n June, the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center will host Recaptured, a juried art exhibition that focuses on "recapturing" waste and turning it into a desirable piece of art.

For thousands of

years, what was discarded by one creature was a resource of another. Then along came humans. Today, mankind generates at least 3.5 million tons of plastic and other solid waste a day, 10 times the amount a century ago. The U.S. is the king of trash, producing a world-leading 250 million tons a year -- roughly 4.4 pounds of trash per person per day. But because we've become very good at hiding it, the problem of disposing of this amount of trash does not seem particularly impending. But make no mistake. Waste poses a major problem not only for our species, but for the survival of the planet as a whole.

As a result, recycling has become an integral part of protecting the environment. Within this rubric, two approaches have emerged - downcycling and upcycling. In the former, the destructive cycle is slowed down but the resulting objects lose quality as a result of the process. In the latter, they acquire value thanks to creative intervention.

In this regard, artists are converting glass bottles, plastic bags and other waste that would end up filling landfills or floating in the sea into a sustainable art that highlights the degradation of the planet by drawing attention to excessive or conspicuous consumption, the depletion of natural resources and the resulting environmental pollution. Artists engaged in this new genre and movement seek to transform waste such as paper, cardboard, wood, glass, plastics, metals and rubber into works of art.

The concept goes beyond the mere conventional of recycling. In fact, it goes



well beyond the principle espoused by French artist Marcel Duchamps, Pablo Picasso and their contemporaries roughly a century ago that an artist transforms a manufactured object into art just by giving it a title and exhibiting it in a museum, gallery or art show. As a movement, the inclusion of waste in artistic compositions has morphed from "ready-mades," "junk art" and the "accumulations" of Franco-American artist Arman (who aggregated trash in airtight glass cylinders and boxes) to the use of waste as an artistic medium on a par with oil, acrylic and epoxy paints or marble, stone and metal. And from this detritus a generation of eco-artists has emerged who bring new meaning to their two- and three-dimensional works and installation by engaging with the "reuse, reduce, and recycle" slogan through their craft

With Recaptured, the Davis Art Center not only highlights this new artistic movement and genre. It joins eco-friendly initiatives and festivals springing up around the world such as Art of Recycle in Pennsylvania and the Seattle Recycled Arts Festival that have advanced the motto of "Reduce, Reuse, Reclaim, Repurpose, and Recycle," showing communities how they can express their creativity with extensive range by using recycled materials - and furthers the tradition of such local shows as the Alliance for the Arts' Rejectamenta show and the "Ding" Darling Wildlife Society's 2015 Upcycle! Art Fest.

Will you be - or see - the next Chiharu

image courtesy www.artswfl.com

Shiota (whose Over the Continents installation featured an accumulation of nearly 400 individual shoes that Shiota personally collected, along with

From page 2 Historic Downtown

residents or visitors, such as Henry Ford, for example, who bought property next door to the Edisons in 1916.

Who else would have had the celebrity power to bring the Movietone News or Pathé News to town? Who else would a U.S. President-elect have visited on the inventor's 82nd birthday, as Hoover did in 1929? Who would bring acclaimed scientists, naturalists and industrialists?

The town also gained a kind of de facto First Lady of Fort Myers in Mina Edison, who actively engaged in community and civic affairs. The Edisons' much-lauded visits became a regular part of the winter season up until the inventor died in 1931. On February 11, 1947, a now-

remarried Mina Edison Hughes made a gift of Seminole Lodge and the winter estate to the City of Fort Myers during the annual celebration of Edison's legacy and birthday, the Edison Festival & Pageant of Light.

Today, the estates are listed on the National Register of Historic Places and are governed and managed by the Thomas Edison and Henry Ford Winter Estates, Inc., a non-profit corporation.

Walk down McGregor Boulevard to the property whose beauty and potential for

a note from each donor describing the people they have lost along with past moments, creating an emotionally charged installation), Von Wong (who created a large scale installation entitled Parting of the Sea that highlights the consumption of single-use plastics that he made from 168,000 plastic straws and recovered plastic packaging collected from the streets of Vietnam with the help of volunteers) or Susan Stockwell (whose work World features a gigantic world map made from recycled computer components, motherboards, electrical wiring, fans and myriad other components).

The deadline for submissions is May 20. The show will be displayed in the grand atrium between June 4 and 24, and offers a \$500 prize for Best in Show, \$250 for SBDAC Staff Pick and \$250 for People's Choice.

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.₩

plant research so pleased a great inventor that he quickly snapped it up. Then learn more about the profound

Edison effect on local history by visiting the following two research centers. Hours might be affected by the

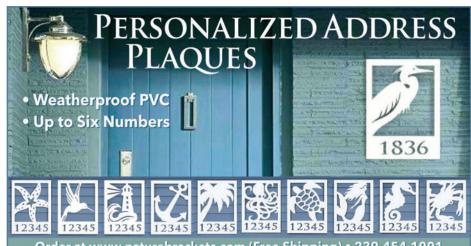
coronavirus pandemic, so call first. The Southwest Florida Historical

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

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

Visit the IMAG History & Science Center at 2000 Cranford Avenue or at

www.theimag.org. Sources: The Archives of the Southwest Florida Historical Society; the Fort Myers Press; The Edisons of Fort Myers by Tom Smoot, and The Story of Fort Myers by Karl H. Grismer. 🌣



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Sarah Owen

william T. Prather S, Events

Laureates, Events Set For Junior Achievement

Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida's annual Business Hall of Fame event is scheduled for Thursday, February 25 at 6:45 p.m. This will be the first time Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida hosts a combined event, honoring laureates from both Lee and Collier counties simultaneously. It is also the first time it will be hosted entirely virtually.

Being inducted into the Business Hall of Fame are: Sarah Owen, president and CEO of Southwest Florida Community Foundation, and William T. Prather, owner and executive producer of Broadway Palm Dinner Theater for Lee County; Dr. James Guerra, orthopaedic surgeon and sports medicine specialist at Collier Sports Medicine and Orthopaedic Center, and Senator Kathleen Passidomo for Collier County.



ather Dr. James Guerra

Kathleen Passidomo

Sponsorships for this missioncritical event are critical for Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida to continue providing life-changing, no-cost programs on financial literacy and career and work readiness to students in the community. Levels range from \$2,000 to \$10,000 and include benefits designed to recognize the sponsor in a multitude of ways before, during and after the event.

With the new combined format, sponsors will get even more exposure. Further, the virtual nature will allow for enhanced tracking and return on investment. Sponsors now have more options for engagement and performance assessment. Iberiabank/ First Horizon is the presenting sponor for the event.

To register to attend the virtual Hall of Fame event or to learn more about sponsorship opportunities, visit www. event.gives/jahof. Inquiries can also be directed to Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida at 225-2590 or info@ jaswfl.org.‡



Hodges University physical therapy assistant graduates

Therapy Program Graduates

Hodges University recently held a pinning ceremony for the graduating class of physical therapist assistants (PTA), who have earned associate in science degrees.

The graduates mastered the knowledge and skills needed to help improve their patients' function. They returned to campus on June 1 to continue their studies and clinical training so they would graduate on time.

The rigorous, two-year program

photo by Reagan Rule

included both class work and hands-on training both in the PTA labs and in clinical work. "One of the advantages of being in a cohort program as a student is you are with your same classmates every step of the way. It creates a special bond and network that carries beyond graduation," said Dr. Cindy Vaccarino, director of the program at Hodges.

The December 2020 graduates are: Valentine Antal, Ashley Davis, Charlene Drake, Jennifer Forrest, Kelsey Huff, Anny Lebrun, Yohana Martin, Carla Mueller, Hue Nguyen, Sarah Plocharczyk, Jennifer Ruiz, Tiffany Stirk, Jaclyn Stram and Carla Volpe. **



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Christian Science Talk On Sunday

yle Young, practitioner of Christian Science healing and international speaker, will present his live web talk, Christian Science - A Clearer View Of You, on Sunday, January 31 at 2:30 p.m. Interested participants can also watch the lecture projected on a screen at First Church of Christ, Scientist, which is located at 2390 West First Street in Fort Myers. The talk is free, and all are welcome.

Sponsored by First Church of Christ, Scientist, the talk will focus on universal healing precepts found in the Holy Bible, especially in Christ Jesus' life and teachings, showing how they are available for anyone to understand and experience through the lens of Christian Science.

Sharing examples of healing from his own life and professional practice of Christian Science, Young will explain why Christian Science is both Christian and scientific, meaning that people can prove its effectiveness for themselves, as fully described in the book, Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures, written by the founder of the Christian Science movement, Mary Baker Eddy.

Eddy said she was especially inspired by Jesus' demand: "He that believes on me, the works that I do will he do also; and greater works than these will he do, because I go unto my father." (found in the Gospel of John 14:12 in the Bible).

For over 150 years, people around the world have also worked to follow Christ

Lyle Young

Jesus in this practice of Christianity and continue to do so today, with healings of physical ills and personal difficulties for themselves and others.

photo provided

Young has been a Christian Science practitioner for many years, healing people on a daily basis through this scientific approach to prayer. From his home base in Ontario, Canada, he conducts live web lectures or travels when appropriate to give in-person talks, speaking to audiences around the world as a member of the Christian Science Board of Lectureship.

To register, visit www.tinyurl.com/ young-ftmyers. For more information, contact Kathy Ellgen at kellgen@prodigy. net.公

Health and Wellness Fair

he Estero Park and Recreation Center with Lee County Parks & Recreation and Lee Health will hold their fourth annual Health & Wellness event. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this year's event will be virtual and will offer two days of online classes and a drive-by option for community residents to pick up a goodie bag that includes vendor information and promotional items.

Online classes will be held on Wednesday, February 3 and Thursday, February 4 and will feature a wide variety of health topics including education on

Scholarships Fundraiser

he Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce's Women in Business Committee will host its annual Sweethearts and Scholarships Wine & Dessert Auction fundraiser at Millennial Brewing Company on Wednesday, February 3 from 4 to 6 p.m. There will be accommodations indoors and outdoors to allow for physical distancing. Arekie Food Truck will be on-site with food available for purchase, and music will be provided by DJ Mal.

Attendees will have the opportunity to participate in a chance drawing for a variety of wine, desserts and other prizes. All proceeds from the event will benefit

a.m. and 6 p.m., 881 Nuna Avenue, 481-1143.

LAMB OF GOD

Sunday 7:45 and 10 a.m., www. lambofgod church.net, 19691 Cypress View Drive, 267-3525

NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN

Sunday 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m., www.newhope fortmyers.org, 10051 Plantation Road, 274-1230.

