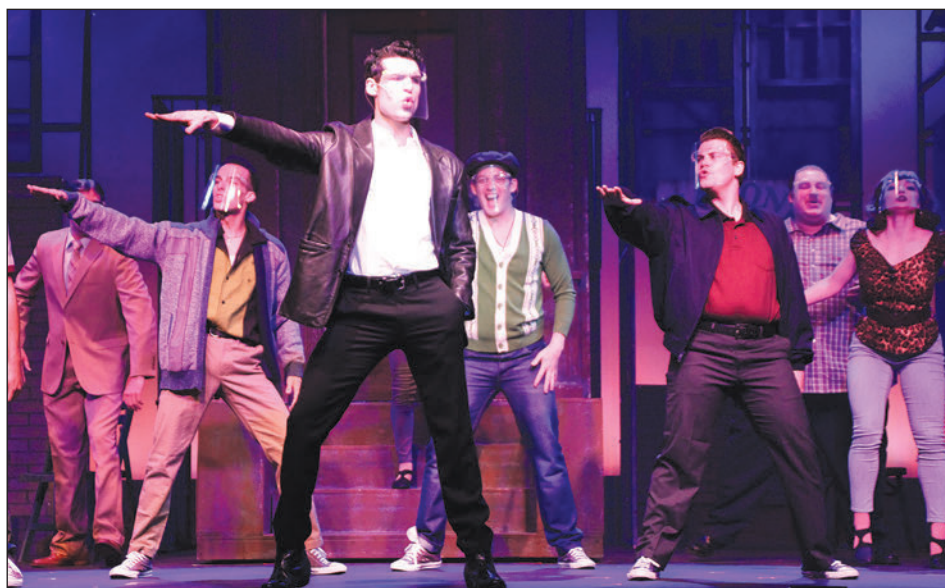




Musical Life Story At Broadway Palm



Sage Spiker as Calogero with Doo Wop Guys
by Di Saggau

I never cease to be amazed by the talent I see at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre. Showing now is *A Bronx Tale*, based on the life story of actor Chazz Palminteri.

The musical is an inspirational story with great singing and high-energy dance numbers. The mean streets of the Bronx come alive at the corners of Belmont Avenue and Webster Avenue, the dividing

photo provided

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Guests of Edison and Ford Winter Estates watch a movie on the Henry Ford lawn during a previous Fort Myers Film Festival
photo provided

Estates To Show Four Festival Films

Edison and Ford Winter Estates will provide viewing for four films of the Fort Myers Film Festival on the Henry Ford estate lawn on Friday, May 14 beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Guests will watch movies under the

stars, including an original Edison silent picture, a production featuring the late Sam Galloway, Jr. and two originals, *Stay Wild* and *A Greenlander*. The site is one of several locations hosting the Film Festival.

The event is fitting since Thomas Edison invented the motion picture camera. His first films were without sound,

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Blue Magic by Tania Alves

images provided

Artwork Selected For Billboards

The Alliance for the Arts has named the participating artists for the 2021 Art Lives Here billboard campaign, which transforms billboard space throughout Lee County into public art. It is made possible by Alliance season sponsor Carter Outdoor.

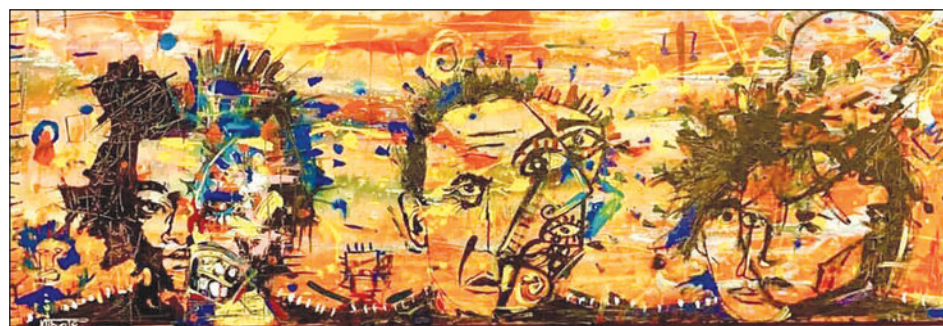
Of the submitted works, the Art Lives Here committee juried in local artists

Tania Alves, Bruce MacKechnie, Doug Smithwick, Khaysie Tiburcio and Susi Wingenroth.

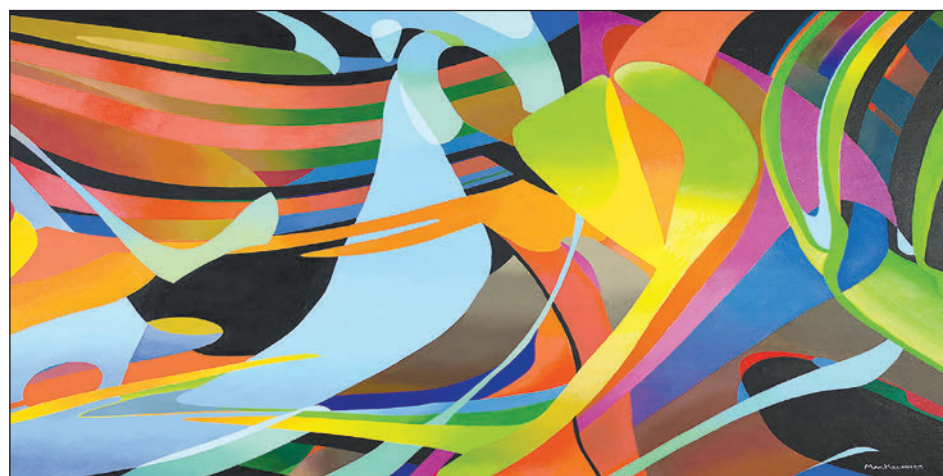
The project, now in its third year, aims to bring artwork outside of the traditional context of museum and gallery walls, bringing attention to emerging artists' work and making the arts accessible to all.

Following are comments from the artists about their works:

Blue Magic by Tania Alves – "I'm often inspired by a color combination and my emotions. I love the freedom of allowing the art appear as I mix the colors on the



Art Within Their Souls by Khaysie Tiburcio



Fandiggity Fandango by Bruce MacKechnie

canvas. I'm repeatedly surprised of where we end, the final work on the canvas and how my heart is full."

Fandiggity Fandango by Bruce

MacKechnie – "I am inspired by the challenge of translating a composition created with mouse clicks into the physical

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Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

What Uncle Sam Asks Of You: Get Ready



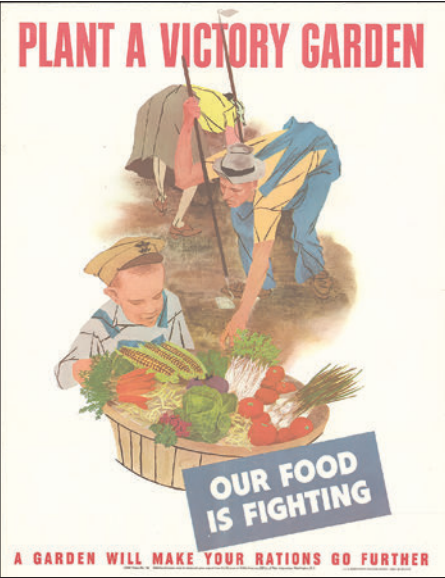
by Gerri Reaves, PhD

When the bombing of Pearl Harbor by the Japanese propelled the U.S. into World War II (WWII) on December 7, 1941, the country was already primed for the forthcoming changes and sacrifices. World War I had already familiarized the older generations with the draft, rationing, war bonds, volunteer work, victory gardens, military service and the hardship and worry of carrying on everyday life while loved ones served abroad. Europe, of course, was already engulfed in war. Hitler had invaded Poland on September 1, 1939 and, in response, Britain and France declared war on Germany two days later.

France fell to the Nazis in June 1940 and, beginning in September 1940, Great Britain had to endure the Blitz, the nightly German bombing campaign. So, war already felt imminent to Americans and mobilization efforts were already under way. For example, on September 16, 1940, the U.S. Congress had passed the Selective Services Act to activate the first peacetime conscription, or military draft, in U.S. history. In consequence, on October 30, 1940, *The News-Press*’ front page announced, “Here’s How The Boys Line Up.” Draft numbers published that day would profoundly affect the lives of men between ages 21 and 30, who were required to register with the local draft boards. It should be noted, however, that after the attack on Pearl Harbor, thousands of volunteers nationwide enlisted, irrespective of their draft numbers.



These U.S. Office of War Information posters from 1943 highlight two goals during WWII: encourage people, especially women, to work in industry, agriculture or business, and encourage compliance with the rationing system photo courtesy Florida State Archives



Another U.S. Office of War Information poster from 1943 highlighting one of two goals during WWII: encourage compliance with the rationing system photo courtesy Florida State Archives



Fort Myers native Carolyn “Ellen” Barden (Smith) answered Uncle Sam’s call by serving in the Civil Air Patrol at Buckingham Army Air Force Base. Only months after the U.S. entered World War II, she was the base’s only test pilot and aircraft inspector. photo courtesy Rebecca Kinzie Holmes

In the course of the long war, registration age was extended, with men up to the age of 45 becoming liable for service and men up to age 65 required to register. Draft boards were empowered to hear appeals for exemption from service. For instance, exempted were those deemed medically unfit, as were workers in key industries and jobs such as baking, farming, medicine and engineering – what we today might term essential workers. Allowances were also established for divinity students and conscientious objectors, to name two, who could be exempt from service but not from conscription. Exemptions were not always easy to come by, though. In December 1940, the *Press* reported that of the first 250 men classified for service under the draft, only one had been exempted, a Mormon missionary. In November 1943, the City of Fort Myers appealed to the Tampa draft board to reclassify Police Sgts. Doug Bartleson and Charles Hisler, two white officers, as well as Henry Jackson, a black officer, from 1A status. All three were fathers. The city contended that it simply could not adequately maintain peace and order with a depleted force. Furthermore, it was nearly impossible to recruit replacements with the limited labor force and the competition at the two local air bases. The following month, the Tampa board unanimously turned down the request for reclassification and all three men remained draftable. Once the U.S. entered the war, inducted soldiers were to serve for “the duration.” Millions of men, and a significant number of women, effectively put life back home on hold indefinitely to serve the nation. The establishment of two nearby military bases, Buckingham Army Air Field (BAAF) and Page Field, changed Fort Myers forever. Thousands of military personnel cycled through for training, some bringing family members who found accommodations in town. The town’s population mushroomed, and from a strictly social perspective, got a lot more interesting, what with dances, the USO and numerous activities. The bases also provided jobs for local men and women, from dentists to typists, machinists to food suppliers. Some adventurous young women, such as Carolyn Barden (Smith), served in the Civil Air Patrol as BAAF’s only aviatrix, as a test pilot and aircraft inspector.

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THE RIVER

WEEKLY NEWS

FROM THE BEACHES TO DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS

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Myles in the little red wagon at Golisano Children's Hospital

photo provided

Children's Miracle Network Names Champion

Myles smiles because of you. Today, Myles is a happy and healthy 1-year-old, something that didn't always seem possible. Myles has a lot to smile about thanks to the lifesaving care he has received since birth at Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida and the continued care from his team of pediatric specialists.

Myles struggled just to make it into this world and has overcome incredible odds.

"I knew there would be challenges," said Maddie Levy, Myles' mom. "He's a fighter."

In his first 12 months, Myles has seen many of the doctors and specialists at Golisano including his cardiologist, pulmonologist, endocrinologist, nephrologist and ophthalmologist, to name just a few. Most recently, Myles had a sleep study involving an overnight stay at Golisano looking for an incidence of obstructive sleep apnea, which is common in Down Syndrome children. In the same week, Myles visited Golisano for outpatient labs to check for anemia. Later this month, he will see his pediatric ophthalmologist again.

Despite all these regular visits, Levy isn't discouraged and said the team at Golisano always has her back. "They make it all possible. They build the roadmap. When it comes to Myles, I know the only limits placed on him will be those placed by others," said Levy. "He has not stopped breaking through the stereotypes since birth and is reaching all kinds of 'Mylestones.'"

Mom's term of "Mylestones" is exactly why this little fighter is being named the 2021 Children's Miracle Network (CMN) hospitals champion for

Golisano. Myles and his family have seen all parts of the hospital and represent so many of its unique specialties that are focused on helping kids grow up healthy and strong. Myles meets the CMN motto of "Change Kids' Health, Change the Future."

Myles' care focuses a lot right now on physical, occupational and speech therapy at The Children's Rehabilitation Center at Golisano Children's Hospital. "This has been such an enriching experience for us," said Levy. "The therapists are so kind and knowledgeable. They only want what is best for Myles."

Levy said the care goes beyond just her growing baby and said the team at Golisano has taught her a lot about being a first time mom and helped her with balancing life, not just the therapies and medicine. "They are there for both of us, it's comforting," Levy said and admits she's blown away with how much a tiny tot can learn.

"He works super hard in therapy," said Levy. "Right now, he's in swimming lessons too, he loves it and doesn't give up."

Myles will be featured in local CMN campaigns for Golisano throughout the year at Costco, Dairy Queen, iHop, Panda Express, Publix, Ace Hardware, Walmart and other locations.

"We are so honored to be able to help share our story and help this incredible hospital. We love Golisano and the entire team that works with Myles. They truly put children and families first," said Levy.

To make a gift in honor of Myles, the 2021 Children's Miracle Network champion for Southwest Florida and learn more, visit www.sunshineandmiracles.org. Every gift stays local and helps to create more miracles for kids, like Myles, who count on Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida – the region's only Children's Miracle Network Hospital.✱

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Fort Myers Film Festival Readies For Opening Night

The 11th annual Fort Myers Film Festival will begin on Wednesday, May 12 with the Black Tie Red Carpet Opening Night Gala at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center.

The festivities will feature the red carpet rolling out, paparazzi clicking and doors opening at 5:30 p.m. for drinks, mingling with local and international filmmakers and musical entertainment prior to the featured movie at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 for movie only or \$100 for movie and VIP meet and greet.

The festival will be held from May 12 to 16 at the Davis Art Center along with other select venues around Southwest Florida.

The official films selected for the 2021 Fort Myers Film Festival will include movies in the categories Features, Documentaries, Shorts, Short Shorts, Strictly Local, Student and Environment. Films and short film blocks are \$10 the rest of the festival with an option for an all day pass for \$20. Participants and attendees safety will be prioritized with organizers implementing reduced capacity with spaced seating, extra sanitization measures, strongly encouraging the use of masks and social distancing.

On Sunday, May 16, meet all of the local and international filmmakers at the



The red carpet will roll out on May 12 photo provided

closing award ceremony. Champagne and dessert will be shared, short award winning films will be played and toasts will be deservedly announced.

The Fort Myers Film Festival is an intelligent independent filmmaker's preferred event to create, unite and showcase the finest artistic cinematic works.

The Fort Myers Film Festival supports

Lee County Schools filmmakers, Raddatz Foundation and Golisano's Children's Hospital. Sponsored by and partnered with The Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, UNIT A, *Florida Weekly*, Bennett's Fresh Roast Coffee, J. Bert Davis MD, FACS, La Trattoria Cafe Napole, Sam Galloway Ford, Black Tie Tuxedos, VanDyk Mortgage, Riverside Realty, The Luminary Hotel, Blu Sushi, Douglas E. Spiegel. PA, Capone's Pizza, Five Star Talent, Lab Theater, IMAG, Alliance for the Arts and Kearns Restaurant Group.

The Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center is located at 2301 First Street in downtown Fort Myers. For more information, a complete listing of movies and tickets, visit www.sbdac.com/fort-myers-film-festival-2021.✱

Animal Refuge Center Casino Royale Fundraiser

The Animal Refuge Center's (ARC) 8th annual Casino Royale 007 fundraiser returns to the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa on Saturday, May 15 from 7 to 11 p.m.

The James Bond themed event will feature table games like blackjack, poker, roulette and craps as well as a silent and live auction, plus a few new attractions. And of course, no ARC event would be complete without a few refuge residents in attendance to remind the crowd about the purpose of the night.

"Casino Royale is one of our signature events," said ARC Board Vice President Rob Spicker. "We were really disappointed we had to cancel last year because of COVID-19, but we are thrilled to once again provide a night of casino style gaming, great food, fantastic auction items and a beautiful setting to benefit the Animal Refuge Center."

Tickets are \$75 and include \$2,000 in "cash" for gambling purposes. Additional gambling cash can be purchased at the event.

This year's Casino Royale is presented by Paul and Rosalie Watson. Sponsorships are still available; 007 sponsorships are \$2,500, License-to-Kill sponsorships are \$1,000, Diamonds are Furever sponsorships are \$500, and The Dog Who Loved Me sponsorships are \$200. Sponsorships come with event tickets and various levels of advertising.

The Animal Refuge Center is Southwest Florida's largest no-kill shelter. The philosophy avows that once an animal is accepted for adoption, it will not be destroyed to make room for another. Its mission is to shelter, adopt and educate. All donations go directly to the efforts to care for and find homes for as many animals as possible.

The Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa is located at 5001 Coconut Road in Bonita Springs. For more information, tickets and sponsorships, visit www.animalrefugecenter.com/all-upcoming-events/2016/5/21/arcs-casino-royale-007.✱

Call To Artists For Juried Exhibit At ACT Gallery

Professional and emerging artists are being sought for an open juried art exhibit for the month of July at Arts for ACT Gallery, located at 2265 First Street in downtown Fort Myers.

With a theme of Altars, Shrines, Ditty Boxes and Cabinets of Curiosities 2, the group exhibit will open on Friday, July 2. Two- or three-dimensional works in any media are acceptable. Art drop-off days are from June 25 to 28 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Artists are asked to create personal shrines, icons, sacred spaces or collections of notable objects by using shadow boxes, tins, cigar boxes, upcycled clocks and other containers, and fill them with found objects, photos, memories and treasures. Create altered art that is a personal icon, meditational or sacred.

The entry fee is \$10 for one piece, \$15 for two pieces or \$20 for three pieces. Entry fees help support ACT, the domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking center serving Lee County.

Art rejected must be picked up on Wednesday, June 30 between 11 a.m. and 4 p.m.

For art sales, there will be a 40 percent commission retained by Arts for ACT Gallery with proceeds benefiting the ACT shelter. Artists must pick up unsold art on Monday, August 2 from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For more information, contact Claudia at cgoode@actabuse.com or 337-5050 or visit www.artsforactgallery.com.✱

Standards Required For Student Aid

An important phrase in the language of student aid is satisfactory academic progress, or SAP, according to Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA). All colleges that award federal student aid must have SAP standards. Those standards are based on three key areas: grade-point average (GPA), pace and a maximum time frame.

The GPA students are required to have may vary by school, major and whether a student is pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree.

Pace means that students have to pass a stated percentage of the classes they take in a given period of time. This may also vary by college.

The maximum time frame SAP standard means a student may have to finish his or her degree within a given number of attempted credit hours. For example, a school might require a student to pass 120 credit hours to earn a bachelor's degree, but the student must earn those 120 hours without taking more than 150 hours.

For more information, visit www.advantageeducationloan.com.✱



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Franklin Park Elementary School

Franklin Park Elementary To Be Rebuilt

The School District of Lee County is starting the bidding process that will lead to the tearing down and rebuilding of Franklin Park Elementary School. The Florida Department of Education has approved the district's plan to replace the school rather than modernize it.

"We are so excited to have a beautiful new campus soon that our

community, families and staff can be proud of for many years," says Franklin Park Principal Michelle Freeman. "Franklin Park will genuinely be a community partnership school. We will be able to provide unique services and support to ensure student success. We look forward to continuing to serve our community."

Franklin Park Elementary opened as an all-black school in 1958. It was converted into a middle school in 1970 and integrated. In 1977, Franklin Park was renovated and returned to an elementary school.

The rebuild, pending state approval at the time, was one of the promises

the district made to voters if the half cent sales tax was approved in 2018.

The project is expected to cost around \$53 million. All but one classroom building and the gymnasium will be torn down and replaced. Both remaining structures will be completely renovated.

"The new Franklin Park Elementary School will acknowledge the historic significance this site has served within our community, but embolden us to provide even more for our students and families," said Chief of Operations Dr. Ken Savage. "For the first time in the history of Lee County, we will be using our partnerships with the United Way,

photo provided

Lee Health, FGCU and other providers to incorporate community wrap-around services on a school campus.

"Franklin Park will be a true community school. It will benefit not just the whole child but the whole family."

Demolition and construction are expected to begin in October 2022 after a year of planning and design.

The new school should open in August of 2024. Students will be relocated to a temporary portable campus during the rebuild.

Franklin Park Elementary is located at 2323 Ford Street in Fort Myers. A rebuild meeting that was held April 13 can be viewed at www.youtube.com/LeeSchoolsTV.✱

Continental Women's Club

The Continental Women's Club will hold a luncheon meeting at The Hideaway Country Club on Thursday, May 6 at 11:30 a.m.

The program this month will include the installation of the club's new officers for 2021-22, recognition of the past presidents and a May Day Hat contest. Tables are socially distanced and masks are required. Cost to attend the luncheon is \$24.

The Hideaway Country Club is located at 5670 Trailwinds Drive in Fort Myers. For more information, call Liz Paul at 691-7561.✱



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Fort Myers Art:

Jansen Exhibit On View At Naples Museum



by Tom Hall
The Baker Museum in Naples will host a retrospective of work by internationally acclaimed artist Marcus Jansen from Saturday, April 24 through Sunday, July 25. Representing

Jansen's first solo museum exhibition in Southwest Florida, *Two Decades of Relevance* will showcase 18 powerful paintings, including *Foreclosures* (2008), *Spotlight* (2020) and *The Colonialist* (2021).

Over that span, Jansen has garnered numerous attention and accolades. Part of this recognition inheres in incredible technical competency and revolutionary genre-busting style. But what sets Jansen apart from his contemporaries is his uncompromising critical commentary on global political and socio-economic issues as well as the world events that have shaped his life.

For Jansen, painting is an act of intense engagement with the world. It is this quality that emerges from his urban landscapes and portraiture and connects viscerally with those who encounter his colorful



Marcus Jansen's *Foreclosures* from 2008

photo courtesy www.artswfl.com

abstract-and-figurative constructions which, individually and in the aggregate, reflect his sustained preoccupation with the struggles of the displaced and disenfranchised, surveillance and technology, and power structures and their manifestations across different spheres.

Jansen's response to the foregoing concerns is informed by a series of profound life experiences. He mother is Jamaican; his father German. He spent his formative years in The Bronx and his adolescence in Germany. He was diagnosed and treated for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) after fighting in

Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the first Iraq War. And after losing his first wife to cancer, he struggled as a single dad to two boys saddled with a mountain of medical bills while trying to establish himself as an artist with a story to tell. Jansen has emerged from these life events filled with a passion for universal human rights and improved societal conditions. Charged with a sense of empathy and a commitment to justice, his works are, not surprisingly, simultaneously emotional, introspective and intellectual.

Jansen had his first European solo museum exhibitions at La Triennale di Milano Museum, Milan and the Museum Zitadelle, Berlin. He has participated in the 12th International Print and Drawing Biennial in Taiwan at the National Taiwan Museum of Fine Art. Works by Jansen are in collections of the Moscow Museum of Modern Art, University of Michigan Museum of Art, New Britain Museum of American Art, Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, The National Taiwan Museum of Fine Arts, Housatonic Museum of Art and the Smithsonian Institution in Washington DC.

In addition to his studio practice, Jansen is founder of the Marcus Jansen Foundation Fund in Fort Myers, which aims to serve veterans with PTSD and economically disadvantaged children through enhanced cultural awareness of art and music.

The Baker Museum is one of the foremost fine art museums in Southwest Florida. Emphasizing modern and contemporary art, the museum hosts several traveling exhibitions annually to complement installations of works from its permanent collections. Dedicated to stewardship and scholarship, The Baker Museum provides world-class exhibitions and educational opportunities for Southwest Florida's diverse community.

The Baker Museum is located at 5833 Pelican Bay Boulevard in Naples. For more information, visit www.artisnaples.org/baker-museum/exhibitions/2020-21/marcus-jansen.

Benzing Plays Ruth in Naples Production

Gerrie Benzing plays Ruth in The Naples Players' production of *Calendar Girls*, which opens with a red carpet gala on Tuesday, April 27. Benzing has appeared in more than 14 productions at Cultural Park Theater, three shows at Lab Theater and made her debut at Theatre Conspiracy at the Alliance for the Arts in 2019 as Lucy and Tommy of No Consequence in Adam Szymkowiak's *Marian*, or the *True Story of Robin Hood*, at New Phoenix Theater in 2020 in *The Full Monty* and later that same year at The Studio Players as Theresa in *Circle Mirror Transformation*. Now Naples audiences have an opportunity to appreciate her stage work as well.

The Naples Players at Sugden Community Theatre is located at 701 5th Avenue South in Naples. For more information, visit www.naplesplayers.org.

Tom Hall is both an amateur artist and aspiring novelist who writes art quest thrillers. He is in the final stages of completing his debut novel titled *Art Detective*. A former tax attorney, he lives in Estero with his fiancé and their four cats.*

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From page 2

Uncle Sam

Rationing insured that even people not directly impacted by military service participated in the war effort. Daily life required a new mindset about everything, from a simple purchase to the food you put in your mouth.

Ration books became part of life, for goods such as rubber, fuel, meat, bread, sugar and other items were conserved for the war effort.

To illustrate how exacting rationing could be: In January 1942, the Lee County Tire Rationing Board granted only one of the requests before it – a permit for one tire and tube. That was for a gasoline and oil dealer's delivery truck.

Needless to say, bicycles were a handy thing to have during the war.

Take a stroll through historic downtown and imagine how it was transformed by the winds of war. Then visit the following research centers to learn more about how locals met the demands of a world war.

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 from 9 a.m. and noon and Wednesday from 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: Archives of the Southwest Florida Historical Society, *The News-Press*, *The Story of Fort Myers* by Karl H. Grisner and www.nationalww2museum.org.*

Reading Is A Gateway To Future Success

submitted by
Betsy Vaughn,
School Board
Member, District 6



Learning begins at birth. The first three years of life are an incredible period of growth in every area of a baby's development as the child's brain grows from about a quarter of the size of an adult brain to 80 percent of adult size.

During this critical time, regular reading aloud to children provides foundational skills that they will need to enter kindergarten ready to learn.

Nationwide, statistics indicate that children from low-income families succeed academically at much lower rates than their wealthier peers. Inadequate healthcare and poor nutrition affect the development of children living in poverty as does a lack of quality time between caregivers and their children. The average child growing up in a middle-income family has been exposed to 1,000 to 1,700 hours of one-on-one picture book reading; in contrast, the average child growing up in a less economically stable family has been exposed to just 25 hours.

Early Head Start and Head Start are free, federally funded programs that are specifically designed to promote school readiness for children under the age of five from low-income families. By blending funding sources, the SDLC (software development life cycle) currently has been able to provide full school day pre-kindergarten opportunities to 1,183 children from birth to 5 years old. Our Envision 2030 Strategic Plan includes a goal of continued annual expansion.

Third grade reading ability is one of the best predictors of high school graduation. Alarming, two-thirds of children in the United States and 80 percent of those below the poverty line fail to develop reading proficiency by third grade. The focus in the primary

grades is "learning to read" while, by fourth grade, children are "reading to learn," thus, overall later school success depends on adequate grade-level reading skills.

The Really Great Reading program, which is implemented in all Lee County kindergarten through second grade classrooms, builds student success in reading. Really Great Reading provides explicit instruction in phonics, phonological awareness, decoding skills and fluency. Students use multi-sensory, hands-on kits to manipulate phonics tiles, identify syllables and create or break apart words. Students also receive "controlled passages," which are stories that only use sounds that the student has already learned. This helps build confident readers.

During the summer months, children from low-income families fall behind as much as two months in reading achievement, while children from middle-income families actually experience a slight gain. Having access to books can ameliorate the summer learning slide. This summer, all students in second grade will be registered for the Kids Read Now program. Students will receive nine books mailed to their homes that they pick out with their teachers in May to ensure that the books are at their reading level and based on their interests. The ninth book has only illustrations and blank pages for students to write their own short stories.