PEACE COMMUNITY

Sunday 10:30 a.m. www.peacecommunity church.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.MeditationInFort Myers.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.

nutrition, skin cancer prevention, hearing and vision, varicose veins, balance and memory disorders.

Interested residents can pick up goodie bags on Saturday, January 30 from 9 a.m. to noon at the Estero Park and Recreation Center, located at 9200 Corkscrew Palms Boulevard in Estero.

This is a great opportunity for the Southwest Florida community to hear from some local agencies and learn more about how they can live a healthier lifestyle while in their own home.

To register or for more information, visit www.leehealth.org/health-andwellness/wellness-events-and-classes/ estero-health-wellness-event or call the Healthy Life Center at Lee Health Coconut Point at 468-0050.举

the Women in Business' scholarship fund, which awards scholarships annually to non-traditional students pursuing their educational goals at Florida SouthWestern State College, Florida Gulf Coast University and Hodges University.

Admission is \$10 for members of the Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce and \$20 for future members and includes one complimentary drink. For attendees' safety and to avoid in-person exchanges of cash and credit cards, chamber officials are encouraging people to register and buy their prize tickets online in advance at www.members.fortmyers. org/events. Pre-sale tickets will be waiting at check-in.

Millennial Brewing Company is located at 1811 Royal Palm Avenue in Fort Myers. Email debra@fortmyers.org or call 332-2930 for more information.举

SAINT NICHOLAS MONASTERY Sunday 9:30 a.m., www.saintnicholasmonast ery.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 BETH EL SYNAGOGUE

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

Friday 6:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m., www.

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

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

THOMAS A. EDISON CONGREGATIONAL Sunday 10:30 a.m., www.taecc.com, 1619 Llewellvn Drive, 334-4978. 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. Email changes to press@islandsunnews. com or call 395-1213.举

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.

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.

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.revtedalthouse@aol. com 10200 Cypress Cove Circle, 850-3943.

CHAVURAT SHALOM

(Fellowship of Peace) Friday Shabbat services led by members at 6 p.m. Saturday morning Jewish current events at 10 a.m. Talks by members on topics of interest Thursdays at 11 a.m. Contact ChavuratShalom@gmail.com to participate on Zoom

CHURCH OF THE CROSS

Sunday 9:15 and 10:45 a.m. 13500 Freshman Lane, 768-2188.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN Sunday 10 a.m. 2439 McGregor Boulevard, 334-893

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

REDEEMER CHURCH

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.christianscience fortmyers.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. FORT MYERS CHRISTIAN CHURCH Sunday 10:30 a.m., 5916 Winkler Road,

437-4330 FORT MYERS CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST; Sunday 10 a.m., 8210 College Parkway, 482-3133.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FORT MYERS

11 a.m. Sunday, www.fpcfortmyers.org, 2438 Second Street, 239-334-2261

IONA-HOPE EPISCOPAL CONGREGATION

Saturday 5 p.m.; Sunday 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.; Tuesday 9:30 a.m.; Wednesday 9:30

a.m., 9650 Gladiolus Drive, 454-4778. JESUS THE WORKER CATHOLIC Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday 8, 10

Plant Smart These Seed Pods Will Grab Your Attention

by Gerri Reaves

Test Indian mahogany's (Swietenia mahagoni) seed pods are among the largest pods of native trees.

And, they are beautiful curiosities. Measuring up to five inches long, they perch upright like unopened silvery beige tulips atop bare branches. Seeing a tree loaded with pods makes you wonder why the species isn't called the tulip tree.

Upon a first encounter with a split pod, you're likely to be impressed by the gorgeous symmetry within the rich brown interior.

The woody five-lobed pods split vertically and symmetrically. Five carpels, or pod sections, open like petals to

release tightly packed flat-winged seeds. The seeds are about three-quarters of an inch long and similar in color to the tree's renowned reddish brown wood.

The carpels can be used to make earrings and other jewelry.

A view from the opening, or top, of the pod, reveals a slender star dividing the seeds into five rounded sections.

Once the seeds are free of the pod, their wings, or membranes, enable them to disperse via wind. A pitch in the shape makes the seeds spin as they fall



Inside the pod are numerous tightly packed winged seeds photos by Gerri Reaves

and maximize the dispersal.

So successful is this self-propagation strategy that scientists actually analyze this whirligig aerodynamic property to better deliver ICBM multiple or cluster missile explosives.

This tree grows only in the state's southernmost counties. Long prized for its dense wood that was used especially in ship-building and furniture-making, the tree's populations are depleted due to heavy logging before the 20th century.

Because the wood is so valuable, log-poaching occurred in the Florida



Native West Indian mahogany's large seed pods resemble smooth upright tulips at the branch ends

Keys well into the 20th century.

The tree is on the state's threatened species list.

The next time you see scattered mahogany pods, take a moment to

explore their beauty and design. Sources: A Gardener's Guide to Native Florida Plants by Rufino Osorio, Growing Native by Richard W. Workman, Native Florida Plants by Robert G. Haehle and Joan Brookwell, https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu, www.fnps.org, www.regionalconservation.org, www. sciencepublishinggroup.com, and www. floridata.com.

Plant Smart explores the diverse flora of South Florida.容

President's List

aili Yap of Fort Myers was named to the president's list for the fall 2020 semester at College of Charleston. Yap is majoring in chemistry . To qualify for president's list, students must earn a grade-point average of 3.800 or higher and complete a minimum of 14 semester hours.举



Redfish, Redfish, Redfish



by Capt.Matt Mitchell

Last winter we caught more redfish than I can ever remember. This winter, the past few weeks has been even better. After switching baits from shiners to shrimp, we had several 50 redfish trips. What has made it even more amazing is the average size of these fish is right around 20 to 26 inches. All the little rat reds we caught last year have had a chance to grow up with the closure.

With clean clear water, it's been possible at times to spot these redfish sitting under mangrove limbs. During the morning lower tides, you can look for them to be close to deeper water right where deeper channels butt up against the mangroves. Once

located, it's been as fast-paced as you can get a bait into these hungry fish.

The better bite for me has come while using live shrimp rigged on a jig head. Snook fishing has remained strong while fishing live shiners. All the passes have had good numbers of them. Find fast-moving current along with structure, and the snook will be there.

As the water got much clearer this last few days, this bite has got a little tougher than it has been in the past weeks. The better snook action has come during the last few hours of the outgoing tide as the water gets a little dirtier.

Eventually your going to hook a bird when fishing with shiners this time of year. These seagulls during our cooler winter months always seem to be hungry and aggressive. Often seagulls will simply let go of your shiner if you just wind tight.

When a gull does grabs your bait, try to avoid trying to yanking on the bait as this will set the hook. If you do hook one, gently reel it in all the way to the boat. Once you get it close, cover its head with a towel to calm it. While keeping the bird's head covered, get a good solid grip and carefully untangle it. Two sets of hands work better than one.

Most importantly, do not panic and cut your line. This only leaves yards of loose line hanging from the bird, and this is a slow death sentence.

At times this week, the gulls got so bad the only option was to move.

After struggling to keep shiners alive for what seemed like the last month, I'm happy to report no issues this week. The small amount of red tide that has been lingering around at the east end of Sanibel Island seems to be finally gone.

After loading up on shiners at the causeway, I've fished the entire sound without a single casualty.

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.the comments of the comments



Chia and Terry from South Carolina got in on the crazy redfish action while fishing with Capt. Matt Mitchell this week photo provided



crow case of the Week: Laughing Gull



by Bob Petcher aughing gulls (Leucophaeus atricilla) are medium-sized gulls

medium-sized gulls with black heads. Their laugh-like calls can be heard in the northeast during the summer and down here all year long.

At CROW, a juvenile laughing gull was found drowning on Fort Myers Beach and barely able to keep its head above water. The patient was soaking wet, cold and thin. When a water bird is admitted that way, it is a sign of a loss of waterproofing.

Waterproofing can be damaged in several ways, from contamination to inappropriate preening. If the bird isn't preening or cleaning appropriately, they will lose the ability to be waterproofed. If an animal is in pain, it may not preen well and that can lead to feather issues. If an animal is covered in some type of contamination - urine, feces, oil, etc. - it will affect the waterproofing abilities and require a decontamination wash," said CROW Wildlife Rehabilitation Manager Breanna Frankel. "In some cases, a bird can lose waterproofing completely and must wait for a full molt to become waterproof again. For red tide birds, they forget to preen themselves or they can't due to being so weak and neurologically

Patient #21-92 has improved from its waterproofing issue

inappropriate, that they lose their waterproofing abilities."

The laughing gull did show abnormal, uncoordinated movement consistent with brevetoxicosis, or red tide poisoning. Over the next week, the gull improved as the veterinary team provided treatment along with tub time throughout the day to encourage natural preening behaviors.

"When birds are down for a long period of time," Frankel explained, "we must make sure they stay very clean since they have a tendency to sit in their excrement, which can lead to contamination, affecting the feather health."

The patient was placed on a "regular

Christian Science

A Clearer View of You

photo by Brian Bohlman

liquid refeeding program" at intake. 'For many animals who haven't eaten in the past few days, or birds who are thin/emaciated, we take extra precaution when offering food. We can't overload their stomach/GI tract and expect them to be able to digest whole food right away. We worked this gull up to appropriate liquid feed amounts by slowly increasing the percentage the patient was getting fed and, eventually, it was transitioned to whole foods," Frankel said. "If the bird was emaciated when it came in, the protocol would likely be stricter, but this bird was not emaciated. This bird likely became ill due to red tide, then became thin due to the toxicity and

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being unable to find appropriate food while sick."

The gull received a wash with Dawn dish soap to remove any potential contaminants that could be causing the waterproofing issues.

'Not all birds are waterproof," Frankel cautioned. "Diving birds like cormorant and anhinga aren't waterproof, so they always look wet and have to dry their feathers by spreading their wings out and letting the sun dry them off. Birds who are waterproofed use a special lipid secreted by their preen gland to spread all over their feathers. They rub their beak and face over the gland, then rub it on the feathers all over their body. This leads to waterproofing, which changes the bird's buoyancy and protects their feathers from becoming soaked. Without preening, a bird cannot maintain waterproofing abilities".

The patient was moved to an outside enclosure six days after intake.

"It will be monitored for continued waterproofing and released once waterproofing abilities are sufficient," said Frankel. "The patient started flying the day it went outside, so prior to release, the patient will need to reestablish full waterproofing." CROW (Clinic for the Rehabilitation

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.*

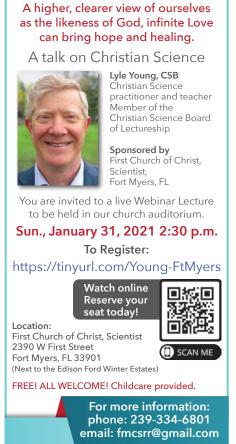
Hall Of Fame Event Now Virtual

Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida will host its annual Hall of Fame event virtually on Thursday, February 25 beginning at 6:45 p.m. An even grander event, this will be the first time Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida hosts a combined event, honoring laureates from both Lee and Collier counties simultaneously.

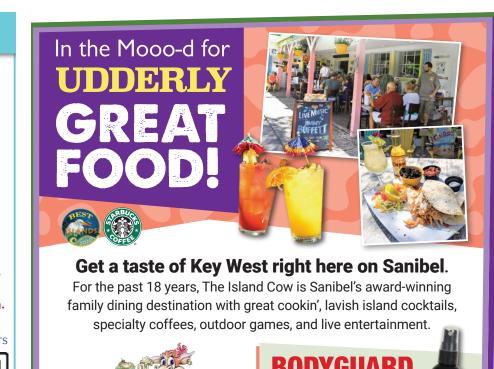
The prestigious acknowledgment honors influential, visionary leaders from the business community that have made a significant impact, created new opportunities and elevated the educational landscape for youth in their communities in regard to financial literacy, entrepreneurship and work-readiness. These individuals will join a distinguished group who have been inducted into the Business Hall of Fame since its founding in 1999.

Iberiabank is the Presenting sponsor for the event. Title Professionals of Florida is the Diamond sponsor and Publix Super Market Charities is the Platinum sponsor. Gold sponsors include BB&T & McGriff Insurance, Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre, Edison National Bank, Naples Daily News and The News-Press.

For more information, sponsorship opportunities, to register and for access to the event, visit www.event.gives/jahof. Inquiries can also be directed to Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida at 225-2590 or info@jaswfl.org.*



www.ChristianScienceFortMyers.net







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Hope Mobile Clinics are available for registered program participants of Hope PACE photo provided

Hope Mobile Clinics Added For Local Seniors

Hope PACE, a program of allinclusive care for the elderly, has expanded its transportation fleet to include Hope Mobile Clinics. Following rigorous safety precautions, program participants still visit the Hope PACE Centers for necessary visits and interventions, while the new vehicles provide safe, convenient and accessible options for ancillary services.

The Hope Mobile Clinics are able to deliver in-home care, facilitate virtual physician visits, provide preventive screenings and dispense vaccinations. At present, services are only available to registered program participants.

"Challenges present opportunities, and the Mobile Clinics are an example of Hope's innovative spirit," said Samira K. Beckwith, president and CEO of Hope Healthcare. "We've adapted in creative ways not only to enhance our services, but also to ensure we continue our personal approach that helps seniors avoid unnecessary hospitalizations and remain safely in the community."

Hope PACE is a comprehensive, coordinated healthcare program designed to meet the social, emotional and practical challenges of older adults. Participants receive medical and therapeutic care, medications, social activities and meals. With Hope PACE Centers located in Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Lehigh Acres, Naples and Port Charlotte, the program also provides transportation to appointments with specialists and other vital services. Its mission is to keep participants healthy, comfortable and living independently in the place they call home.

To be eligible for Hope PACE, which is provided at no charge to seniors with dual Medicare and Medicaid coverage, applicants must be at least age 55 and live in Lee, Collier or Charlotte counties. They must also have health issues placing them at risk for nursing home care to qualify. To learn more about eligibility guidelines or program details, visit www. hopepace.org or call 985-6400.*

Sponsors Sought For Enviromental Art Calendar

Sponsorship opportunities are available for the 2022 Keep Lee County Beautiful (KLCB) Leave The Scene Clean calendar. Various levels are available ranging from \$200 to \$2,000. As a sponsor, your commitment to positive environmentally conscious activities and education would be promoted, and your organization's information will be displayed in 5,000 calendars distributed throughout Lee County.

For over 30 years, KLCB has been producing the environmental art calendar featuring winning artwork from students across Lee County. The calendar, which is used as an educational tool, is distributed



2021 calendar cover image provided

throughout the school system and during KLCB events. KLCB donates calendars to schools to serve as a source of funding for school environmental projects. Schools keep 100 percent of all the money they raise to be used toward the projects.

For sponsorship information, visit www.klcb.org/leave-the-scene-cleancalendar.html or contact the KLCB office at 334-3488 or tisha@klcb.org.*

Speaker Series To Address Climate Change/Impact

Growing Climate Solutions, a partnership between the Community Foundation of Collier County, Southwest Florida Community Foundation, Florida Gulf Coast University and Conservancy of Southwest Florida, will hold a new speaker series to address the changing climate and its impact on the region.

The SWFL Climate Compass Series will feature prominent national speakers discussing critical aspects of the changing climate, including politics, maritime activity and real estate. The Climate Compass Series is free to attend and will start as a three-part virtual event:

February 24 – A Conservative Approach to Solving Climate Change (presented by former U.S. Congressman Bob Inglis)

March 24 – The Nexus of Our Climate, Oceans, and Security: Challenges and Opportunities (presented by Ret. Rear Admiral Jonathan White)

April 21 – The Coastal Real Estate Reckoning is Already Happening (presented by Wharton School of Business Professor Benjamin Keys) "The goals of the SWFL Climate

Compass Series are the same as Growing Climate Solutions' principles: build climate awareness, protect natural assets, engage and empower community leaders, ensure a prosperous and healthy

Lee Schools Golden Apple Award Finalists

The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools has announced the 34th annual Golden Apple Teacher Recognition Program finalists, who were surprised in their classrooms surrounded by students, administrators and fellow educators.

"During this very trying time in our community and throughout the world, there has been an eye-opening recognition of the importance of the teaching profession," said Marshall T. Bower Esq, foundation president and CEO. "Teachers have gone above and beyond to make sure they are meeting the needs of our community's most valuable asset, our students. These 30 Golden Apple Finalists are outstanding representatives of all our great teachers".

The 2021 annual Golden Apple award finalists are:

Taylor Ashby – North Fort Myers High Jamie Ayres - Cape Coral High Yanet Barrero – North Fort Myers High Alisa Brown – Hancock Creek

Elementary

Dr. Nathan Buehler – Mirror Lakes Elementary

Joseph Camputaro – The Sanibel School

Christy Falk – Allen Park Elementary



Bob Inglis

community, and increase the visibility of local climate action," said Ana Puszkin-Chevlin, Ph.D., regional director for Growing Climate Solutions. "Inviting these national thought leaders into local conversations will help broaden

our perspectives



Benjamin Keys

and knowledge as we develop climate solutions that ultimate will protect our communities for generations to come."

Growing Climate Solutions has since expanded to include community leaders from the business, health, civic, faith and nonprofit sectors across the five-county region.

The SWFL Climate Compass Series is supported by media sponsors WGCU and LOCALiQ.

For more information or to register, visit www. growingclimatesolutions.org/ events.茶

Annette Gallipo – Bonita Springs High Brittany Gonzalez – Tortuga Preserve
Elementary
Colt Hartstein – Mariner High
Shelly Hassett – Dr. Carrie D Robinson
Elementary
Anne Hester – East Lee County High
Melissa Holland – Tanglewood
0
Elementary
Sarah Jones – Ida S Baker High
Sara Kizzire – Lehigh Senior High
Ashley Koehler – Cape Coral High
Louis Lillard – East Lee County High
Kaisha Louis – Paul Laurence Dunbar
Middle
Shelby Massaro – Cypress Lake Middle
Heather Morse – Gulf Middle
Joni Pelletier – Treeline Elementary
Marylin Prysi – Villas Elementary
Jennie Rimes – Fort Myers Middle
Academy
Krista Rivera – Gulf Middle
Kristen Santiago – Diplomat Middle
Barbara Scarnato – The Sanibel School
Lori Shaw – Cape Coral High
Trevor Tran – Fort Myers High
Bryan Williams – Mariner High
Dana Windey – Riverdale High
Finalists are personally interviewed
and observed in their classrooms by the
Golden Apple selection committee, and
six teachers are selected as the Golden
Apple award recipients. The recipients

six teachers are selected as the Golden Apple award recipients. The recipients are honored at the Golden Apple Teacher Recognition Banquet, a black-tie affair being held at Caloosa Sound Convention Center & Amphitheater on Friday, April 16.**

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Shell Point is a nonprofit ministry of The Christian and Missionary Alliance Foundation, Inc.

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Book Review Under A Gilded Moon



by Di Saggau

nder a Gilded Moon is an enthralling novel of secrets and murder as classes collide in the shadow of Biltmore House, a palatial mansion being built by the Vanderbilts. This

latest novel by Joy Jordan-Lake is an intense, intriguing read. The genres for the book are historical fiction, and fiction.

Biltmore House is in its final stages of construction in North Carolina. It serves as the country's grandest example of privilege and symbolizes the aspirations of its owner and the dreams of a girl who lives in its shadow. That girl is Kerry MacGregor who had a wonderful opportunity to attend an exclusive college in New York, when she was called back to North Carolina to care for her sick father.

Kerry has known what higher society is compared to the cabin she grew up in North Carolina. She also has mixed feelings about her father as she heads back home to the beautiful Appalachians with no idea what waits for her. The characters, settings and events show comparisons and contrasts of rich versus poor classes, good versus evil, educated

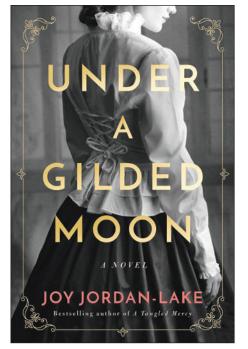
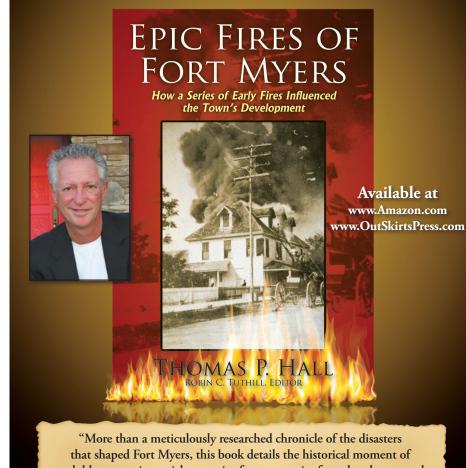


image provided

versus ignorant and loyalty versus betrayal.