Another way to combat the summer slide is via the Lee County Expanded Learning Summer Program. All kindergarten through eighth grade students will be invited to attend this virtual program from June 24 to July 22. Students will work on their individual learning paths in iReady for 45 minutes in ELA (English language arts) and 45 minutes in math each week. Students will have teachers assigned to them to provide needed interventions through Zoom as well as celebrations and feedback to families.

Reading is a gateway to future success in school. We must continue to encourage the development of critical precursor reading skills for young children. We must also continue to offer expanded learning opportunities and enrichment programs for our primary grade students to ensure that they are prepared with grade-level reading ability to reach their highest potential.✱

Residents Donate To Food Drive

Donated not Wasted, Lee County's 3rd annual food rescue campaign, successfully diverted 9,321 pounds of food from potential disposal, exceeding 2019 collection total of 2,263 pounds by 312 percent.

"We are so grateful for this overwhelming show of support from our community and partners," said Meg Madzar, food drive coordinator for Harry Chapin Food Bank. "Together, we will provide another 7,767 meals for hungry families." The food bank distributes nearly one million pounds of food a week and

feeds thousands of people a month – many of whom never needed help before the COVID-19 pandemic.

The campaign, designed to reduce food waste in the county, encouraged seasonal residents and visitors to donate unopened pantry items before returning north. Recreation centers and libraries provided 21 convenient drop-off locations and residents responded with enthusiasm.

Partners in the Donated not Wasted campaign included: Harry Chapin Food Bank; Lee County Government (Lee County Solid Waste, Lee County Parks & Recreation and the Lee County Library System); Municipal libraries (City of Sanibel's library, Town of Fort Myers Beach's library); Waste Pro; and FOX4.✱

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From left, Marisa Carrozzo of the Conservancy of Southwest Florida, Capt. Chris Wittman of Captains For Clean Water, Doug Gaston of Audubon Florida and James Evans of SCCF photo provided

Groundbreaking Held For Water Flow Project

Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) staff attended the Old Tamiami Trail Roadbed Removal Project groundbreaking last

month.

"For 97 years, Tamiami Trail has been an impediment to moving water south into Everglades National Park," said Pedro Ramos, superintendent of Everglades and Dry Tortugas National Parks.

The South Florida Water Management District, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other

state and federal agencies joined Gov. Ron DeSantis to celebrate the groundbreaking of the project that will remove more than five miles of fill and old roadbed to allow more water to move south into the Everglades.

"It was an exciting day for Everglades restoration," said SCCF Environmental Policy Director James Evans. "We are finally starting to see momentum on

the critical projects that will allow us to send more water south."

The project is scheduled to be completed by January 2022. It is part of the Central Everglades Planning Project, a suite of Everglades projects aimed at moving more water south through the central portion of the Everglades system.✪

Wonder Gardens New Otter Exhibit Opens This Fall

The Everglades Wonder Gardens will be adding an otter exhibit – the Robert & Deborah Blain Otter Grotto – to its family of rescued animals this fall.

"This \$250,000 otter exhibit will be a children's playground, within a state-of-the-art otter habitat. We are overjoyed to welcome rescued otters to the Wonder Gardens, and we are so grateful to Bob and Deb Blain for making this possible," said David Rahahe:ti Webb, president and CEO of the Wonder Gardens.

The nonprofit's exhibit will feature a clear acrylic tunnel and a play-cave for children to explore, while otters play and swim around guests. Clear viewing domes will allow children and adults to interact with the otters through the cave-walls. The cave will be wheelchair

accessible. The spacious and interactive exhibit will have no caging, but instead will be made of see-through acrylic across the entire front. The water level will be above ground, enabling visitors to see the otters' natural behaviors. The sides and back of the exhibit will be naturalistic rockwork with otter slides, waterfalls and plantings.

"This is really exciting for us, as the exhibit will put the Wonder Gardens on the map and add much-needed free-play opportunities for children here," said Webb.

Otters, which are among the most popular animals with zoo and aquarium-goers, were historically part of the Wonder Gardens, but have been absent for several years. As the charitable organization works towards professional accreditation, animal welfare has become the top priority, and the open-air exhibit will house up to three rescued and non-releasable American river otters. Pending permitting, the exhibit is expected to open to the public this fall.

continued on page 10

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.revtedalhouse@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, 334-8937.

CROWN OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Sunday 8 and 10:45 a.m. Jan 1 – Easter; 9 a.m. after Easter – Dec 31. www.crownoflifelutheran.com. 5820 Daniels Pkwy, 482-2315.

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.christiansciencefortmyers.net, www.christianscience.com. 2390 West First Street, 334-6801.

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., 13545 American Colony Boulevard, 936-2511.

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

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

JESUS THE WORKER CATHOLIC
Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday 8, 10

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

LAMB OF GOD
Sunday 7:45 and 10 a.m., www.lambogodchurch.net, 19691 Cypress View Drive, 267-3525.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TEMPLE 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 Llewellyn 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.

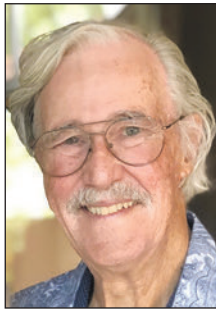
WORD OF LIFE
Sunday 10 a.m., Wednesday 7 p.m., 2120 Collier Avenue, 274-8881.

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.✪

Public Media Advisory Board Selects Chair

Jim Hale has taken the helm as chair of WGCU Public Media Advisory Board (PMAB) for a term to last two years. He is the board's immediate past vice chair and follows outgoing chair Judy Bricker.



Jim Hale

Hale and his late wife, Sharon, moved to Southwest Florida in 2007 after spending their working years in Minnesota. He became involved in several civic activities in Florida including an ongoing guest lecture series at Florida Gulf Coast University. He joined the board of WGCU in 2013.

"It's been an honor and privilege to work with Jim Hale as chair of the WGCU PMAB Development Committee," said Associate General Manager for Development and Community Relations Pam Garvey. "He's thoughtful, strategic, efficient, well organized and fully committed to WGCU and the staff and board that makes it run. I'm certain that our new general manager will benefit greatly from his wisdom and grace."



Outgoing WGCU Public Media Advisory Board Chair Judy Bricker hands new chair Jim Hale the traditional hammer signifying his assumption of office, at the board's meeting on April 14 photo provided

Corey Lewis, most recently of WBUR in Boston, will assume the general manager's post when current GM Rick Johnson retires June 1.

Hale graduated from Dartmouth College in 1962, summa cum laude, and from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1965, summa cum laude. He was named a law clerk to Chief Justice Earl Warren at the

Supreme Court in 1965-66 where he spent a significant amount of this time helping to draft the Miranda opinion. He joined the Minneapolis law firm of Faegre & Benson in 1966. In 1979, he joined General Mills as head of its international acquisition team. Hale joined Dayton Hudson Corporation in 1981, later renamed Target Corporation, where he served

as executive vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary until his retirement in 2004.

Hale is a parent and grandparent, a writer and songwriter and a blues harmonica player for the group Jim Hale and Friends.

"I am honored to be chosen to chair the board at WGCU," Hale said. "Since meeting Rick Johnson eight years ago, I have enjoyed being a part of such a respected organization and look forward to helping lead it to even greater success."*

Donation Made To Help Feed School Children

The Bobby Nichols Charity Foundation recently presented \$149,500 to Blessings in a Backpack of Southwest Florida to support its mission of making hunger-free weekends a reality for food-insecure children in Lee and Collier counties. Proceeds from the 18th Nichols Cup Celebrity Pro-Am Golf Tournament were earmarked for several not-for-profit organizations that serve vulnerable children. The money from this donation will be used to feed every child at Colonial Elementary and James Stephens Elementary, more than 1,200 children in all.

In Lee and Collier counties, 60,000
continued on page 14



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Lake Okeechobee

photos provided

New Regulations In The Works For Lake Releases

submitted by James Evans

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is in the process of developing a new Lake Okeechobee Regulation Schedule that will provide new guidance on how the Army Corps of Engineers will manage water in Lake Okeechobee

for the different parts of South Florida's complex water management system. The new schedule is called the Lake Okeechobee System Operating Manual or LOSOM for short. LOSOM will consider additional infrastructure that will soon be operational, including rehabilitation of the Herbert Hoover Dike, Kissimmee River Restoration, and Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan projects such as the C-43 Reservoir located within the Caloosahatchee watershed and the C-44 Reservoir located in the St.



Lighthouse Beach Park on Sanibel

Lucie watershed. LOSOM is supposed to balance the various project purposes of the Central and Southern Florida Project (C&SF): flood control; navigation; water supply for agricultural irrigation, municipalities, industry and Everglades National Park; regional groundwater and salinity control; enhancement of fish and wildlife; and recreation. Extensive drainage work that has occurred in the Caloosahatchee watershed over the past century resulted in a system that drains very quickly with little to no treatment, resulting in water of poor quality being delivered to the estuary and the coast. Because of these hydrological changes, the Caloosahatchee currently receives the lion's share of the harmful discharges from the lake during the rainy season and is often cut off from beneficial flows during the dry season. This has resulted in wide-ranging damage to the estuary and its ecosystems, including impacts to freshwater tape grass, oysters and sea grasses that depend on a balance of fresh and saltwater.

the damaging, high-flow discharges to the Caloosahatchee while providing beneficial flows during the dry season. We also need to support plans that protect the other natural systems that we depend on by maintaining water levels in Lake Okeechobee that maintain a healthy ecosystem and deliver dry season flows to the Everglades. This can only be achieved by all stakeholders recognizing the need for truly balancing the needs of the entire system. James Evans is the environmental policy director for Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF). For more information, visit www.sccf.org.

Locals Named To Dean's List

Nicholas Orthmann of Cape Coral and Moriah Wolff of Fort Myers were recently named to the dean's list for the winter 2021 semester at Palmer College of Chiropractic's Florida campus in Port Orange. In addition to the campus in Port Orange, Palmer College of Chiropractic, the first and largest college in the chiropractic profession, has campuses in Davenport, Iowa and San Jose, California.

From page 8

Wonder Gardens

The Wonder Gardens has seen an historic month of March, with nearly half a million dollars in revenue. Under the leadership of Webb and their board of directors, the Wonder Gardens is undergoing a period of unprecedented growth in spite of the pandemic, which forced them to cancel their annual fundraiser. With record-setting visitation and revenue, the Wonder Gardens is focusing on beautification of the 85-year-old site, while improving the guest experience, operations and animal care. The Wonder Gardens is a charitable zoological park and botanical garden and is home to rescued birds and reptiles nestled among the sprawling banyan trees and plantings. The Wonder Gardens are located at 27180 Old 41 Road in Bonita Springs. For more information, visit www.wondergardens.org.

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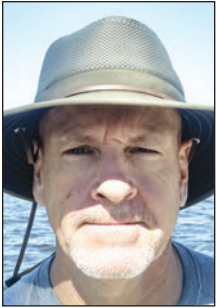
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CROW Case Of The Week:

Diamondback Terrapin



by Bob Petcher

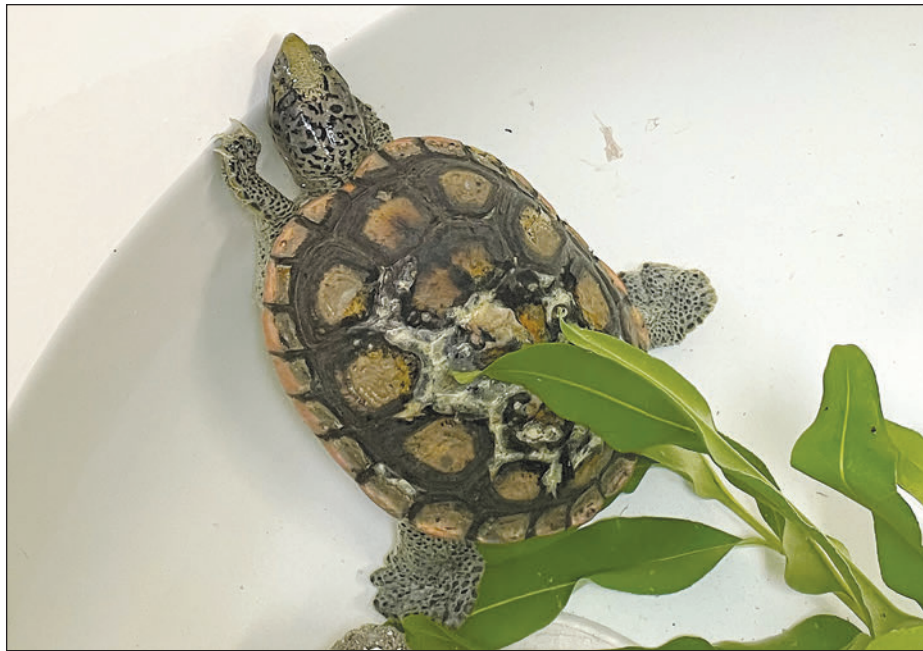
The diamondback terrapin (*Malaclemys terrapin*) is easily recognizable due to its diamond-shaped patterns on the bony plate of its shell. In fact, it gets its name from that pattern

— even though the overall pattern and coloration vary greatly in different species.

This hard shell turtle may be known as Maryland's official state reptile, but there are seven recognized subspecies that can be found down the Atlantic coast to Florida and around the Gulf of Mexico to Texas. All subspecies do like to inhabit brackish coastal waters — though they are in need of periodic access to fresh water for health reasons — and are referred to as strong swimmers due to webbed feet.

The diamondback terrapin has been on the decline for the past 100 years. It is listed as “vulnerable” — just above “endangered” on the International Union for Conservation of Nature's redlist.

At CROW, a juvenile diamondback terrapin was admitted after it was found in Naples with what appeared to be a fungal shell infection. Upon presentation, veterinarians noted necrotic areas of the



Patient #21-1181 was treated for a bacterial shell infection and released back into the wild

photo by Haillie Mesics

central shell that were discolored and peeling away.

“The shell had areas of necrosis, parts that were soft as well as parts that were dry and flaking off abnormally,” said Dr. Robin Bast, CROW staff veterinarian. “We knew the cause was some type of infection, either fungal or bacterial in nature.

The patient was initially isolated, samples of shell scrapings were taken, and the shell was cleaned. The shell samples were sent for testing.

“There were large portions of the shell that were unhealthy and had to be debrided or surgically removed to aid in healing,” said Dr. Bast. “Since we didn't initially know if the specific infection this terrapin had was contagious, we erred on the side of caution and kept it isolated from other reptile patients while it was in the hospital.

The testing of the shell samples revealed no major fungal problem.

“The tests were negative for a specific fungal infection,” said Dr. Bast. “In-house

testing confirmed a bacterial infection, and we were able to choose our antibiotic treatment based on those results. Left untreated, the infection would continue to damage the shell and even spread into the bloodstream, causing infection throughout the body which could ultimately be life-threatening.”

Fungal and bacterial infections occur in many types of wildlife.

“Bacterial infections of the skin and bone happen in a variety of animals for a variety of reasons. In this case, it manifested in the terrapin's shell,” said Dr. Bast. “We do not know the specific source of this terrapin's bacterial infection, but it was likely exposed to it through its environment.”

The patient was closely monitored for two to three weeks at the clinic, where medical staff continued to provide supportive care. Eventually, the diamondback terrapin showed resilience and was healthy enough to be allowed back into the wild.

“This terrapin responded well to injectable antibiotics,” said Dr. Bast. “Once its bloodwork showed no more evidence of infection and the shell had no more areas of unhealthy tissue cropping up, this terrapin was cleared for release.”

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

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Tarpon Time Has Arrived



by Capt.
Matt Mitchell

This week was like someone had flipped the switch as our much awaited tarpon appeared. Seeing pods of rolling fish along with groups of boats anchored up in all the usual places is a sure sign that they are here. Although this favorite fishery has not quite kicked into high gear yet it will only get better by the day as huge pods of migrating tarpon pour into our waters.

On a few charters this week when my clients were game, we gave the tarpon a try for the first hour of the trip. We did have one bite up at Fosters Point on North Captiva, but after one jump, it was over before the battle began. Bending the rods catching sharks and watching rolling and free-jumping tarpon is a great way to get your people fired up early.

Depending on the wind, this past week we fished for tarpon in a few places throughout the sound and saw them at every spot. Soaking cut baits for these early season fish is hard to beat though fishing threadfins and pinfish under floats in the spread is never a bad idea either.

Having a few rigged tarpon rods onboard is a must, even if you don't plan on tarpon fishing as you may just come across them in your travels.

Slow-moving morning tides made snook fishing a little tougher than it previously had been over the past few weeks. Finding any kind of tide movement was the key. Even when we were sitting in the passes, we had periods of zero tide which makes for a slow bite. Once the tide got higher by midday, the snook bite fired off. Oyster bars on both sides of the sound came alive once the incoming tide was high enough to cover them.

Flats from Chino to Regla were a good choice for popping cork fishing with live shrimp. This fishing seems to bend rods during times of no tide and is a great way to catch a few ladyfish and mackerel for cut bait tarpon fishing. Let the boat drift in three to five feet over the grass and sand bottom areas until you start getting bites.

Once you start catching fish, anchor up and enjoy.

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.✱



Melissa hooked a big snook while oyster bar fishing with Capt. Matt Mitchell this week

photo provided

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Plant Smart

Carolina Willow

by Gerri Reaves

Carolina willow (*Salix caroliniana*) is the only member of the willow family that occurs in South Florida, but its other common names, coastal plain willow and southern willow, suggest its pervasiveness in the southeastern U.S.

It develops as either a small deciduous tree with a spreading open crown or a multi-branched shrub. It usually reaches no more than 30 feet and grows near freshwater. The trunk is brown and rough, or fissured.

The alternative lance-like leaves have pointed tips, grayish blue undersides and finely serrated edges. They measure up to eight inches long but less than an inch wide.

Kidney-shaped structures, or stipules, are often present at the intersection of the leafstalk and branch.

Male and female flowers appear on separate plants. In spring, greenish yellow male flowers appear in drooping catkins near the branch ends, female flowers in erect clusters.

The fruit capsule releases silky seeds that disperse on the wind.

Carolina willow is a larval plant for several butterflies, including the viceroy, as well as a nectar plant for the tiger swallowtail and red admiral butterflies.

It attracts bees and other pollinators too, and provides food and cover for wildlife.

Despite its natural place in the ecosystem and benefit to wildlife, the species can be invasive, at least in certain situations.

But it doesn't reach invasive status without human assistance, such as changes to water quantity, quality and flows, and the suppression of natural fires.

In an out-of-balance landscape, freshwater-loving Carolina willow gobbles up landscapes and promotes a monoculture over diversity.

For example, dense forests of this native tree threaten the marshes and prairies of the Everglades, and thus the diverse flora and fauna that depend on them.

Deep roots exacerbate the situation,



Silky seeds disperse on the wind

photos by Gerri Reaves

for the willow can outlast other species in drought. In fact, it can go dormant, conserve energy and spring back when moisture arrives.

In addition, the trees' dense shade reduces the growth of periphyton, which cleanse carbon and nutrients from the water.

In a home or commercial landscape, this species is a good choice for a wet location or alongside a pond, lake or stream.

It's fast-growing and prefers full sun and moist conditions. It has low drought tolerance but will grow in nutrient-poor soil.

Propagate it with seeds and cuttings.

The bark has been used medicinally since ancient time, and the salicin compounds in it are used to make aspirin.

Sources: *National Audubon Society Field Guide to Florida* by Peter Alden et al.; *Native Florida Plants* by Robert G. Haehle and Joan Brookwell; *The Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida* by Gil Nelson; <https://fl.audubon.org/>; www.regionalconservation.org; and www.wildsouthflorida.com.

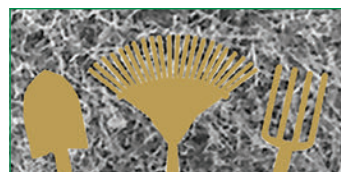
*Plant Smart explores the diverse flora of South Florida.**



Native Carolina willow frequents wet areas such as swamps and the banks of ponds, lakes and streams



The leaves are finely serrated



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Cushman & Wakefield Commercial Property Southwest Florida CEO Gary Tasman and Pace Development Manager Margo Brewster photo provided

Property Group Donates To Pace Center For Girls

Cushman & Wakefield Commercial Property Southwest Florida, a leading full-service commercial property brokerage based in Fort Myers, has made a \$2,500 donation to Pace Center for Girls – Lee. The donation is being utilized to provide leadership

training to the school's staff and leadership education to students.

"The Pace Center for Girls is one of about 25 local organizations that we've supported over the last year, either through donations, volunteerism, or both," explained Gary Tasman, CEO and principal broker. "We support Pace because of their solid record of providing mentorship, education and skills development. They give young women the tools they need to be successful, independent adults."

In 2020, Cushman & Wakefield

Commercial Property Southwest Florida contributed more than \$45,000 to local and regional nonprofit organizations. Because of its commitment to the Southwest Florida community, the brokerage is a finalist for Community Steward of the Year at the Industry Appreciation Awards, presented by the Lee County Economic Development office, Horizon Council and Horizon Foundation. The 2021 Industry Appreciation Awards winners will be announced on October 22 at the Caloosa Sound Convention Center in Fort Myers.

"One of the ways we can make our area more attractive for growth is to improve the quality of life here. These nonprofits are doing just that," added Tasman. "These organizations are raising the tide across our region, creating a domino effect that leads to better job opportunities, more housing and ultimately a stronger tax base that supports our community's needs."✱

Committee Named For Hope Hospice Benefit

State Representative Jenna Persons-Mulicka and Lizbeth Benacquisto, the returning hosts of the second annual Shine benefit for Hope Hospice, recently announced the committee for the Friday, October 15 event at Edison & Ford Winter Estates.

Rebekah MacFarlane Barney, Noelle Branning, Rachel Busch, Lillian Canfield, Zannon Garza, Laurie Moore, Amy Thibaut and Vanessa Tyler will serve as the committee members for the elegant outdoor event featuring riverside cocktails, dining, entertainment and a live auction to support Hope's mission of providing comforting care to everyone living with serious illness.

To request an invitation to the event or learn about sponsorship opportunities, visit www.shineforhope.org or call 985-7758.

Shine will be hosted safely, with the appropriate recommended measures in place, to ensure the well-being of all guests.

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

For more information, visit www.morehope.org.✱

Be Wary Of Loan Repayment Companies

If you owe money on federal student loans, you should be wary of sales pitches from companies offering to help borrowers lower their payments, warns Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA).

Student loans are a trillion-dollar business, and such large sums of money attract unscrupulous characters trying to take advantage of unwary people. Anything such companies want to charge you for doing is something you can do yourself by working with your federal loan servicer.

The U.S. Department of Education warns borrowers to be skeptical about companies that: Ask for payment up front and for monthly fees to monitor your account; Promise immediate loan forgiveness; or Ask for your federal student aid (FSA) ID password and a power of attorney.

To avoid falling victim to a scam, start with the servicer assigned to your loan. Your servicer can tell you what your options are and can help you with the forms you need.

If you need help finding your servicer, visit www.studentaid.gov and click on "Manage loans." Under that link, you can find who your servicer is, as well as detailed information about your options.

For more information, visit www.advantageeducationloan.com.✱

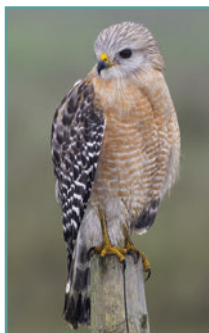
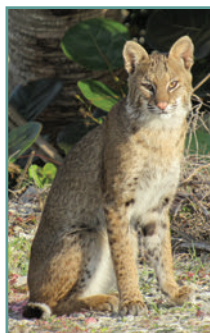
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From page 9

School Children

elementary students who receive free breakfast and lunch on school days would struggle to get the nutrition they need over the weekend without Blessings in a Backpack of Southwest Florida. The organization sends breakfast, lunch and snack foods home with more than 5,300 students on Friday afternoons – enough to get them through to a productive, happy Monday morning.

The Bobby Nichols Charity Foundation, founded in 2002, is a group of Fiddlesticks member volunteers, known as Pipers, who organize and run the golf tournament and a charity tennis tournament. Blessings in a Backpack was added to the foundation's beneficiaries in 2011 and has received close to \$1 million from the group over the last 10 years. The foundation's namesake, Bobby Nichols, is a winner of 14 PGA Tour tournaments including the 1964 PGA Championship and 1974 Canadian Open, and has been a resident of Fiddlesticks since its inception.

Blessings in a Backpack of Southwest

Florida Executive Director Cecilia St. Arnold said, "The heartfelt support we receive from the Bobby Nichols Charity Foundation is amazing. The organization is outstanding and is a shining example of how individuals working together can make a monumental impact. It only takes \$115 to feed one child four meals every weekend for the entire school year, and the Fiddlesticks community continues to help us grow and serve more children."

Blessings in a Backpack serves 5,300 students through 24 school-based programs located throughout Lee and Collier Counties. In these schools, test scores, reading skills, positive behavior, general health and school attendance have improved dramatically due in part to students receiving the nourishment they need throughout the week and the weekends.

Kids are the future – you can help secure theirs. A \$115 donation will feed a child for one full school year. Gifts 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.✱



National Vietnam War Veterans Day ceremony at Hope Healthcare

photo provided

Ceremony Held In Honor Of Vietnam Veterans

Hope Healthcare hosted a Hope VALOR National Vietnam War Veterans Day Commemoration ceremony for veterans, spouses and families at its Cape Coral Care Center with the Mariner High School Junior

ROTC Color Guard.

The ceremony was led by Maj. General James L. Dozier, a West Point graduate who retired after 35 years of military service with a Silver Star for heroism and a purple heart for combat wounds in Vietnam, and Lt. Col. Gary Bryant, who led and commanded Army aviation units around the world during 20 years of active military duty – including serving on Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf's staff in Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield.✪

New Interactive Features To Road Traveler System

The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has announced upgrades to the Florida 511 (FL511) Advanced Traveler Information System in order to provide the most innovative product for road users ahead of the 2021 hurricane season. Customers using FL511 can expect to see new features including live streaming video, map legend enhancements and a voice interaction feature on FL511 platforms.

"The department is consistently looking for innovative ways to improve safety and enhance mobility across our transportation system," said Florida Department of Transportation Secretary Kevin J. Thibault, PE. "The updates to FL511 will allow Florida's road users to efficiently reach their daily destinations, navigate safely around traffic conditions and make travel plans in case of an emergency, such as a hurricane. The department encourages all Floridians to incorporate FL511 into their preparedness plans."

New to www.fl511.com is a live streaming video feature so passengers can view current driving conditions on all interstates, toll facilities and other major Florida routes. This improvement provides real-time views of many of the state's roadways. Users can now select certain camera feeds and click the

"Show Video" button to view a full live stream. The additional live streaming video functionality to the FL511 system is just another aspect of the department's commitment to keeping the public informed about its roadways. Additionally, drawbridge crossings were added to the website's map legend to show when drawbridges are raised and may be impacting traffic. At this time, the Brickell Avenue Bridge in Miami is the first drawbridge to be displayed on the FL511 website.

In addition, the FL511 Mobile App has a voice interaction feature, which provides real-time traffic information in a viewable format. Motorists can request traffic information for a city, county, or roadway. The mobile app provides directions with travel times to any destination in Florida and real-time traffic information on incidents, congestion, construction, closures on interstates, toll roads and other major roadways.

To continually offer the most efficient, innovative product, FL511 will evolve solely to digital platforms starting this month. FL511's phone Interactive Voice Response system will transition to the mobile app, and the department encourages motorists to download the free FL511 mobile app or visit www.fl511.com to use as a planning tool to obtain real-time traffic information. FL511's phone system, as it is today, requires users to dial to reach the Interactive Voice Response system for road conditions and travel times. The mobile app provides the same traffic information and much more.

continued on page 18

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Superior Interiors

Is Your Home Lacking Character?

by Linda Coin



You likely want your home to be welcoming, cozy and tidy for when you host your friends and family. However, we also want our property to be distinctly our own. If you feel like your home is lacking some character,

here are a few easy things you can do to instantly boost your space's integrity:

Small changes can make a big difference when it comes to adding character to your home. Switch out your generic hardware and lighting fixtures for some that match your personal style. Changing your chrome cabinet handles to a copper or one of the new aged or satin finishes to coordinate with your kitchen can be an eye-catching addition. Similarly, a chandelier or large, modern lighting fixture in your dining or living room can be both the focal point of the room and be functional.