She meets some unusual characters on the train, as she gets re-acquainted with her aunt and her twin brother and sister. She is determined to distance herself from the opulence she sees rising in the Blue Ridge Mountains, but her family's land is among the last pieces required to complete the Biltmore Estate. One by one, outsiders descend on the changing landscape, a fugitive from Sicily, a reporter chasing a groundbreaking



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

story, a debutant tainted by scandal and a conservationist prepared to put anyone at risk to stoke the resentment of the locals.

Kerry gets wound up in a war between wealth and poverty, innocence and corruption and, in order to survive, she has to resist the temptations of fortune and the men who control it.

In the author's historical notes, we discover that many of its characters either

School Smart



Readers, Would you like to talk about art and artists, color and design, teach map reading skills, mileage math, photography skills, teach about

ear

manatees, sea life and environmental conservation, the value of volunteering or even write an essay, poem or story, with your kids while getting exercise and having fun? Yes? Well, I have the perfect activity for you. Here's an excellent outdoor educational opportunity that's fun for parents and children of all ages, and it's all based on Manatee Madness.

What is Manatee Madness? Manatee Madness is a special fundraising event for the Community Housing and Resources (CHR) on Sanibel, an agency that provides affordable housing for island residents

Fifteen local artists have focused their creative talents on what would normally be a basic manatee mailbox and have transformed them into whimsical, patriotic and passionate objects of art. These amazing sculptures have been placed all over the island for everyone to enjoy for the next several months. Then on April 11, these fantastic creatures will be auctioned at a special event with all funds raised going to CHR.

CHR Executive Director Melissa Rice said, "We thought everyone would have

represent or were inspired by historical figures. For example, one character, Madison Grant wrote the 1916 book The Passing of the Great Race, a toxic view of racial superiority that later helped fuel the Holocaust. Prior to World War II, Adolf Hitler wrote Grant a fan letter referring to the book as "my bible." Under a Gilded Moon is a thoughtprovoking and memorable novel.

fun with this event. We wanted to create a buzz while staying safe, so we thought what better way to showcase our local talent and, at the same time, raise muchneeded funds for Sanibel's affordable housing program. Keep your eye out for the (free) Manatee Madness booklet which we'll be distributing all around the island. It includes a map to help you locate all the manatees at various local businesses. Take a photo and send it to CHR for our Manatee Madness alerts.'

Look for the CHR manatees around Sanibel through March 31. CHR encourages you to take pictures and selfies with the manatees and tag them on social media. @SanibelCHR on Instagram @SanibelCHR on Facebook with the hashtag "#ManateeMadness" and see what pops up.

Schedule some time with your children to look at these fantastic manatees. You could bike from site to site or drive, but in any case, plan to see all of them. They are absolutely beautiful!

Here are some starter topics and questions to discuss with your children as you view the manatees.

What is a manatee?

What is this manatee saying? How many miles will we travel if we visit all these special manatees?

Why do people volunteer their time and energy for others?

Let's write a mystery story about manatees

I've also included a brief book list. For ages 4 to 8:

My Little Book of Manatees by Hope Irvin-Marston

Manatees: Peaceful Plant Eaters by Adele Richardson

continued on page 16

MANATEE LOCATIONS

As the World Turns, So Do We - Heidrick Insurance (1648 Periwinkle Way) Blue M - Pfeifer Realty Group (1630 Periwinkle Way) G Fairweather Friends - CROW (3883 San Cap Road) Fleur de L'ile - Treetops Center (1101 Periwinkle Way) Flossie and Fiona - SCCF Bailey Homestead (1300 Periwinkle Way) O Manatee Mer - Bailey's General Store (2477 Periwinkle Way) O Martin - CIELO (1244 Periwinkle Way)

Marvelous Mr. Manatee - Sanibel Captiva Community Bank (2475 Library Way and 2408 Periwinkle Way) O Mondrian - MudBugs Cajun Kitchen (1473 Periwinkle Way) O Mythical Mermaid - West Wind Inn (3345 West Gulf Drive) O Painted Sailor - Sanibel Captiva Trust Company (2460 Palm Ridge Road) O Sandi Ryder - Billy's Bikes @ Bailey's Center (2437 Periwinkle Way) Sea Clover - BIG ARTS (900 Dunlop Road) O Spoonie - Ding Darling Nature Store 2 (2250 Periwinkle Way) O Worlds Within - FISH (2430 Periwinkle Way)



Manatee mailbox locations

Marketing Firm Hires Intern For Full-Time Position

🗖 piro & Associates Marketing, Advertising, Public Relations and Brand Architecture has hired Gabriel Miranda-Sousa following an autumn internship with the 30-plus-year-old agency's booming social media department.



Gabriel Miranda-Sousa

As a junior account executive and content production specialist, he will create, develop and execute copy, audio and visuals for in-house and external stakeholders as well as assistant manage workflow.

"When Gabe joined us in October, he quickly became a jack of all trades, and we knew we had to keep him," said Christopher T Spiro, chief creative officer. "Gabe brings a fresh perspective and an infectious enthusiasm to the office every day. Spiro & Associates can't wait to see where this takes our team and clients as well as watch him grow as a professional."

Miranda-Sousa graduated from Boston University with a bachelor of science in communication, focused on advertising. While on campus, he worked as a copywriter and creative director for a student-run advertising agency. Miranda-Sousa ultimately advanced to London where he completed an internship with a full-service ad firm.

Born in Lima, Peru, he speaks fluent Spanish and intermediate French. Miranda-Sousa was raised in Fort Myers and graduated from Fort Myers High School 3

Free Federal Tax Return Preparation

Southwest Florida residents can keep more of their hard earned money by using the United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades, and Okeechobee free VITA tax filing assistance program. The VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program provides free federal tax filing services at 18 sites in Lee, Hendry, Glades and Charlotte counties to individuals and families making less than \$66,000 per year

IRS certified United Way VITA volunteers who are passionate about taxes will prepare the returns and determine if the taxpayers are eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and/or Childcare Credits, while helping low-to moderateincome households meet their basic needs and build financial assets.

Starting January 25, sites will offer either traditional face-to-face or drop-off/ pick-up appointments. Participants are required to wear face coverings during the visit and social distancing protocols have been implemented to ensure the safety of both the volunteers and clients.

To locate the most convenient VITA site and schedule an appointment with an IRS-certified volunteer to prepare your free tax return, visit www.unitedwaylee.org/ freetaxprep or call the United Way 211 Helpline by dialing 2-1-1 or 433-3900.

Taxpayers who prefer a no contact option can e-file free of charge with www. myfreetaxes.com. It is simple, fast and secure while offering online assistance with the process.

Last year, 5,800 individuals and families were able to utilize the earned income tax credit and other available credits through the free VITA tax preparation program resulting in \$8.3 million coming back to the five-county region while saving an average of \$250 per family in tax preparation fees.

În addition, for those seniors who normally file with AARP Tax-Aide, the following sites will be preparing taxes by appointment only beginning in February. Individuals can make their appointments with AARP by calling the following numbers listed by each site:

AARP Tax-Aide - Cape Coral at Grace Church; call 941-500-3272

Fort Myers Tax-Aide is offering two sites – St. Columbkille Catholic Church and Pine Ridge Road VFW; Call 935-7826

North Fort Myers Tax-Aide – North Fort Myers Recreation Center; appointments can be made in person at front desk or by calling 533-7200.

For more information, call United Way at 433-2000 or visit www.unitedwaylee. org.₩

Promotion At University

Joshua Carcopa has been promoted to assistant vice president of student services at Hodges University.

Carcopa joined Hodges University in 2018 as the registrar. In his new role, he provides overall leadership and management



Josh Carcopa

for the university's division of student services. These areas include admissions, student experience, registrar, financial aid, auxiliary services, first impressions, student accounts and veterans services.

Prior to joining Hodges University, Carcopa was the director of enrollment services at LPF Services in Lenexa, Kansas. In his more than 12 years of experience, his roles have included registrar, associate registrar, and transfer and prior learning assessment manager.

Carcopa received a bachelor of arts degree in English literature from the University of Central Missouri, Warrensburg and a master of business administration degree in international business from the University of Wales, Swansea, United Kingdom.

He is a member of the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning.**

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Will Power Be Careful Naming Trust As IRA Beneficiary



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

've had several new clients come to me with an existing estate plan that includes IRA beneficiary designations naming their Trevocable trust as either the primary or contingent beneficiary. On closer review, many did not meet IRS requirements to treat the beneficiaries of the trust as the IRA beneficiaries.

When the IRS requirements aren't satisfied, IRA distributions following the account holder's death are accelerated, resulting in taxes due on the remaining balance right away and, of course, the loss of tax deferred growth.

This can be a double whammy for larger estates that also owe estate tax.

The IRS rules require a trust to qualify as a "see through trust" to the beneficiary. Allow me to explain by example: Suppose Father names his Trust as the beneficiary to his IRA account following his death. The trust has one beneficiary, Son. If the IRS "see through" requirements are met, then Son is treated as the beneficiary, and the trustee has 10 years in which to withdraw the entire trust balance for Son.

The trustee of the trust might be Son himself, or it might be a third party, such as a bank or trust company. Why would Father name the trust and not Son as beneficiary? There are several possibilities. Son might be a spendthrift or may have a mental incapacity causing Father to want a third party to manage the money. Father may want to protect the IRA inheritance from Son's divorcing spouse. Father might want to give Son the ability to distribute the IRA to Son's children rather than himself.

There are five requirements the trust must satisfy in order to qualify as a "see through trust." First, the trust must be valid under state law. Second, the trust must be irrevocable, or become irrevocable by its terms upon the death of the original IRA owner. Third, the trust beneficiary(ies) must all be identifiable as being eligible to be designated beneficiaries themselves, and fourth, a copy of the trust must be provided to the IRA custodian by October 31 of the year following the account owner's death, and fifth, all beneficiaries must be individuals.

Another troublesome issue is when the account owner names the trust instead of a spouse as the beneficiary. This typically occurs in blended families when each spouse has children from a prior marriage. Assume that Wife has an IRA account. She wants her husband to benefit from the IRA account for his lifetime, then upon his death, the

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balance can be distributed to Wife's children.

The reason **Wife** doesn't want to name **Husband** as the primary beneficiary is because he can then "rollover" the IRA into his own account and name whomever he wants (his children) as beneficiaries.

So the trust appears to be a reasonable alternative. Except it's not. The reason the trust doesn't usually work is due to the Required Minimum

Distribution rules. Assuming the trust qualifies as "see through" so the surviving spouse is "identifiable," if that spouse lives out to a full life expectancy, the trustee will be required to withdraw most, if not all, of the IRA account balance anyway. There are other tax issues should the trustee wish to accumulate portions of the distribution inside the trust for the first decedent spouse's children, but that discussion is beyond the scope of this column.

Income taxation of testamentary and irrevocable trusts are complex. I've seen dozens of trusts where the drafter failed to consider these issues, but they can have a real economic effect on the beneficiaries. If you have named your trust as the beneficiary to an IRA, 401(k) or other qualified plan account, make sure that you have it reviewed by a competent attorney. ©2021 Craig R. Hersch. Learn more at www.floridaestateplanning.com.*

Nonprofit Group Adds Advisory Board Members

s the need to fight childhood hunger A grows in our community due to hardships brought on by COVID-19, Blessings in a Backpack SWFL recently strengthened its base by adding several key community leaders to its advisory board and naming a new chair.

The following advisory board members will help the organization carry out its mission through fundraising, event planning, community outreach and more:

Chairperson Connie Ramos-Williams, president and chief marketing officer of CONRIC PR & Marketing; Carl Barraco Jr., project engineer/project manager of Barraco and Associates, Inc.; Danielle Beach, recruiting director of Alliance Financial Group; Guy Clark of Sizzle SWFL; LaRae Davenport, executive director of American Subcontractors Association - SWFL; Rafael Feliciano, co-founder and CEO of Food Idea Group; Scott Fischer, founder and CEO of Scott Fischer Enterprises; Rudi Hamer, assistant vice president and commercial relationship manager of Sanibel Captiva Community Bank; Lynne Kimmich, financial representative of Alliance Financial Group; Travis Merrick, Fort Myers branch manager of GFA International; Jim Parker, retired in Secret Service; Mike Price, director-land division of LandQwest; Chris Rakos, president and chief operating officer of Colonial Roofing; and Nathan Shaw, realtor at Premier Realty.

Blessings in a Backpack helps prevent hunger. Donations of all sizes are welcome through the donations portal at https:// swfl.blessingsinabackpack.org or via mail at P.O. Box 61402, Fort Myers, FL 33906. All contributions are tax-deductible.

From page 1

Reception

Iowa, but grew up in the Fort Lauderdale area. Immediately after high school, he went into the U.S. Marine Corps. His art styles reflect having traveled to 17 countries and five continents. He served in the U.S. Coast Guard, and graduated from the University of South Carolina in 1998.

In 2016, Breckenridge brought his art skills to the Southwest Florida area. Here, he became a full-time, self-taught artist and learned his unique style of color and composition using acrylics as his medium. He has a realist and impressionist style.

Swanstrom is a contemporary artist and a world traveler. She has been to Africa, Europe, Scandinavia, Canada, Mexico and all over the U.S. She can't wait to explore new places that inspire her artwork. Influenced by her parents at a young age to be creative, art always played an important part of her life even if it was as a patron of the arts or cooking in an artistic way.

Now that she is retired from the jewelry industry, Swanstrom has been able to focus on her lifelong dream of creating art. She moved to Florida four years ago and has since volunteered at ACT gallery and other charitable organizations. This exhibit continues to Monday,

March 1.

Arts for ACT Gallery is located at 2265 First Street in downtown Fort Myers. For more information, visit www. artsforactgallery.com.☆



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Superior Interiors New Year: Styling Your Home With A Clean Slate



by Jeanie Tinch

It was an unpredictable year, to say the least. No one could have forecasted the whirlwind that was 2020. While there's no telling how different things will be in 2021, many can agree that the

opportunity for a fresh, clean slate can encourage a more positive outcome for the new year.

Traditional goals and resolutions often entail losing weight, saving money, or making time for a new hobby. But who says you can't step outside the box and set a home-inspired resolution instead? Restyling your home and removing clutter can work wonders for your living space and encourage a clear mindset as well.

Here are a few tips for styling your home with a clean slate:

Declutter – Letting go of the clutter you've collected in the last year during quarantine can be a cleansing home revamp in itself. When clearing out the chaos, remind yourself of each room's purpose. For instance, you shouldn't have stacks of mail taking vacancy on the kitchen table. Likewise, your bedroom isn't for the kids' toys. Dispose of the items you don't need, use or want, and rearrange everything in between.

Create a new organization system – Getting organized is the first step. Maintaining is hard work and keeping everything in its rightful place is the second half of the battle. Placing various shelving systems in different rooms of your home can help keep things in order and add style to the functionality of the living space.

Repaint the walls – If you're looking for the ultimate refresh, painting the walls can satisfy your craving to change things up for the new year. According to trend experts, some of the new paint colors emerging in 2021 include those with earthy rust tones, as well as aqua, teal, apricot and a rich and bold gray-brown. This gives you plenty of options to work from that connect with your personal style and the look you want to achieve. Of course, you can always choose your own paint color that goes against the trends – express yourself! Upgrade your furniture – Like painting

Upgrade your furniture – Like painting the walls, new furniture can add a fresh new face to any room. This is a great move to consider if you haven't updated your furniture in a decade, or you're interested in downsizing to achieve a more minimalist look. Use your new wall color to inspire a new style, pattern and texture for seating arrangements and other complementary items.

Don't forget the bells and whistles – Or in this case, the décor and accessories that tie everything together. This is a step to consider as you declutter and reorganize. If you removed accent decor from a space, does it need to be replaced? New accessories can make your home feel complete again after freshening things up.

The new year is the perfect time to break new ground on a revamped living space. Redesigning, styling and organizing your home all in one go can be more time-efficient, but it can also be an intimidating feat. If you're ready to start the new year off with a clean slate but need some assistance, consider reaching out to a design professional. He or she will work with you to establish design goals for your home and assist in creating an interior refresh that reflects your own personal style.

Jeanie Tinch is an interior designer on Sanibel/Captiva Islands. She can be reached at jeanie@coindecden.com.‡

Commissioner Elected Chair Of Airport Board

The Lee County Board of Port Commissioners recently elected Kevin Ruane as chair for 2021. Cecil L. Pendergrass was elected as vice chair. The board, composed of the five Lee County commissioners, meets bi-monthly as the Board of Port Commissioners to set policy and direct the operations of Southwest Florida International Airport and Page Field in Fort Myers. The other commissioners include Brian Hamman, Frank Mann and Ray Sandelli.

Southwest Florida International Airport served more than 5.9 million passengers in 2020 and is one of the top 50 U.S. airports for passenger traffic. Page Field provides services to corporate, commercial and private aviators and accommodated more than 126,000 aircraft operations in 2020. No ad valorem (property) taxes are used for airport operation or construction, and both airports are funded solely with revenue generated from their operations. For more information, visit www. flylcpa.com or www.facebook.com/ flyrsw.券

Lee Republican Women To Meet

ee Republican Women Federated will hold a dinner meeting at KJ's Steakhouse on Monday, February 8. The social begins at 5 p.m., with dinner and the program to follow.

February's program will feature Lee County Supervisor of Elections Tommy Doyle. Cost is \$27.

KJ's Steakhouse is located at 10950 South Cleveland Avenue in Fort Myers. For reservations, call or text Ashley Winstel at 602-708-8663 or email acwinstel@gmail.com or www.leerepublicanwomen.com/ productcategory/register before Thursday, February 4 at noon. For more information, visit www.lee.vote/meet-thesupervisor/meet-tommy-doyle.**

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16 | THE RIVER - JANUARY 29, 2021 Frankly Speaking



by Howard Prager

he loss of Hank Aaron. I still believe Hank Aaron is the home run champ, as he did not use (or was suspected of using) PEDs. Let's get to his stats. Aaron holds MLB records for RBI and

total bases, had a career batting average of .305, and won three gold gloves. Along the way, he never had a bad season. He was a total ballplayer. His only MVP award came in 1957, but if Aaron had never hit a home run in his career, he still would have collected 3,016 hits, enough to be in the Hall of Fame. Aaron and Eddie Mathews hit 863 homers between 1954 and 1966, the most homers ever by a pair of teammates. Aaron's birthday, February 5, was one day before Babe Ruth's. Former Chicago Cub and fellow Hall of Famer Billy Williams said Aaron was a great all-around player. "A lot of people look at him as a hitter but he was an outstanding baserunner, outstanding fielder, had a great arm. He played the game with ease." Baseball historian Ralph Moses shared this. In the 1957 World Series, Aaron came to bat with the label of his bat facing him instead of away from him. That noted baseball intellectual, Yogi Berra, pointed this out to him. Aaron hit the next pitch over 400 feet for a homer. Aaron's reply when he reached home plate was,

"Yogi, I didn't come up here to read." So much has been written about Hammerin' Hank that it's hard to find a different angle. One is growing up. Sportswriter Steve Zalusky talked to Williams, who was raised near Mobile, Alabama, and was a close friend of Aaron. Williams remembered Aaron saying, "Don't think of me as a great baseball player, think of me as a great individual." Williams said, "I used to go down and see him play with the Mobile Black Bears, because I had a brother on the same team, and watched him progress to the Indianapolis Clowns of the Negro League and quickly to the Milwaukee Braves. You always followed him because he was a Mobile hero to all of the Blacks, because he went through the Negro League and all of a sudden he was playing in the major leagues." When Williams reached the majors himself, he said they had a whole Mobile contingent in the majors and would have a lot of get-togethers in Atlanta when the Cubs played the Braves. The Mobile group included Tommie Agee, Cleon Jones, Willie McCovey and Billy's brother Franklin, who played minor league ball with the Pirates. "We would work out together weeks before spring training hitting, shagging some ground balls and catching fly balls. And then we would go sit in the stands and ask Aaron lots of stuff. The information he gave us was tremendous.'

Williams remembers how tough times were for Aaron as he edged closer to Ruth's home run record. "It was a terrible time for him. He was really upset about receiving so many threatening letters, and he read every one of them." At a time

when he should be experiencing joy and excitement, he felt nothing but sadness and fear. "He knew, growing up around Mobile, what would happen. Here is a guy, a Black guy, (breaking the record of) an icon of major league baseball. And nobody wanted Aaron to break a record, let alone break a white guy's record who hit more home runs in baseball than anybody. He had to have a guard around him. He had to have protection for his kids. A lot of people don't know that." Fortunately, his joy for the game came back afterwards.

Hats off to Hank Aaron, a true baseball hero and American icon. A movement has started to rename the Atlanta Braves the Hammers in honor of him. That would be both a beautiful lasting tribute and an opportunity to shed a Native American image that has stirred controversy. Do share your stories and memories of Hank Aaron with us.

The NFL playoffs...