When was the last time you noticed your trim? This feature of your home is often overlooked, but giving it a fresh coat of paint can do wonders for any room. If the trim is still natural wood, consider painting it a fresh white for a clean look that will outline your walls and any decor. On the other hand, if you want your walls to appear more spacious, you may want

to color the trim the same hue as the rest of the room. This is a relatively small project that can be completed in a day but immediately transform your room.

Another creative way to add some more aesthetic in your home is to opt for unique wall or ceiling treatments. Coastal shiplap and textured wallpaper are great additions to any room, whether it be on an accent wall or encompassing the entire perimeter of the space. Ceiling treatments are a popular way to add some extra integrity to your home. Instead of a simply white ceiling, try shiplap on top or even a medallion to bring attention to a light feature or certain architectural design.

The windows are always an interesting feature of your home because they can be viewed from both the inside and out. Instead of having plain drapes or flimsy curtains, get creative with your window treatment to really make a statement. Curtains and drapes come in a variety of colors, patterns, textures and materials that can add charm to your living spaces and look elegant from the street. Layered treatments that offer both privacy and light control in a decorative way have become widely available at all price points.

Finally, don't forget to spruce up the exterior of your home as well. Painting the exterior trim, updating landscaping and adding shutters are all great ways to have your personality shine through and add curb appeal. By adding some of these extra touches, your property will stand out from the others on the block and guests will always know which home is yours. The outside of your home is one of the first things guests and passers-by see, so it's important to add extra flare out there as well.

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

Manager Named For Mighty Mussels

The Minnesota Twins have promoted Brian Meyer to lead the Fort Myers Mighty Mussels as manager for their inaugural 2021 campaign. He previously was the team's hitting coach.

Aaron Sutton had previously been tabbed as Mussels' manager, but announced his decision to step away from coaching and pursue a family business venture on March 24.

"It's a little bit bittersweet because Aaron Sutton and I built a great relationship over the past year and a half," Meyer said. "He's a tremendous coach and a tremendous person. But on the flip side of that, I was ecstatic about the opportunity to lead the Mighty Mussels this year."

Meyer brings with him 13 years of collegiate coaching experience, reaching the NCAA Tournament with three different programs. The Cincinnati native starred as a second baseman for Division III Otterbein College in Ohio before spending three years as the team's hitting coach and recruiting coordinator.

Meyer ascended to the Division I level in 2010, leading the Wright State Red

Raiders to back-to-back Horizon League titles. The now 38-year-old then moved to New Orleans in 2012, logging five seasons at Tulane University. The Green Wave went a combined 76-46 in Meyer's final two seasons, reaching back-to-back NCAA tournaments.

Meyer returned to the Midwest in 2017, serving three seasons as an assistant at Butler University in Indianapolis before being hired by the Twins prior to the 2020 season. In all, he has helped tutor 42 all-conference selections, 17 MLB draft picks and three all-Americans. Meyer currently resides in Cape Coral with his wife, Ashley, and son, Walker.

As previously announced, Peter Larson and Carlos Hernandez will serve as the Mighty Mussels' pitching coaches. Larson enters his third year in the Twins' system after leading the Fordham Rams to their best season in more than a decade. Hernandez started his Twins tenure at the team's academy in the Dominican Republic in 2018. The 41-year-old pitched four seasons in the major leagues and racked up 111 innings for the 2002 Houston Astros.

The Twins have also hired Derek Shomon and Rayden Sierra to fill out the staff. Shomon fills Meyer's vacancy as hitting coach after playing and coaching in the Frontier League since 2012. The Illinois native started as the bullpen

catcher for the Schaumburg Boomers before quickly being promoted to bench coach with both Schaumburg and the Lake Erie Crushers.

Sierra served as the hitting and outfield coach at Florida SouthWestern State College in Fort Myers in 2021. Prior to spending the abridged 2020 season as a coach at Volunteer State Community College (Tennessee), Sierra played professionally for Shomon's staff in Schaumburg in 2019. The Andres Boca Chica, Dominican Republic native played collegiately at Broward College (Florida) and Cumberland University (Tennessee).

"I think there's character that's built when you don't have the luxury of resources like we have here at the Twins," Meyer said about his staff's

Woman's Club Elects President

Monica Schmucker of Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, PA, has been elected president of the Fort Myers Beach Woman's Club (FMB-WC).

In her first one-year term as president, Schmucker will take the helm focusing on fundraising efforts and oversee ongoing renovations to the historic "clubhouse." Once complete, it will allow the building to be used as a rental venue for weddings, receptions and corporate events. Schmucker said.

"The Fort Myers Beach Woman's Club has helped me connect with the community on so many levels, and



Monica Schmucker

background. "You find creative ways to make players better. When you do have resources such as we have, it just enhances our ability to develop players. That's what it's all about here."

The Twins have named Matt Smith as the Mussels' athletic trainer. Smith enters his second year with Minnesota. Evan McDonald joins the organization as the team's strength and conditioning coach.

Season ticket packages for 2021 are available now by calling 768-4210. Individual tickets and the promotional schedule will be announced the the near future. The Mussels are set to begin the season in Bradenton at 6:05 p.m. on Tuesday, May 4. First pitch of the Mussels' homer opener at Hammond Stadium is scheduled for 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 11.✱

I'm overjoyed to now be able to give back by serving in the capacity as its president. After our community faced debilitating challenges over the last couple of years – first with the intense red tide phenomenon and then COVID-19, our incoming board is ready and excited to lunge into the year with renewed vigor. Our initial focus will be on launching our capital campaign to restore and improve the historic schoolhouse the FMB-WC calls home and on supporting local FMB area nonprofits with reclaimed fervor. I see an emerging renaissance happening in FMB, and I am thrilled to be a part of it."

Schmucker is a former deputy attorney general in Indiana. She was recognized nationally by Best Lawyers in America as "One to Watch" in 2021. She is also chair of the Fort Myers Beach Nuisance Abatement Board and is a member of the board of directors (and former treasurer) of Friends of Lovers Key, an organization dedicated to the preservation of Lovers Key State Park. She currently resides in Fort Myers Beach with her husband and two young children.✱

From page 1

Musical Life Story

line between the Italian neighborhood where Palminteri grew up and the black inner city.

The main character is Calogero, a poor young Italian boy coming of age as he learns some hard life lessons from Sonny (Daniel Rosenbaum), a neighborhood don who protects him for not telling authorities he murdered a man. Rosenbaum has the slickness of a Marlon Brando mob boss as he influences the admiring boy.

The young Calogero is played by Caisson Dobson and Ashton Heathcoat. Dobson was in the role the night I attended the show, and he caught the heart of the audience, as I'm sure Heathcoat does as well.

The grown Calogero (Sage Spiker) narrates the story of growing up in the Bronx. He is caught between the bus driver father he loves, Lorenzo (Andrew Fehrenbacher) and the mob boss he thinks he would love to be. He eventually learns what living a life of integrity really

means.

Forbidden young love between Calogero and Jane (Charis Michelle Gullage), a beautiful black girl from the other side of town, takes on a Romeo and Juliet tone. Their duet singing in *In a World Like This* makes one believe that love conquers all. The loving Italian Mama Rosina (Elizabeth D'Aiuto) is a stabilizing presence in Calogero's turbulent young life. Jane's brother Tyrone (George Vickers V) gives a fine performance with some great dance moves.

The entire ensemble is terrific with strong voices and professionally polished moves. With a top-notch cast and first-rate staging, *A Bronx Tale* is a show bursting with original doo-wop tunes. It's an unforgettable story of loyalty, love, respect and family. It is directed by Victor Legarreta with choreography by Amy Marie McCleary.

Playing at Broadway Palm through May 22, *A Bronx Tale* is too good to be missed. Tickets can be reserved by calling 278-4422, visiting www.broadwaypalm.com or in person at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.✱

Investment Society Awards Scholarships

The Real Estate Investment Society (REIS) recently announced three recipients of the annual Paul Sands Memorial – REIS Scholarship to Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU) students.

Justin Fiorello, Cydnee Sims and Tania Vega-Arreola will receive scholarships to provide \$2,500 toward tuition and books. These outstanding scholars will also receive honorary membership in REIS for one year and may attend meetings on a complimentary basis.

"We welcome outstanding scholars to join us, to learn about the area's commercial real estate industry and develop relationships with members of the business community," said REIS President Bill Morris. "The REIS scholarship programs represent our commitment to our professions and our community. We support student interest in business by providing financial assistance for their higher education and welcoming them to participate in our meetings and educational programs. Our goal is to promote the professionalism of our future business leaders and thereby the economic vitality of our community."

Fiorello is a sophomore, majoring in entrepreneurship and minoring in real



Justin Fiorello

photos provided

estate. He operates successful YouTube and Instagram channels and looks forward to applying those ventures to real estate marketing. Sims is a senior, majoring in finance, with a minor in real estate. She also works at the university and officiating sporting events. Vega-Arreola is a senior, majoring in accounting and minoring in real estate. She plans to pursue a master's degree and become a certified public accountant with a focus on real estate.

Bev Larson, chair of the REIS



From left, Real Estate Investment Society President Bill Morris, Tania Vega-Arreola and Scholarship Chair Bev Larson

scholarship committee, explained that the Paul Sands Memorial – REIS Scholarship is an endowed FGCU scholarship program, funded by REIS Scholarship Foundation, a not-for-profit, registered 501(c)3 corporation. Continuing contributions from REIS and

the annual Paul Sands Memorial Slaw Dog Invitational Golf Tournament have increased and sustained the fund.

For more information or to contribute to the REIS scholarship program, visit www.reis-swfl.org or call Larson at 689-7174.✱



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Book Review

The Russian

by Di Saggau

Michael Bennett is about to marry his longtime love, Mary Catherine, but a series of gruesome murders in New York City forces him to concentrate on

finding the killer. All of the victims are young women and each is killed in a brutal distinct fashion. Bennett soon identifies similar cases in Atlanta and San Francisco, and he sends out an all-out alarm.

The reader learns that the killer is a software specialist who works for a fictitious computer firm based in Omaha. His name is Daniel Ott, and he travels around the country connecting computers and radios of companies to their central command network. When he is slighted by women, he murders them and in a gruesome manner. His dark side is hidden from his wife and two daughters back in Omaha who adore him as a family man.

While working with local detectives, Bennett and his rookie partner, Brett Hollis, get closer to finding the elusive killer, who always seems to be one step ahead of the cops. This is one

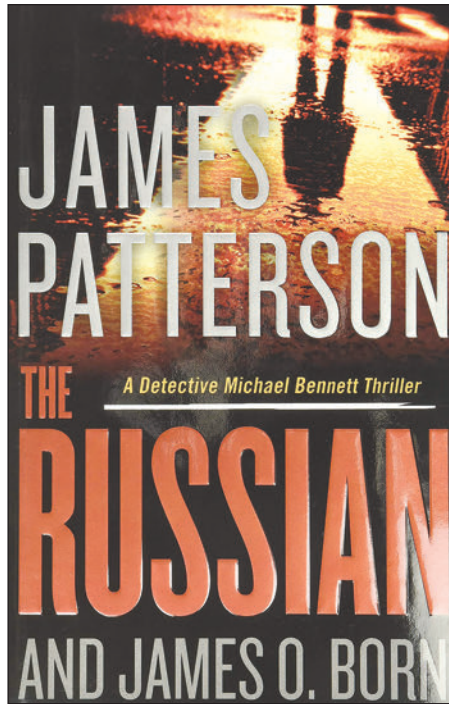


image provided

sick individual, and the detectives are worried about finding him.

Bennett, as many of you know, has a large family that includes not only his fiancée, but his grandfather Seamus, and 10 adopted children. He is anxious to find the killer so he can walk down the aisle as planned. You might wonder why the book is titled *The Russian*, but it will make sense once you finish the book.✱

School Smart



by Shelley M. Greggs, NCSP

Dear Shelley, My child is really struggling with social interactions. She's 8 years old and just doesn't seem to get how to make friends or play with

other kids easily. What can I do?

Melanie K, Fort Myers

Melanie,

Social rules – like cooperating, taking turns, using self-control – help guide how we interact with each other. Lots of kids have trouble picking up on these “rules,” and some children need extra help learning and following social rules. You can help your child learn and practice social rules. Here are a few very important rules and some suggestions to help your child understand and follow them.

Meeting and greeting people politely are important skills. Kids need to learn that a verbal greeting – an introduction if seeing someone for the first time and a verbal goodbye – are all part of having good social skills. A simple, “Hi, I’m Jamie or I had fun playing today, see you tomorrow” is sufficient.

As your child learns how to meet and greet easily, the next step of beginning and ending conversations can be encouraged. The components for developing good conversational skills include turn-taking while talking, maintaining eye contact, listening without interrupting and responding appropriately.

These skills require focus and paying attention to others. Listening means to stop what one is doing and focus on what the other person is saying. Observing body language and facial expressions, and understanding what these non-verbal messages mean can really help with developing strong conversation skills.

Of course, kids need to understand some basic body language as well, like no touching, hitting or physical or verbal violence. And it’s important for kids to understand personal space and stand a comfortable distance away when talking.

Here’s how to help your child follow social rules. Start by breaking down social rules in ways your child can understand and practice. Role-playing games are a good way to model behavior and help your child practice responding to different social situations. For the role-playing, think of the most common social situations your child might be involved in like lunchtime at school, a birthday party, a family dinner, playing outside with neighbors, and go from there. Role-play all kinds of interactions, from how to talk to a relative to greeting a friend during recess.

You can also watch your child’s favorite movie or TV show to focus on reading body language and other non-verbal cues. Turn on the program and turn off the sound, freeze the screen and talk about what you see. Let your child

describe to you what she’s seeing. Then do it again and again. Kids really enjoy this activity and often it leads to lots of giggles.

Make sure to praise your child for successful social interactions, too. You will need to give very specific and positive feedback. For example, if your child has just met someone new, tell them that you thought they did a great job, saying hello and introducing themselves. Restate the skill you saw your child doing well. This type of praise can reinforce the behaviors you want your child to repeat. With practice and support, your child can get better at following social rules.

Visit the following two websites for extra information, free printable worksheets and suggestions on how you can help your child improve their social skills:

www.thoughtco.com/social-skills-worksheets-3111032

www.education.com/worksheets/social-skills

Shelley Greggs is former faculty at Florida SouthWestern State College, where she taught 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 or at www.schoolconsultationservices.com.✱

Lions Scholarship Applications

The Fort Myers Beach Lions Foundation is soliciting candidates for its 2021 WE SERVE scholarships. Cash awards for college or vocational educational assistance are given to local students who demonstrate ability, need and a solid record of community service.

This year, eight WE SERVE scholarships will be presented to deserving applicants. Applications for this year can be found at www.fmb lions.com. Make sure that you receive an e-mail confirmation after you send in the application. All completed applications must be submitted no later than May 31.✱

From page 15

System

FL511 encourages motorists to register for a personalized account on www.fl511.com to receive real-time traffic updates on incidents, congestion, construction and more. When you register for a My Florida 511 account, you can receive text messages or email alerts for your daily commutes. Motorists are encouraged to have a passenger check FL511 for traffic updates or stop at a rest area facility before checking FL511.

For more information on how to use the FL511 Mobile App, visit <http://wbtdot.state.fl.us/ois/Florida511/index.htm>. For additional updates on Florida 511, follow FL511 on social media: Twitter: @FL511_STATE; Facebook: @FL511; Instagram: @Florida_511; and YouTube: @FL511.✱

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Grampy with Jim Castle on the fishing pier at Trailways Camp

photos provided

Donation To Support Special Needs Families

Grampy's Charities raises funds to support organizations transforming the lives of children by partnering with comfort and research based charities in order to make a difference in the lives of those who need it most.

Grampy's recognizes that when children grow up and become adults with

unique special needs, they frequently lead lives of social isolation with reduced opportunities for connecting in their communities. Family caregivers also have few opportunities for respite. That's where Trailways Camp come in. It is a place for adults with special needs and "A place where you are something special."

"For the fifth year, Grampy's is providing a donation that will support entry into a new year for Trailways Camps led by Sharon and Jerry Miller, founders, and we look forward to visiting the campers with our mascot, Grampy,



Back row, from left: Dave Essig, Grampy's board member; Bob Risch, board member; Jim Castle, founding board member; Grampy (Phil Reigelsperger); Jerry Miller, Trailways Camp founder; and Pastor Doug Hummer, Trailways Camp board member. Front row, from left: Jonatha Castle, Grampy's board member; and Sharon Miller, Trailways Camp founder

in the fall of 2021," said Jim Castle, Grampy's Charities founding board member.

While a son or daughter is at Trailways Camp overnight, caregivers know they are participating in camping

experiences that provide opportunities for growth, fun and friendships – with staff and volunteers that assure high quality and safety. Trailways Camp provides this support for the adults and their families.**

Grants Awarded For Affordable Housing

The Lee Board of County Commissioners awarded additional 2019-20 State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) grant agreements totaling \$294,884 to local partners for affordable housing.

The grants awarded:

Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties, Inc. – \$100,000 for construction of two single-family houses for two very low-income households with priority for households with special needs.

LARC, Inc. – \$94,884 for rental rehabilitation of a group home for six very low-income individuals with special needs.

Dunbar Improvements Association, Inc. – \$100,000 for rental rehabilitation for five very low-income households with special needs.

Lee County has received funds from the SHIP program since 1999 for the provision of affordable housing. The SHIP program is funded by revenues collected by the state from a surcharge on documentary stamps and distributed to counties and local governments as grants. Distributions are made on a population-based formula through the Florida Housing Finance Corporation, a state agency created to assist in providing a range of affordable housing opportunities.**



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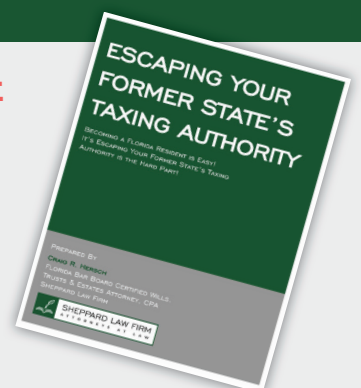
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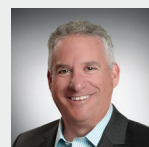
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Will Power

What Every Client Needs To Know About Gift Tax Returns



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

Because in recent weeks I've seen so many erroneous gift tax returns, today's column is devoted to what clients need to know before having their CPA or attorney file one. Estate, gift and generation skipping taxes are transfer taxes, governed by an entirely different subtitle of our federal tax code (U.S. Code Title 26 Subtitle B – Chapters 11 – 15) than are income taxes (U.S. Code Title 26 Subtitle A Chapters 1 – 6).

Just because your CPA is adept at personal, corporate and partnership income taxes does not equate to a working understanding of transfer tax law, which is vitally necessary to file a Federal Gift Tax Return Form 709. News flash – many accounting programs don't require transfer tax courses in order to graduate. Take it from me, I'm a CPA and a board certified wills, trusts and estates attorney. All of my transfer tax courses were taken in law school, not in my undergraduate or masters level accounting studies.

And many lawyers who practice estate planning never took tax law courses. My gift and estate tax course in law school had only eight students out of my graduating class of 190. The income taxation of estate and trust course only had six. Students don't like these courses because they're difficult, and quite frankly, boring. Yet many practice in the field since it's more fun and rewarding than the academic minefield one must navigate to properly learn it. Never mind the task of keeping up with endless IRS rulings, pronouncements, regulations, federal legislation and court rulings through continuing education during one's career.

Unlike income tax returns, which are, absent carryforwards, independent of one another from year to year, every gift tax return affects the next, and ultimately is filed as an attachment to your Federal Estate Tax Return Form 706. An error on any one gift tax return cascades to every future transfer tax filing, resulting in headaches for you and your loved ones.

A professional who doesn't possess a detailed and thorough understanding of our transfer tax laws can't possibly expect to file a correct gift tax return. To understand why I'm devoting an entire column to this issue, allow me to illustrate

recent problem filings I've encountered:

- Unlike income tax returns that allow married couples to file jointly, gift tax returns must be filed separately for a husband and wife. I saw a recent return where the filer "split the gift" between husband and wife yet failed to file wife's return, attributing all of the gift to husband's return.
 - Filers frequently miss the generation skipping transfer (GST) tax issues. Transfers to irrevocable trusts that may one day distribute to a second generation should be listed under that section of the return. There, the taxpayer may opt-out of automatic allocation of this valuable exemption, or else the exemption is deemed consumed. For large estates, you don't want to waste this exemption. Careful thought should be made to its consumption.
 - Determining when an irrevocable trust belongs to the GST portion of the return requires understanding whether a trust is an indirect skip, a taxable distribution, or a taxable termination. Each has different consequences.
 - Speaking of GST issues, there's a little-known rule that disallows the allocation of GST exemption until the gift cannot be included in the transferor's estate for estate tax purposes. Qualified Personal Residence Trusts (QPRTs) and Grantor Retained Annuity Trusts (GRATs) are examples subject to this rule. Because those trusts might be included in the transferor's estate if she doesn't survive the term, the ETIP (estate tax inclusion period) rules apply, and GST exemption can't be allocated until the trusts expire. At that time, if allocated, the GST exemption will consume the fair market value of the assets, rather than the discounted value reported for gift tax purposes. I've seen this botched many times.
 - Normally, annual exclusion gifts (those gifts that don't exceed the \$15,000 current limit) need not be reported. When reporting taxable transfers, however, the annual exclusion gifts should also be reported. Those gifts don't generate tax and don't consume exemption even when reported. Many times, I've reviewed gift tax returns that don't report any annual exclusion gifts.
 - I've seen errors associated with lack of proper documentation. Discounts associated with transfers of closely held business interests and family partnerships require documented verification. Moreover, real estate agents' estimations of fair market value are insufficient proof. If a return lacks the sufficient support, the three-year statute of limitations on IRS challenges never tolls.
- I could go on. At risk of appearing self-righteous, I've seen too much to not warn consumers. More professionals should decline this work based on inadequate knowledge of the area. This same lack of knowledge affects drafters of estate plans, but that's a subject for another column.
- If your 709 is on extension, ask some hard questions before it's filed.
- ©2021 Craig R. Hersch. Learn more at www.floridaestateplanning.com.✧

From page 1 Billboards

world of paint strokes. As subject matter, I am interested in how pure abstraction is so wide open to interpretation. For this reason, I enjoy playing around with shapes, colors and compositions to see what comes out of the process – especially surprises and unforeseen meanings. The billboard piece ended up having an exuberance and rhythm that seemed to express some sort of lively, joyful dance, hence the title, *Fandiggity Fandango*."

Art Within Their Souls by Khaysie Tiburcio – "I wanted to create a piece that represented the impact that art has on the painter. This artwork includes portraits of Basquiat, Picasso and Andy Warhol, morphing into their masterpieces. This is used as a metaphor to express how art becomes a part of the artist."

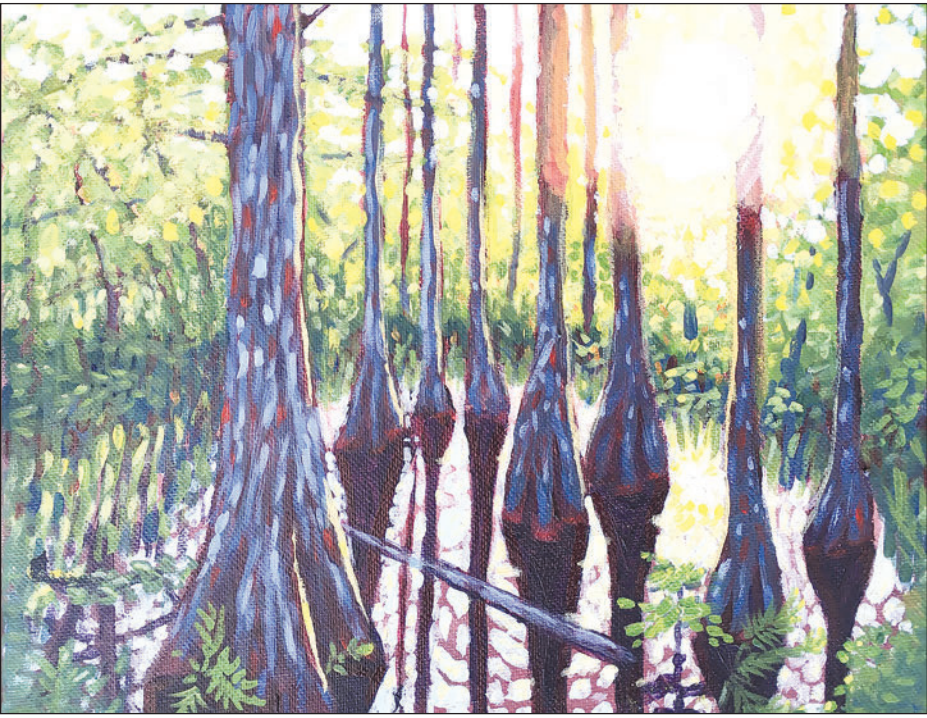
Frame of Reference 1 by Susi Wingenroth – "This painting shows the morning sun radiating through the cypress trees in the wild heart of the wetlands. It is intended as a call to those who see it to enjoy, care for and preserve these wild places. When we look up from our busy lives and notice our home, beautiful living planet Earth, we see a frame of reference for making healthier choices to preserve the planet for all living beings and for future generations."

Sun Is Out by Doug Smithwick – "This painting is reminiscent of



Sun Is Out by Doug Smithwick

happy times, like summertime in Norfolk, Virginia where I grew up. My family used to take us to Ocean View Amusement Park just about every weekend. I'll never forget the colors, the great rollercoaster, Ferris wheel and merry go round. I can still smell the cotton candy. The 1950s were the happiest times in U.S. history. World War Two had just ended and our



Frame of Reference by Susi Wingenroth

economy was bouncing back. However, winters were grey and cold. We all went to Disneyworld during the winter when it first opened. No grey skies there! I was sold on Florida. I moved

here in the '80s and never regretted the decision."

For more information, visit www.artinlee.org/express/artliveshere.✧

Email your editorial copy to:
press@islandsunnews.com

Frankly Speaking

by Howard Prager



Records are meant to be broken. Wilt Chamberlain holds numerous NBA regular season records in scoring, rebounding and durability categories, including “the only player to score

100 points in a single NBA game, and average more than 40 and 50 points in a season. He won seven scoring, 11 rebounding, nine durability and nine field goal percentage titles, and led the league in assists once.” Last week, I wrote about Nikola Jokic, the Denver Nuggets big man passing Chamberlain for most 10-assist games by a center. The scoring record falls to All-Star Steph Curry, who passed Chamberlain’s all-time scoring record with the Warriors (17,783 points) a week ago against Denver, scoring 53 points. “To be anywhere near him in any record book or now be on top, it’s surreal and it’s wild,” Curry said after the game. Curry notched his third 50-point game of the season, joining Chamberlain, Michael Jordan, James Harden, Elgin Baylor, Kobe Bryant and Rick Barry as the only players in NBA history to have scored 50 points or more three times in multiple seasons.

Some remarkable baseball was played last weekend. The rivalry between the Dodgers and Padres has heated up. Game 1 was an instant classic. A back-and-forth matchup that lasted nearly five hours and went to extra innings. A near brawl where both benches emptied, and a combined use of 17 pitchers, including a second baseman pitching and pitchers playing the outfield. The Padres tied the game late, the Dodgers then retook the lead and the Padres tied it as they were down to their last out. The Dodgers pulled away with a five-run 12th inning that gave them an 11-6 victory. Their last run came on a

fly ball by David Price, a starter turned reliever, that was caught by Joe Musgrove – who threw a no-hitter seven days earlier – and came against Jake Cronenworth, the second baseman who was used in emergency relief. I can’t imagine what the scorecard looked like! “It was like a playoff game,” Dodgers manager Dave Roberts said. “It really was.” Game 2 was a pitcher’s duel between former Dodger Yu Darvish and Clayton Kershaw. It ended with Mookie Betts making a sliding, game-saving catch where he kept his glove just above the grass. Trevor Bauer shut the Padres down until the 6th inning in game 3, but came out in the 6th when the Padres went to work and won the final game 5-2. Missed it? Don’t worry, they play a 4-game series in L.A. this weekend.