I'll talk more next week about the American icons in Super Bowl LV (55) after Tampa Bay and ageless Tom Brady shocked the Packers and won the NFC. They'll be the first team to play a Super Bowl in their home stadium. It pits the NFL's oldest quarterback against the youngest quarterback to ever try and repeat as champion, as the Chiefs try to make it two in a row after beating Buffalo for the AFC crown. But no one beats Buffalo's fans, as reported by ESPN.

Buffalo fans are remarkable and generous. ESPN reported that after the Bills won their first trip to the AFC Championship Game since the 1993, thousands of fans donated over a half million dollars to a charity that Baltimore Ravens guarterback Lamar Jackson supported during his college career at Louisville. You've got that right, the opposing QB. Shortly after their 17-3 victory two weeks ago over the Ravens – a game in which Jackson left during the second half to enter concussion

protocol - momentum was generated among Bills fans online to show support for Jackson by supporting the Blessings in a Backpack Louisville chapter. "It's just been overwhelming - in the best possible way," said Nikki Grizzle of Blessings in a Backpack, whose mission is to mobilize communities, individuals and resources to provide food on the weekends for elementary school children across America who might otherwise go hungry. This isn't the first time that Bills fans – affectionately known as "Bills Mafia" – have gathered together with a charitable heart. "Bills fans also donated in droves earlier this season to John R. Oishei Children's Hospital after it was announced that quarterback Josh Allen's grandmother had died. Donations to that cause eclipsed \$1 million." Grizzle described what unfolded the past two weeks in one word. "Amazing." she said. Buffalo Bills Mafia, you win the trophy for the fans with the biggest heart. May you get your wish and have your Bills in a Super Bowl sometime soon.

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.☆

Snook Season To Reopen

nook is slated to reopen for recreational harvest on February 1 in Florida's Atlantic coastal and inland waters (from the Miami-Dade/ Monroe county line north) including Lake Okeechobee and the Kissimmee River. Snook are one of the many reasons

Florida is the Fishing Capital of the World. To learn more about fish handling,

visit www.myfwc.com/marine and click on "Recreational Regulations" and "Fish Handling."☆

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by Craig R. Hersch

Florida Bar Board Certified Wills, Trusts & Estates Attorney, CPA & Island Sun Columnist

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SPORTS QUIZ 1. Doak Walker won the Heisman Trophy in 1948 playing multiple positions for

- what college team? In 1973, what Pittsburgh Pirates pitcher had such a severe case of the yips that
- the "condition" was colloquially named after him? What team drafted Purdue quarterback Jim Everett with the third overall pick in
- the 1986 NFL Draft, then traded his rights to the Los Angeles Rams? In December 2004, who was hired as head coach of the USC Trojans men's
- basketball team only to resign five days later? What baseball team won the 2020 KBO League championship with a 4-2 Korean
- Series win over the Doosan Bears?
- What three-time winner of the Formula One World Drivers' Championship was killed in an accident while leading the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix?
- 7. What San Diego Chargers player set the NFL record for longest play by returning a missed field goal 109 yards for a touchdown in a 2007 game against the Minnesota Vikings?

ANSWERS

5. The NC Dinos. 6. Ayrton Senna. 7. Antonio Cromartie. 1. The Southern Methodist University Mustangs. 2. Steve Blass. 3. Houston Oilers. 4. Rick Majerus.

From page 12

School Smart

For ages 7 and above: Trouble on the St. John's River by

Jane R. Wood El Manatí de Puerto Rico (in Spanish) by Antonio Mignucci

Shelley Greggs is adjunct faculty at Florida SouthWestern State College,

where she teaches psychology and education courses. She is also a nationally certified school psychologist and consultant for School Consultation Services, a private educational consulting company. Questions for publication may be addressed to smgreggs@gmail.com. Not all questions submitted can be addressed through this publication.举

deaRPharmacist Autoimmune **Disorders** And **Risk Of Infection**



by Suzy Cohen, RPh

> ear **Readers:** Having

an autoimmune condition, or a thyroid condition, can make you more susceptible to COVID-19 complications.

Think of autoimmune conditions in the same manner you would other immunosuppressive disorders (i.e., cancer, organ transplantation, history of radiation treatment or chemotherapy). As it pertains to Hashimoto's thyroiditis, Graves disease or hypothyroidism, you need to be extra vigilant while you're out in public because your immunity is compromised.

The right dose of thyroid medication, and the right kind, are critical because you may not be getting enough active thyroid hormone (T3) to your immune system, which resides primarily in the intestines While your body struggles to make do with whatever hormone is available in your body, you may experience symptoms such as poor concentration, chronic fatigue, hair loss, apathy, sensations of being cold, depression and/or anxiety.

If you have autoimmune thyroid disease, or hypothyroidism, your immune system may not be able to protect you from foreign "antigens" or invaders. These include new cancer cells, microorganisms, toxins and even simplistic signals that your body should "see" and doesn't due to low thyroid. If you're low in thyroid, your protection against invaders is hindered.

When you have poor T4 to T3 conversion, I call it being "thyroid sick" and the solution is thoroughly discussed in my best-selling book called *Thyroid Healthy*, available on Amazon. The situation makes you hypothyroid and you could have many, if not all, the symptoms that go with it, especially suppressed immune function, and more frequent colds, fever blisters, rashes and UTIs.

Some doctors prescribe both medications to a patient, meaning both T4 drugs and T3, but getting the right dose is tough on doctors (and patients) because it's like trying to hit a moving target.

Generally speaking, because the cytokines will be imbalanced in a person with autoimmunity, the recovery time from an infection could be lengthened. There are vitamins that can keep your immune system in tip-top shape during the season. Ánd also, I'm passionate about herbal medicine. One reason that herbs work well and have strong anti-viral, anti-bacterial and anti-parasitic effect is because they have a wide spectrum of medicinally active constituents.

This means they have a wide range of beneficial impacts in the body aside from their "kill" action.

I want each of you to be very thoughtful while reading this and remember to never suddenly go off your medication because of something you read. Going off a medication can be problematic for two main reasons:

1. It leaves your condition less controlled, and your symptoms will flare-up and that's bad for your health.

2. Some medications will induce serious and sometimes life-threatening symptoms of withdrawal unless they are slowly weaned over months, with physician supervision. If you'd like to receive my newest ebook on immunity, download it now at https://www.store.suzycohen.com/ strengthen-immune.

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.☆

Beautifulife: Daycation



dream of their next vacation, whether in another state or traveling across the country. Regardless of when things will open up more and where those places will be, you can continue to

veryone has a

enjoy your beautiful life just a short road trip away.

There are so many places to discover in your own backyard, next city over, or just miles down the road. This is the time to explore the beautiful places that make neighborhoods and communities unique. There are always things to enjoy, from the restaurants, the boutiques, and the spa, to the beautiful surroundings.

When craziness hits, my husband and I have always taken a road trip to experience things we usually would not ever do. For example, during 911, we could not travel as we had planned, so we set out on a road trip to visit various places that we would typically not go to. We had so much fun and found great venues that we will now want to revisit and recommend.

We hopped in the car with kids and dogs during the pandemic and visited five different states to experience a day of learning and educating ourselves about places that we have never been. The girls loved it, and we not only learned about new areas but had beautiful family fun.

More and more, we are seeing people come to our spas that have decided to hop in their car and head out on a road trip. The international traveler has been replaced by the road tripper.

We love this because we can reach out to people in our own backyards who want to learn what is just around the corner from them.

and walk. If walking is painful, try pool walking to experience the amazing power of the pool.

Next, eat a plant-slanted diet. Fresh vegetables and fruits help many areas of the body, including the brain. Berries, in particular, provide brain nourishment, along with essential fatty acids found in fish and nuts. A fresh-food diet gives you the most nutrition per mouthful.

As we have talked about in one of our recent articles, learning new skills will strengthen your brain. It will cause you to continue to strengthen the parts of your brain that may be weaker. Learn to knit, learn a new language, play a new card game, read a book from a new genre, eat with your non-dominant hand, try a new physical activity like pickleball or aqua aerobics. By getting out of your comfort zone, you stimulate your brain to a whole new level.

Last week, we spoke about the importance of sleep. Many people (up to one-third of Americans) do not get enough sleep. Our brains need to regenerate during sleep. This complex organ is like a machine. It requires a resetting of experiences and filing them into memory. If you are getting out of your comfort zone

A daycation is different from a staycation and a vacation. It allows you to step out, get away from the everyday stuff, enjoy a day of rest, relaxation and rejuvenation just steps away from your comfort zone. This can make you feel like you are in a different world.

My affirmation for you this week is: "I will take a daycation whenever possible to experience the beautiful things

that surround me." 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.芬

From page 1 Winner Circle

Michigan Shore, Pastel, Pine Island Art Association

Third Place in 3D – Carol Murphy, Earth's Baptism, Fiber, Weavers of Char-Lee

The jurors were Carol Broman and Leila Mesdaghi. The awards were unveiled to the public during a virtual opening reception on January 8. Awards totaled \$1,000 to artists in both 2D and 3D categories.

The biennial exhibition honors artists who have received top awards from 2018 through 2020. The Art Council of Southwest Florida includes 19 affiliated organizations consisting of members from Lee, Collier, Charlotte, Hendry and Glades counties with a combined membership of over 6,800 artists.

The exhibit will be on view through Saturday, January 30. The Alliance gallery and gift shop hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.artinlee.org/ winnercircle or call 939-2787.袋

and learning new things, then get enough

One of our favorite books is The Blue

Zones by Dan Buettner, who describes and

espouses the lifestyles of the areas of the

experience virtually zero diseases of aging.

One of the tenants of these cultures is to

be connected with your tribe. He calls it

"wine at 5" – but this just means to have

can experience social interaction, kindness,

So, we encourage you to live longer,

This information is not intended to

live smarter, live better by adapting your lifestyle to include these things. Cheers!

treat, cure or diagnose your condition. Ross Hauser, MD, and Marion Hauser,

MS, RD, established Caring Medical in

1991. Caring Medical Florida and the

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touch. This is especially important during

a great group of friends with whom you

sharing and caring, and even physical

these trying times. Our brains function

better when we release these happy

world where people live to be 100 and

sleep so that you can commit them to

memory.

hormones.

Doctor and Dietician Preventing Dementia And **Enjoying Life**



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

e recently read an article by famed Neurosurgeon Sanjay **VV** Gupta, commentator and author. Dr. Gupta says, "There are things we can do that involve lifestyle changes that could absolutely delay the progression of

dementia and even reverse it."