Triple plays are a rarity to begin with, but Joey Votto pulled off an amazing one for the Reds last Saturday. From CBS Sports, “The Reds trailed the Indians 2-1, and reliever Amir Garrett gave up back-to-back singles that put runners on the corners with no outs. Naylor followed by lining a ball to first base. Playing just off the bag, first baseman Votto snared the ball on the fly and quickly dove back to tag out Reyes before the runner touched first base. Thinking the ball hit the ground first, Eddie Rosario, the runner on third, ran home as Votto held the ball and waited. Once Rosario crossed the plate, Votto lightly tossed the ball to third baseman Max Schrock who touched third base, Rosario was out and Cincinnati had its triple play. Votto turned to his dugout and pumped his fist in triumph as the crowd at Great American Ball Park went wild.”

Closer to home, the Mighty Mussels just announced a new manager and coaches for the coming season. The Minnesota Twins promoted Brian Meyer to lead the Mighty Mussels as manager for their inaugural 2021 campaign. Aaron Sutton had previously been tabbed as Mussels’ manager, but announced his decision to step away from coaching and pursue a family business venture on March 24. More on the new staff next week. Tickets go on sale Friday, April 23.

Our good news story of the week is about wandering surfboards. The Good News Network recently reported that one was found 400 miles away. “A young couple were hiking on the Shetland Islands off the coast of Scotland when they spotted a nine-foot board and decided to investigate. Lee Brogan had been “wiped out” by a massive wave while surfing off the Yorkshire coast in England last year and watched in agony as his surfboard disappeared into the ocean. He had given up hope of ever being reunited with his 10-year-old board, but luckily the Walden board, which costs about \$2,000, was marooned off shore on some gravel completely intact. The couple took to Facebook to see if anyone could trace the owner. “We were so surprised by how quickly it all came about; we didn’t think we’d ever find the owner. We were so pleased he had gotten in touch.” She said they quizzed Lee to make sure he was indeed the owner, but he provided photo evidence and explained how he’d fallen off the board and convinced them.”

I then looked into how far surfboards

wander. According to Hawaii News Now, Doug Falter says he last had his board at Waimea Bay in February 2018. The 35-year-old told Surfline that his leash came off and the board vanished. He turned to social media in hopes that someone might find it, and someone did – but some 5,200 miles away on a tiny island in the Philippines. Giovanne, a teacher in the Philippines, contacted Falter. “It means even more knowing that it might go to someone that wants to learn how to surf.” He hopes to meet Giovanne and teach him how to surf once some of the travel restrictions are lifted. Falter set up a GoFundMe to ship some supplies to Giovanne and his students, with over \$7,000 raised as of last fall. Nice. What ever happened to sending a simple message in a bottle?!

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.*

SPORTS QUIZ

1. What Pittsburgh Penguins goaltender set an NHL record for the longest unbeaten streak to begin a career, going 14-0-2 in his first 16 games during the 1996-97 season?
2. Left-handed pitcher Vida Blue won the AL Cy Young Award and was named AL MVP in 1971 as a member of what team?
3. What 7-foot 7-inch Romanian-born center played with the Washington Bullets (1993-97) and the New Jersey Nets (1998-2000)?
4. What boxer, known as the “Cincinnati Cobra,” amassed a 95-25-1 record in a pro career spanning 1940-59?
5. What three New York Yankees became the first players in MLB history to hit back-to-back-to-back home runs in the postseason when they did it versus the Cleveland Indians in Game 1 of the 1997 AL Division Series?
6. Cornelius “Dutch” Warmerdam held the world record in what athletic sport from 1940-57?
7. In 1975, who became the first African-American golfer to play in Masters tournament?

ANSWERS

1. Patrick Lalime. 2. The Oakland A’s. 3. George Mikan. 4. Ezzard Charles. 5. Tim Lincecum. 6. Polk. 7. Lee Elder.

From page 1

Festival Films

but nonetheless groundbreaking for the time. During the Edison silent film, local musician and movie buff Stephen Brittain will perform the piano score.

The second picture, *Preservation Forever: Sam Galloway, Jr. and the Restoration of the Edison & Ford Winter Estates*, was produced by Ilene Safron of Main Sail Video Productions. It’s a tribute to the success of Sam Galloway, Jr. and tells the story of his long history with the Estates.

Stay Wild, directed by Lizzy Fowler, is a 16-minute story about Melissa Wilson – a young woman who moved to St. John, one of America’s most wild places. With more than half of the island conserved as a national park, the beauty of the landscape inspired a solution for the climate change within the American West. Fowler graduated from Harvard University with a degree in sustainability, and her thesis

continues to foster hope for wild places.

A Greenlander, directed by Nicholas Jones, is a 37-minute documentary. It follows Pierre Auzias, a French painter fully integrated in Uummaanaq, a settlement 450 miles north of the arctic circle in Greenland. Auzias speaks Greenlandic, travels by dog sled and teaches art therapy to neglected children.

Strayhorn & Persons Attorneys and Counsellors at Law is the event sponsor. Refreshments will be available for purchase. Only a limited number of chairs will be provided, so guests are encouraged to bring a folding chair. For everyone’s safety, masks are required.

Tickets are \$10 for Edison Ford members, \$15 for non-members and may be purchased at www.edisonford.org.

For more information on the 60 other films playing in the 11th annual Fort Myers Film Festival to be held May 12 to 16, visit www.fortmyersfilmfestival.com.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates is located at 2350 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers.*

Online Auction To Benefit Children’s Hospital Program

One of the country’s leading tennis charity events that has raised more than \$1.3 million dollars to date won’t let the pandemic keep them from hosting an event in 2021 to raise much needed funds for Barbara’s Friends and Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida. To coincide with Brain Cancer Awareness Month in May, Madisen’s Match will serve up more than tennis the week of May 10 to 14 with an online auction featuring international tennis stars and one-of-a-kind auction items – all to raise funds for the new pediatric neurosurgery program at Golisano Children’s Hospital.

Although guests will not be sitting courtside to watch exhibition tennis or on the court playing with celebrities this year, Madisen’s Match is bringing these tennis stars into guests’ homes online. Throughout the week, Madisen’s Match

Founder Duane Chaney will be taking to the Internet to go one-on-one with a surprise tennis celebrity each day of the event to talk about Madisen’s Match and the critical need to bring a pediatric neurosurgeon to Golisano Children’s Hospital. Each celebrity will also reveal a new VIP auction item that will go up for bid at that time. The Bryan Brothers, Taylor Fritz, Tom Gullikson and more are expected to take part.

The community can start bidding on the spectacular auction items including a stunning diamond tennis bracelet, diamond necklace, spa, tennis and golf packages, vacations and thousands of dollars worth of exclusive items starting Monday and ending Friday of that week.

As an exclusive thank you to donors for their ongoing support, Madisen’s Match custom apparel will be gifted to anyone who makes an online donation of \$100 or more during the event. Visit www.madisensmatch.com/donate to make your donation today.

For more information, visit www.madisensmatch.com or contact Duane Chaney at 292-0322 or dchaney@madisensmatch.com.*

Public Relations Professionals Win Image Awards

The Southwest Florida Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association (FPRA) presented 15 awards for excellence in public relations programming and projects at the 2021 Local Image Awards celebration that was recently held at the Calusa Nature Center and Planetarium. Four chapter members were also honored for their outstanding contributions to the PR profession and the organization.

FPRA hosted the ceremony outdoors this year and encouraged attendees to dress in their best “glamping” attire. The Local Image Awards competition is conducted annually by FPRA to recognize outstanding public relations programs in Florida and to encourage and promote the development of public relations.

The Local Image Awards have become a standard of excellence in the state of Florida. Winners demonstrate the very best examples of innovation, planning and design. The most prestigious award, the Grand Image Award, is given to the overall best entry in each category. Image Awards are given to entries that surpass expectations and objectives; awards of distinction are given to entries that meet judging expectations; and Judges’ Awards are given to entries that smartly budgeted or did more with less funding.

Division A – Public Relations Programs:

- An Award of Distinction – Public Service category went to Lee County Solid Waste for Tackling Contamination.
- An Award of Distinction and Judges Award – Promotional and Marketing category went to Pushing the Envelope, Inc. and Tiffany Hernandez for Give the Gift of Angelina’s.
- An Award of Distinction and Judges Award – Integrated Marketing category went to Priority Marketing for Clips for Cancer.

- An Award of Distinction – Reputation Management category went to Pushing the Envelope, Inc. for The Dock IMO.
- An Award of Distinction – Virtual Special Event category went to CONRIC PR & Marketing for Saving Estero Bay.

- An Award of Distinction – Other category went to Priority Marketing and Fort Myers Brewing Company for Adyn Strong.

Division B – Collateral of Public Relations:

- A Grand Image Award and Image Award – Annual Report category for Guadalupe Center Annual Impact Report was awarded to Priority Marketing and Guadalupe Center.
- An Award of Distinction – News Release/Pitch category went to Jennifer J. Edwards and Trish Robertson, APR, CPRC for Vote-by-Mail Editorial Campaign.
- An Image Award – Other category



Priority Marketing captured the Grand Image Award

photos provided



Nina Barbero was awarded Rising Star

went to Priority Marketing and Guadalupe Center for Guadalupe Center Circutacular Invitation.

Division C – Digital Tools of Public Relations:

- An Image Award – Online Audience Engagement category for #SWFLStrong went to CONRIC PR & Marketing.
- A Grand Image Award and Image Award – Video-Public Service category for Kids’ Minds Matter Secret Garden Gala Video went to Priority Marketing and Kids’ Minds Matter.

Chapter Awards

- Each year, the Southwest Florida Chapter of FPRA also presents awards to recognize outstanding members of its chapter. This year’s winners include:
 - Susan Bennett, APR, CPRC, president of Susan Bennett Marketing and Media, was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award, which is reserved for public relations professionals who have dedicated their career to the profession and the advancement of it.
 - Trish Robertson, APR, CPRC,



FPRA Board Member Heather Doane with Lifetime Achievement Award-winner Susan Bennett

- public relations officer, Collier County Supervisor of Elections, received the 2021 PR Professional of the Year Award, which honors a member who exemplifies the high standards of the public relations profession in Southwest Florida.
- Samantha Scott, APR, president of Pushing the Envelope, Inc., is the second recipient of the Friends of Janet Philanthropy Award. This award was established in memory of Janet Wilson, a true leader during her decade as a chapter member. She passed away unexpectedly in December 2019. Wilson never met a stranger and often joked about her worldwide network of “Friends of Janet.”
- Nina Barbero, APR, marketing and communications manager, SWFL, Inc., received the 2021 Rising Star Award that is presented to an up-and-coming leader in the chapter who shows enthusiasm and passion for the PR profession.
- Mike Jackson, MBA, APR, spokesperson and public relations

- professional, and Josh Milton, vice president of media relations at CONRIC PR & Marketing, both received the 2021 Unsung Hero Award, which recognize the contributions of chapter members for their hard work and dedication to the chapter and the profession behind the scenes.
- Kaylee Zuidema, FPRA FGCU student chapter member, received the Pam Nulman Soaring Eagle PR Award that recognizes student leaders in public relations.
- Three FPRA Annual Conference scholarship winners were selected by a committee. The 2021 recipients are:
 - Jennifer Benton, APR, CPRC, Mmarketing communications specialist, TeleSpecialists.
 - Ashley Loubier, assistant multimedia producer and project manager, M&M Multimedia.
 - Kelly Apfel, marketing and development manager, Midwest Food Bank Florida.
- For more information, visit www.fpra.org.✧

Beautifulife:

Wander



by Kay Casperson

I believe that there is a desire in all of our hearts to wander now and then. What does it mean to do so? It means to move about without a fixed course, aim, or goal, to follow a winding path, or to

meander. It can also mean going astray, either physically or mentally.

The English writer, poet and university professor JRR Tolkien once wrote, "All that is gold does not glitter, not all those who wander are lost; the old that is strong does not wither, deep roots are not reached by the frost."

I love this, and if you think about what it means to wander, you will realize, as I did, that there is a desire in all of our hearts to do so. How nice is it to go somewhere without a plan, a goal or a purpose? When was the last time you just parked your car, put yourself on a path and followed it? Or how about doing something as simple as letting your mind go down a new road to a place that you have not yet traveled but often think about. Nothing wrong with that, right?

Of course, there are always responsibilities that bring you back to the reality of your world, but I think there is magic in letting yourself wander once in

a while. Following are some suggestions that might get you in the mode.

Plan a day to give yourself a couple of hours to take a drive, park your car and explore a new path. Whether it be a walk around a lake, park, trail or the beach, find something you have not done before and wander down the road.

Grab a pen and paper and write down places you would love to visit or experiences you would like to have. Writing things down is the first step in making things happen in your life. The next step is to visualize yourself there, and then it will become a reality.

Book your next trip to somewhere that you have not been and make it a point to learn and experience something new and different. It is always fun and exciting to travel and explore a new destination.

Take a chill day and lock yourself away from the world, your responsibilities, electronics and people, and drift off. Only allow beautiful and positive things to enter your thoughts and try to direct them to places and things that bring peace, tranquility and comfort to you.

Now and then, we should allow ourselves to escape the reality of everyday life and embrace the idea of letting ourselves wander off for just a bit without getting lost.

My affirmation for you this week is:

"I will take time to wander down a road not yet traveled in my journey to a more balanced and beautiful life."

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.✪

Vehicle Registration Kiosks At Publix Stores

The Lee County Tax Collector and Publix have partnered to install self-serve vehicle registration kiosks at three Southwest Florida supermarkets: Colonial Crossings Publix in Fort Myers, Midpoint Center Publix in Cape Coral and Homestead Shopping Plaza Publix in Lehigh Acres.