We could not agree more! We have covered this topic in prior articles, but it is always good to talk about it again. Dr. Gupta is in line with many of the concepts we have been discussing for many years. These lifestyle habits help people live the longest lives with the least number of age-related diseases. Isn't this what we all strive to do... live long healthy lives?

We'll say it again, and this time, Dr. Gupta is saying it too, "Move Naturally, Move More!" Again, we cannot stress this enough. Once the body stops moving, all systems shut down, especially the brain. Dr. Gupta writes, "When you move, it's almost like you're signaling to the body and to the brain, 'I wanna be here. I'm not ready to go!' What the brain specifically releases are things called neurotrophins; these good chemicals are sort of nourishing the brain." Once you cannot walk three city blocks, your chances of entering a nursing home increase manyfold. Inability to walk, transfer and assist oneself are criteria that end up leading to a loss of independence. We live in a beautiful part of the country here in Southwest Florida. Even on the chilliest of days and the hottest of days, we can still get outside

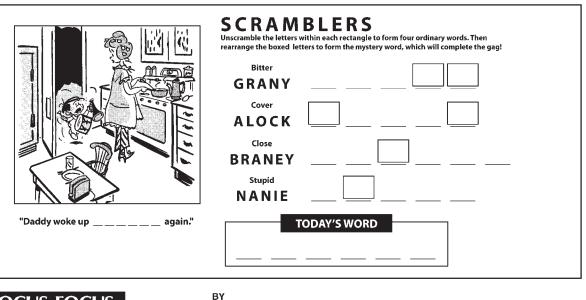


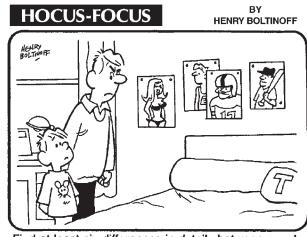


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To be listed in calling card email your information to:	Edison Porcelain Artists Embroiderers Guild of America - Sea Grape Chapter .239 FM UDC Chapter 2614 Friendship Force Of SW FL Garden Club of Cape Coral	415-2484 -267-1990 728-3743 561-9164 -257-2654 472-8334 472-6940 549-9625 939-7278 731-1901 667-1354 332-2408 939-1338 561-2118 454-8090 694-1056 691-1405 482-0869 463-9738 466-4228 898-1921 768-0417 247-3073 477-4906 332-8158 472-6940 433-2000 433-2000 433-3900 395-2233 337-9505 275-3435 334-7419 321-7550 939-4044
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PUZZLES

Answers on page 23







Find at least six differences in details between panels.

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.

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	Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally Unlisted clue hint: Extra Income From your Employer													
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Answers on page 23



Shrimp and Beef Tacos



Shrimp And Beef Tacos

24 ounces beef (tenderloin, sirloin or your favorite cut of beef), cut into 1-inch cubes

1 pound large shrimp, peeled and deveined with tail on

4 large bell peppers (your favorite color), cut into 1-inch squares

4 large onions, cut into 1-inch squares 16 bamboo skewers (soaked in water

for 1 hour) or metal skewers Cooking oil spray for grilling

Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste **Skewer Marinade and Sauce**

1/2 cup olive oil

- 2 tablespoons fresh garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon cumin

1 teaspoon chili powder

2 tablespoons lime juice

photo courtesy Fresh From Florida

1/4 cup fresh cilantro Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste

Combine olive oil, garlic, cumin, chili powder, cilantro and lime juice in a blender and puree until smooth. Taste and adjust seasoning with salt and pepper. Set aside.

Assemble skewers by alternating beef or shrimp, peppers, and onions. Do not put beef and shrimp on the same skewer since they have different cook times. Cover the skewers with half of the marinade. Reserve the remaining half for sauce. Lightly season the assembled skewers with salt and pepper.

Preheat the grill to medium-high heat. Place beef skewers on the grill; cook to desired temperature. When done, remove from grill and let rest for five minutes. While beef skewers are resting, place shrimp skewers on the grill; cook until the shrimp are just done.

To serve as tacos, remove meat and vegetables from skewers and place into corn or flour tortillas. Serve with Florida avocado, shredded cheese, lettuce, and sauce.☆

PETS OF THE WEEK



photos provided Ruby ID#A516849 Lee County Domestic Animal Services Ruby And Frannie

ello, my name is Ruby. I am a 10-year-old female brindle pit bull Lmix. I have a message for you – All you need is love... and a dog. You don't have one? No worries, Lee County Domestic Animal Services can help you adopt the new love of your life. I am a 'Super Senior' with tons of spunk and personality. I love to scratch my back by rolling on the turf outside (which is quite entertaining). I am content sitting close to wherever my person may be. Loyalty is top on this girl's list. My adoption fee is \$25

Hi, I'm Frannie. I am 3-year-old female domestic shorthair. My unique markings and laid-back charm are the perfect combination for this 'tween' feline. I am beautiful inside and out. High maintenance is not a term I am familiar with. I will be there for you whenever you need a little TLC, but am certainly good on my own when needed. My adoption fee is \$50, and

Born This Week: Your good works flow from an open, generous heart. Nothing makes you happier than to see others happy as well.

MOMENTS IN TIME

• On Feb. 1, 1790, the Supreme Court of the United States meets in New York City for the first time, with Chief Justice John Jay presiding. The U.S. Supreme Court was established by Article Three of the U.S. Constitution, which took effect in March 1789.

• On Feb. 7, 1812, the most violent of a series of earthquakes near Missouri causes a so-called fluvial tsunami in the Mississippi River, making the river run backward for several hours. The strongest of the aftershocks, an 8.8-magnitude, caused church bells to ring in Boston, over

a thousand miles away.
On Feb. 4, 1861, delegates from South Carolina, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Georgia and Louisiana convene to establish the Confederate States of America. Within two months, Virginia, Arkansas, North Carolina and Tennessee all had joined the Confederacy.

• On Feb. 6, 1891, three members of the Dalton Gang stage an unsuccessful train robbery in California – an inauspicious beginning to their careers as



Frannie ID#A848229

you can get another kitty for free when you adopt me.

Each year millions of people make New Year's resolutions. Lee County Domestic Animal Services invites you to "Skip the Jog and Walk a Dog" as part of yours. Make pets a part of the plan for the New Year and consider that a new pet can help achieve many of the most popular goals set each year.

The adoption fee for dogs will be reduced to \$30 for the entire month of January. All senior dogs (aged six years and over) are just \$25. So say goodbye to 2020 and hello to 2021 with a new best friend

Lee County Domestic Animal Services is located at 5600 Banner Drive in Fort Myers. Adoptions are available by appointment Monday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Visit www.leelostpets.com to complete an online application. As always, cats and kittens are adopt one and get a feline friend at no additional charge. For more information, call 533-7387.🕸

serious criminals. A year later, the gang botched another robbery, boldly attempting to hit two Kansas banks at the same time.

• On Feb. 3, 1953, French oceanographer Jacques-Yves Cousteau publishes "The Silent World," a memoir about his time exploring the oceans. In 1950, Lord Guinness, a British patron, bought him an old British minesweeper to use for his underwater explorations. Cousteau christened it Calypso.

• On Feb. 2, 1980, details of ABSCAM, an FBI sting operation to uncover political corruption in the government, are released to the public. Thirty-one public officials were targeted. In the operation, FBI agents posed as representatives of a fictional Arab business. offering money in exchange for special favors.

• On Feb. 5, 2003, U.S. Secretarv of State Colin Powell gives a speech to the United Nations justifying an invasion of Iraq that is full of fabrications. Powell later called it a "blot" on his record.

NOW HERE'S A TIP

• "If you have a bunch of picture frames that don't match or ones that are nicked or have small cosmetic damages, just paint them. Choose a matching color for all, and continued on page 22

My Stars $\star \star \star \star$ FOR WEEK OF JANUARY 25, 2021

Aries (March 21 to April 19) Guess what, Lamb? You're about to experience a new perspective on a situation you long regarded quite differently. What you learn could open more opportunities later.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) The Bold Bovine is tempted to charge into a new venture. But it might be best to take things one step at a time so that you know just where you are at any given point.

Gemini (May 21 to June 20) It's a good time to go on that fun getaway you've been planning. You'll return refreshed, ready and, yes, even eager to tackle the new challenge that awaits you.

Cancer (June 21 to July 22) The Moon Child loves to fantasize about magical happenings in the early part of the week. But the sensible Crab gets down to serious business by week's end.

Leo (July 23 to August 22) What goes around comes around for those lucky Leos and Leonas whose acts of generosity could be repaid with opportunities to expand into new and exciting areas of interest.

Virgo (August 23 to September 22) Your concern about your job responsibilities is commendable. But you need to take some quiet time to share with

someone who has really missed being with vou

Libra (September 23 to October 22) Aspects favor getting out and meeting new people. And as a bonus, you could find that some of your newly made friends could offer important business contacts.

Scorpio (October 23 to November 21) You might take pride in wanting to do everything yourself. But now's a good time to ask family members to help with a demanding personal situation.

Sagittarius (November 22 to December 21) Pay more attention to the possibilities in that workplace change. It could show the way to make that longsought turn on your career path. Capricorn (December 22 to

January 19) Your need to succeed might overwhelm obligations to your loved ones. Ease up on that workload and into some well-deserved time with family and friends.

Aquarius (January 20 to February 18) Love rules for amorous Aquarians who can make good use of their ability to communicate feelings. Don't be surprised if they're reciprocated in kind.

Pisces (February 19 to March 20) Fishing for compliments? No doubt, you probably earned them. But it's best to let others believe they were the ones who uncovered the treasure you really are.







The New Math: = \$8 **S**1

That's right! The Harry Chapin Food Bank can find, rescue, transport and distribute \$8 of nutritious food for every \$1 you donate. This turns your \$20 gift into 80 meals for a family!

Thank you for your generosity!

Mail your tax-deductible donation to: The Harry Chapin Food Bank 3760 Fowler Street, Fort Myers, FL 33901 Call (239) 334-7007 or donate online at: harrychapinfoodbank.org













WINDOW CLEANING





22 THE RIVER - JANUARY 29, 2021

From page 20 Now Here's A Tip

you have a collection." – TL in Florida • Kitchen tip: You can slice mushrooms in an egg slicer.

• If your sneakers are smelly, try this: Stick a sheet of fabric softener in each one. Let them set overnight, and most of them time, the smell will be gone by morning. Of course, you should rotate your tennies to help them "breathe," since wearing your shoes day after day can foster bacteria growth – meaning your sneaks will be really stinky.

stinky.
"To get sheets and towels to dry faster, try adding a tennis ball to the dryer. It bounces around inside while the cycle is going, and breaks up large items that tend to crumple into a ball." - CL in Illinois
When you get near the end of a roll

• When you get near the end of a roll of paper towels, save it to put in your car. Pull together a kit to keep in the car with the following items: a small bottle of glass cleaner, a squeeze bottle of water, some wet wipes and the short roll of paper towels. You will always be ready for a quick on-the-road cleanup.

• The kitchen and the bathroom are the worst places in the house to store medicines and vitamins. Humidity and heat can damage the properties of the compounds.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

• The most leaves ever found on a clover is 56.

• In 2012, General Mills sent

professional basketball player Jeremy Lin a special jersey made entirely out of Fruit Roll-Ups after he tweeted about his love for the snack.

• The southern polar region of Enceladus, one of Saturn's moons, contains cryovolcanoes, an exotic type of geyser that spews ice instead of magma. • Aluminum is infinitely recyclable, with nearly 75 percent of all aluminum ever produced still in use today.

• The first footprints on the moon will remain there for a million years.

• A Kansas man requested that an Iowa court grant his motion for trial by combat. His opponents? His ex-wife and her attorney, whom he desired to meet "on the field of battle" in order to "rend their souls from their corporeal bodies."

• The world's largest recorded snowflake measured 15 inches wide and 8 inches thick.

• Similar to how human babies suck their thumbs for comfort, baby elephants suck on their trunks.

• In the Middle Ages, a man's wealth was measured by his stockpile of pepper.

• A 639-year performance by an automated organ, based on avant-garde composer John Cage's As Slow as Possible, started in September 2001 and

is still running at St. Buchard Church in Germany. Progressing so slowly that visitors have to wait months for a chord change, it is scheduled to conclude in 2640.

• Apollo 11 astronaut Buzz Aldrin brought a chalice, bread and wine to the moon to take communion.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Yet I had rather be remembered as those brave beginners are, though many of them missed the triumph, than as the latecomers will be, who only beat the drums and wave the banners when the victory is won." – Louisa May Alcott

TRIVIA TEST

- 1. **Geography**: What is the longest river in Asia?
- 2. **Television**: What is the name of the trashcan dweller in PBS' *Sesame Street*?
- 3. Food & Drink: What kind of nuts are

CLASSIFIED ANNUAL RENTAL COMMERCIAL RENTAL **HELP WANTED** LEGAL NOTICE PSA PELICAN PLACE SHOPPING CENTER **ADMINISTRATIVE FICTITIOUS NAME RENTING FOR OVER \$1,500? AL-ATEEN HELP LINE** ASSISTANT NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Inbox me your monthly rent amount and I'll send you 3 houses you could Are you concerned with a The Bailey-Matthews National Shell Palm Ride Road on Sanibel undersigned, desiring to engage in friend or family member's drinking? 3 units available or combined 2,400 sq. ft. Museum on Sanibel Island is seeking an business under the following fictitious Call the 24-hour help line of OWN for the same monthly payment. (2 at 700 sq. ft., 1 at 1,000 sq. ft). Administrative Assistant. Experience with names: RAINBOW MOVEMENT South Florida Al-Anon chip@chipwolfe.com Call 703-593-7024 Word, Excel, databases, other business FOUNDATION. GLOBALCONSCIENCE at 941-564-5098 or visit www.southfloridaal-anon.org. 6/21 🔅 TFN chipwolfe.com applications, and good writing skills WORLD, and THE 1% SOLUTION. 239-848-0906 required. To apply for this 20 hour/week intends to register the said names with the REMAX OF THE ISLANDS Meetings are held every day in Lee and position, please send a resume to Florida Department of State, Division of 6/5 & TEN info@shellmuseum.org. Hendry counties. Al-Ateen meetings are VACATION RENTAL Corporations, Tallahassee, FL. 1/22 🌣 TFN also offered for ages 8 to 18. The Rainbow Movement, Inc., 7/31 - TEN 4017 SE 20 Pl., Apt. 801, Cape Coral, FL 33904. 1/29 🔆 1/29 HOME FOR RENT Rare Unfurnished Home For Annual Rental **HELP WANTED** Lovely 3 Bedroom / 3 Bath Pool DQ Sanibel home on a quiet over sized double lot. \$10 + Tips BOATS-CANOES-KAYAKS <u>Cycling</u> The surrounding mature landscaping and 472-1170 gardens really depict Sanibel living 1/8 🛠 1/29 Cottages To Castles at it's best. Rent is \$3,900 per month BOAT LIFT RENTAL WANTED Safety Notes including pool and grounds care. Call Sarah LaLande VIP Annual Rentals 239-691-2670 or 239-481-6111 2427 Periwinkle Way Sanibel, FL 33957 Looking for long-term rental of a Local: (239) 472-6385 boat lift on Sanibel or Captiva with Toll Free: (800) 472-5385 1/29 🛠 TFN MARINA HELP WANTED direct ocean access. Fax: (239) 472-5858 Full or Part Time position available Call Jim at 603-930-4549. Ride to the right www. cottages-to-castles.com on Captiva. Must have boat handling 10/30 🔆 TEN 1/26 & TFN SERVICES OFFERED experience and able to work with general public and customers. Email John@ Warn to pass gocaptiva.com or call 239-770-4832. FOR SALE 11/27 - TEN HOME WATCH **Island Vacations** 239-233-2152 Wear a helmet Of Sanibel & Captiva **APPLIANCES** Island Resident / Insured • White LG Dishwasher - Mint Condition Million \$ Views Await You! **NEWSPAPER PRODUCTION** 1/8 🛠 4/2 White LG 30" French Door Refrigerator -Part-time in-house position at Cottages
 Condos
 Homes Use lights at night One tiny dent on front - barely noticeable Island Sun on Sanibel. Must be detail Miles of Beaches & Bike Paths White Kenmore oven with oriented, proficient in Adobe InDesign and white cooktop - Mint Condition. 239-472-7277 pagination. Wage commensurate with Always be courteous Non-smoking household. Single Mother, HELPER experience. Tolls paid. Email resume to: 1-888-451-7277 empty nester so not a lot of usage. islandsunlorin@aol.com. Are you elderly, disabled or just 1/4 🛠 TFN 1/29 & TFN Selling due to renovation in kitchen. don't have free time? Email for pictures or appointment to see I can help! them. LisaSanibel@centurylink.net Just give me a call... 973-919-2116 12/11 & TFN **VOLUNTEER ACCOUNTANT** NEWSPAPER 12/11 🔆 TFN Longtime Sanibel Foundation seeks volunteer accountant for temporary assistance with 501(c)3 filing with pro bono To advertise in the legal counsel. If interested please contact ROGER NODRUFF ELECTRIC Susan Tucker at 239-464-8939. Island Sun and The Dock Lighting, affordable LED conversion. 1/22 🛠 TFN FPE panel replacement, Landscape River Weekly News Lighting. Generator Sizing, etc, etc, etc. Call or text Roger 239-707-7203 SANIBEL BICYCLE CLUB Call 395-1213 State License #13002788 4/20 🛠 TFN

used to make marzipan?

- 4. **Movies**: What incantation did the fairy godmother use to transform the character in Disney's animated *Cinderella*?
- 5. **Medical**: What is a more common name for onychocryptosis?
- 6. **Animal Kingdom**: What is a male goose called?
- 7. **Literature**: In which famous work did the phrase "eat, drink and be merry" appear?
- 8. **Music**: What is the most watched video on YouTube?
- 9. **Chemistry**: What is the chemical symbol of potassium?
- 10. Ad Slogans: Which company sells its popular clothing with the slogan, "Quality never goes out of style"?

TRIVIA ANSWERS

I. Yangtze River Z. Oscar the Grouch
3. Almonds 4. "Bibbidi bobbidi bobidi boo"
5. Ingrown toenail 6. A gander 7. The
Bible 8. Baby Shark Dance 9. K
10. Levi's

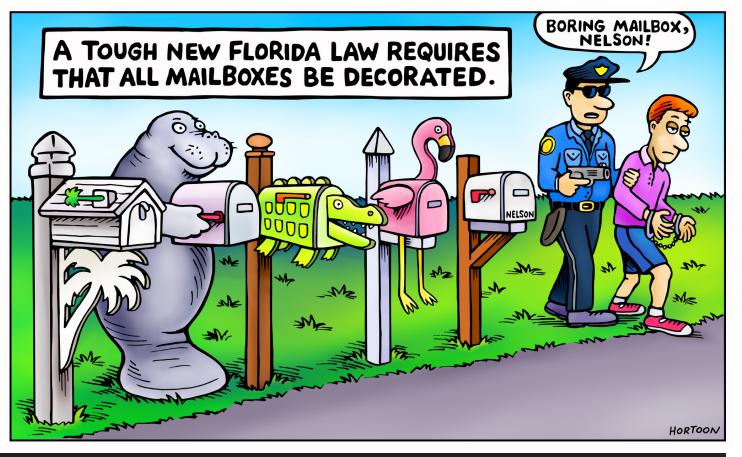
SCRAMBLERS ANSWER

1. Angry 2. Cloak; 3.Nearby; 4. Inane

Today's Word

CRANKY

HORTOONS



PUZZLE ANSWERS

SUPER CROSSWORD	KING CROSSWORD MAGIC MAZE	SUDOKU								
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Top 10 Real Estate Sales

Subdivision	City	Year Built	Square Footage	Listing Price	Selling Price	Days On Market
Bonita Beach	Bonita Springs	2015	5,155	\$6,495,000	\$6,495,000	187
Barefoot Beach	Bonita Springs	2008	9,459	\$5,950,000	\$5,630,000	316
Fort Myers	Fort Myers	2009	8,600	\$3,800,000	\$3,475,000	121
Rookery Lake	Bonita Springs	2001	6,148	\$3,450,000	\$3,450,000	10
Laguna Shores	Fort Myers Beach	2016	3,225	\$3,399,000	\$3,175,000	70
Ancona	Miromar Lakes	2020	4,237	\$3,495,000	\$2,951,935	172
Bay Woods	Bonita Springs	2001	5,700	\$2,995,000	\$2,400,000	416
Tuscany Isle	Estero	2002	4,023	\$1,995,000	\$2,050,000	93
Bonita Beach	Bonita Springs	2004	3,350	\$1,875,000	\$1,800,000	324
Grand Ole Man	Fort Myers Beach	1976	2,340	\$1,790,000	\$1,650,000	85

Courtesy of Royal Shell Real Estate



"For the sun-kissed & sun-desirous alike, A VACATION ON A PLATE."

The New York Cimes

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The Original **Yucatan Shrimp!**

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