"We are always looking for new ways to make our services more convenient," said Tax Collector Noelle Branning.

"These self-serve kiosks allow customers to renew their vehicle registration and receive their yellow sticker in under two minutes."

One of the primary motivators behind putting these kiosks in Publix is the expanded availability for the service.

"Being able to partner with Publix allows customers to renew their registration at their convenience, seven days a week," noted Branning.

Kiosks will be placed at the front of each Publix location, and registration payment can be made with either a debit

or credit card.

For more information on the kiosk locations, visit www.leetc.com/kiosk.✪

Virtual Event On Creating Marketing Emails

Learn how to create marketing emails with powerful subject lines, high click rates and strong content at SWFL Inc.'s BOSS: Create adding marketing emails virtual event on Tuesday, April 27 from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m.

Three marketing experts will serve as panelists: Tori Peglar, brand and content director for National Park Trips; Elise Ramer, MBA, APR, CPRC, senior director of public relations for Premier Sotheby's International Realty; and Kaitlin Langley, digital marketing director for Click Marketing Solutions.

Each panelist will share their strategies for crafting strong emails that make audiences take action. They will also participate in a moderated question-and-answer session. Audience members can also ask their own questions.

Tickets are \$10. Visit www.swflinc.com/programs-events to register. Any professional can attend – no SWFL Inc. membership required.

The 2021 BOSS series is presented by Suncoast Credit Union and sponsored by NCH Healthcare System, Willett Business Management and Gulfshore Business.✪

'Ding' Darling Seeks Student For Summer Program

The JN "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge on Sanibel is hiring one high school student for its annual Youth Conservation Corps (YCC) summer program. The refuge is hiring this student to assist with maintenance and administrative support.

The YCC program targets young men and women, ages 15 to 18, to provide them with a valuable work-earn-learn experience. The incumbent is required to work a minimum of eight weeks between June and September 2021. Maintenance duties will include upkeep of facilities and care of recreation trails, including removal of invasive plants. This work will primarily be completed outdoors, with exposure to heat, humidity and insects. Administrative support duties may include, but not be limited to, answering phones, filing paperwork, organizing office supplies and entering data. The student will have the opportunity to attend educational field trips to local environmental venues. No prior work experience is required.

It is recommended that any summer camps and family vacations be scheduled outside this eight-week time frame. Reliable transportation is required. Sanibel toll is paid by the participant.

Compensation is \$9 per hour. Work hours are 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a

30-minute lunch break; refrigerator and microwave available.

Applications may be acquired from Erin Myers at erin_myers@fws.gov. Completed applications must be received by Erin Myers no later than 4 p.m. on Monday, May 3. Late applications will not be accepted.✪

Bank Named Business Ethics Award Finalist

Sanibel Captiva Community Bank has been named a finalist for the Uncommon Friends Foundation Business Ethics Award, which recognizes organizations that exemplify standards of high ethical behavior in conducting their daily operations, as well as during times of crises.

Nominations are reviewed by a panel of experts in the field of ethical business practices, and the winner will be announced later in the year. The finalists and CEOs of Lee and Collier businesses participated in a Business Ethics Roundtable at The Burroughs Home on April 21.

The Uncommon Friends Foundation, established in 1993, is dedicated to lifelong character building among today's youth and business leaders, as it inspires future leaders towards excellence of character, a spirit of innovation and a sense of purpose. ✪



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Doctor and Dietician

Difference In Mouth Versus Nose Breathing



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

Have you ever thought about the way you breathe? Do you breathe through your mouth or your nose? Interestingly enough, it is healthier to breathe through your nose versus your mouth. Not only will you more effectively use the air you breathe through your nose, but guess what? Nose breathing also improves your vagal tone (vagus nerve function) and improves your heart rate variability (HRV) that we have discussed the importance of in prior articles. Probably about half of the population breathes through their mouths, especially earlier in the day, but some only during exercise. Chronic mouth breathing can lead to a variety of health issues and can worsen the risk of other health conditions. Let's take a closer look at breathing. Both mouth and nose breathing lead to your throat, which carries oxygen into your lungs. However, there are some distinct differences. Your nose is designed to help you breathe safely and efficiently by filtering out foreign particles, such as dust, allergens and pollen, which helps stop them from entering your lungs. Your nose also warms and moisturizes (humidifies) the air you breathe. It brings the air you breathe to the same temperature as your body, thus making it easier for your lungs to use. During nose breathing, your nose releases nitric oxide (NO), a vasodilator, which helps open blood vessels, thus improving oxygen

circulation in your body. We primarily use our mouths to eat, drink as well as breathe, however, mouth-breathing does not have the same features as nose breathing. Sometimes it is necessary to mouth breathe – like with a deviated septum or nasal congestion, or you may have small nostrils. However, primarily breathing through your mouth is associated with some risks to your health, such as inhaling unfiltered air, allergic reactions, asthma, halitosis, tooth decay, gum diseases, snoring, sleep apnea and teeth abnormalities. What are the benefits of breathing through your nose? Nose breathing reduces exposure to foreign substances, humidifies and warms inhaled air, increases airflow to arteries, veins and nerves, increases oxygen uptake and circulation, slows down breathing, improves lung volume, helps your diaphragm work properly, lowers your risk of allergies, reduces your risk of coughing, assists your immune system, lowers the risk of snoring and sleep apnea, and supports the teeth and mouth.

Dr. Hauser has been a mouth-breather most of his life, where Marion is a nose-breather. Just by observing these two, you will see the effects manifested in their overall health. Marion has no cavities, rarely gets sick, does not snore or suffer from any allergies, and has a lot of energy. Dr. Hauser, on the other hand, is quite the opposite. He is, however, working on ways to improve his nose breathing.

Here are some tips to improve nose breathing: Alternate nostril breathing exercises (hold one nostril closed and breathe through the other), focus on belly breathing and the yoga move Breath of Fire (cross-legged belly breathing), as well as using breathe-right strips to keep your nasal passages open, especially when you sleep. Do not underestimate the power of nose-breathing on your overall health, vagal tone, HRV, and overall stress levels. Now take a deep breath in through your nose... ah! *This information is not intended to treat, cure or diagnose your condition. Ross Hauser, MD, and Marion Hauser, MS, RD, established Caring Medical in 1991. Caring Medical Florida and the Hauser Neck Center are located in Fort Myers. They can be reached at info@caringmedical.com.*

Lighthouse Of SWFL Names Directors

Lighthouse of Southwest Florida recently announced 2021 officers and members of the board of directors. Serving as officers are: President Jill Turner, Florida Department of Health child protection team; Vice President Gwynetta Gittens, Lee County School board member; Secretary/Treasurer Shelia Clark, community volunteer; Past President Brian Sykes, Southwest Home Care. Continuing service on the board are: Evan Connell, Lee County Sheriff's Office intelligence unit; Jack Green, community volunteer; and Arthur "Chip" McElroy, Hodges University. Michael Ciccarello of

Colliers International, Armando Llechu of Lee Health and Patricia O'Donnell of O'Donnell Landscapes have been elected to serve their first term on the Lighthouse of SWFL's Board of Directors. Lighthouse of SWFL is a local United Way partner agency serving individuals with blindness and vision impairment in Lee, Glades, and Hendry counties. Its mission is to enable people of all ages living with a visual impairment or blindness to remain independent, active and productive in society. Lighthouse of SWFL, a nationally accredited agency, is funded by the Division of Blind Services, United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee, Lee County Board of County Commissioners through Partnering for Results, and civic, corporate and individual donors. For more information, visit www.lighthousewfl.org, or call 997-7797.

Got A Problem? Dr. Connie Is In



by Constance Clancy
Q: I have been a compulsive liar for many years. I just lost a relationship because of this. I know I need help. What would you suggest, as I want to stop lying for good?
A: Most likely you began lying early on and somehow got away with it, and perhaps even started to believe your own lies. This has caught up with you, and you are now facing a harsh consequence. First of all, you are aware that you need help and this is a start.

Whether you are seeking outpatient or inpatient treatment, congratulate yourself for taking a huge first step. It's not easy to admit one's faults. Learn to forgive yourself. You are human, and you are growing and learning lessons. You can learn to develop a sense of self and improve your self-esteem. Once you feel better about yourself and realize your true authentic self, you won't feel the need to lie to be accepted and have a sense of belonging. The decision that you want to change your behavior is a beautiful start. Seeking professional help will give you the confidence to get on the healing path to self-love. *Constance Clancy, EdD, LMHC, LPC, NCC is a licensed mental health therapist, hypnotherapist, author and holistic stress management instructor. If you have a question, email Constance at drconstanceclancy@gmail.com or visit www.drconstanceclancy.com.*

dearRPharmacist Embryo Created Of Part Monkey And Part Human



by Suzy Cohen, RPh
Dear Readers: An experiment has taken place where researchers just created an embryo that is half human and half monkey. They allowed the living thing to grow for 20 days, and then it was destroyed. This experiment has sparked huge debate into the ethical reasons for such an experiment and if they should be allowed to continue. And, if so, where exactly should the research end? The lead researcher, Professor Juan Carlos Izpisua Belmonte, has experience in the field of biomedical research. In 2017, he helped create the first human-pig animal which lived for a month. Professor Belmonte teamed up with researchers in China more recently, and injected human cells into monkey embryos, instead of sheep because the latter does not work well. But a monkey's genomic sequence is closer to that of humans and, in the end, the experiment worked. Will future embryos remain in the petri dish, or will an unethical scientist secretly breed it and attempt to propagate a new kind of creature. There are so many obvious bio-ethical concerns with this. Dr. Belmonte's team proposes that a major problem in medicine can possibly be solved, and he's referring to organ transplantation. Every two or three weeks, someone passes away because they did not get the organ they so desperately needed. With this type of stem cell research, the ability to grow

a kidney or a liver, for example, would solve the shortage we have and save many lives each year. And, then there's the issue of disease transmission. In case you didn't realize, there is Mad Cow disease, Bartonella infection (from a cat's scratch) and, most recently, bats transmitting coronavirus. Monkeys famously carry herpes B virus, monkeypox and rabies. When genetic material from a monkey is sourced for this purpose, it is exceedingly difficult, if not impossible, to be 100 percent assured that it does not contain anything dangerous to a human. Other scientists are raising concerns about where it stops. The argument is that, in time, as "chimeric" technology improves, could a scientist after hours go ahead and implant an embryo into a monkey. Ethically, what would happen to that baby? It may conjure up ideas in some people's minds about more Frankensteinish experiments as well as part animal, part human offspring. Human chimeras already exist. In fact, there is research to show that people who have received bone marrow transplants, or women who have had a pregnancy, all have chimeric cells in them. What we're talking about today is different, it is a scientific experimental chimera that is neither animal, nor human. The world is not united on the new research. Some people see it as a positive – a new opportunity to create organs for transplantations that could save human lives every day – while other people see this as a negative. They perceive it as opening Pandora's box to a 21st century "Planet of the Apes" and question where would the researchers stop if they are given an inch. How many lives would be saved exactly? If you have an opinion about this, email me at scriptessentials@gmail.com.

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

Health First

Self-Compassion And Wellbeing



by Julie Rosenberg, MD

Through the many challenges in today's world, we must find ways to support ourselves, so that in turn, we can support our communities. One important

way in which we can support ourselves is by exercising self-compassion, a key component of wellbeing. What is self-compassion? Most experts view self-compassion as consisting of three key elements: 1) Treating yourself with kindness; 2) Recognizing our shared humanity; and 3) Being mindful when considering negative aspects of yourself. Let's look at each of these three elements.

Treat yourself with kindness – Have you seen signs or bumper stickers that state: "Be kind?" If so, does your mind immediately drift toward kindness to others? When we think of being kind, we often think outside the self. While extending kindness to others is important, extending kindness (and friendliness) to ourselves is also key and will support our wellbeing.

Too often, we treat ourselves with

harsh criticism or judgment. I certainly do. I want to offer my best self to my family, friends and clients, but I fall short at times. I often judge my shortcomings rather than accepting them. Sharon Salzberg, a central figure in the field of meditation, says, "You yourself, as much as anybody in the entire universe, deserve your kindness and affection."

Showing self-kindness means recognizing and embracing that your worth is unconditional, even when you fall short of your own expectations.

Recognize our shared humanity – The field of positive psychology teaches us that we have a common humanity, a shared human experience. All people fail and make mistakes. We lead imperfect lives. Once we accept these facts, we can develop a broader and more connected perspective regarding individual shortcomings and difficulties – our own and those of others.

The need for connections is part of human nature. Feeling understood and united through human connection can be one of the most rewarding elements in life. Human connections have the power to build bonds between people, inspire change and build trust. Positive human connections can also lower our risk for anxiety and depression, and help us to better regulate our emotions.

Be mindful when considering negative aspects of yourself – We all have negative storylines such as, "I'm no good" or "I won't succeed." It's important to gain freedom from these habitual negative responses. One way to gain freedom is to learn to step back and to recognize that

the negative things that we tell ourselves are not facts, they are just thoughts.

Mindfulness involves developing focus and an awareness of our present moment experience. When we take "mindful moments" throughout each day, we can create space between ourselves and our reactions and gain freedom from things that trigger us. Taking mindful moments helps us to tune in to how a thought or action makes us feel.

Try this for two minutes, and repeat several times each day:

1) Recognize a negative thought: If your negative thought is "Things will never work out for me," take a moment to recognize and acknowledge this thought without judgment.

2) Begin deep breathing and continue for 60 to 90 seconds: Deep breathing will help you release not only tension in your body but also negative thoughts. Inhale deeply to a count of three, hold the breath for a count of three, and then exhale slowly to a count of three. During your practice, imagine negative thoughts leaving your body with each exhale.

3) Name a positive: Your breathing practice will help you to relax. In your relaxed state, ask yourself: "What's good in my life right now?" Whatever your answer might be, acknowledge it and let it linger. Repeat this exercise two to three times each session.

These mindful moments will ultimately become a habit and support more positive thinking.

In conclusion, practicing self-compassion loosens the grip of our inner critic and allows us to live a happier

and more fulfilled life. Individuals who practice self-compassion typically display higher levels of optimism, gratitude and positive affect than those who lack self-compassion. Practicing self-compassion in challenging circumstances helps us to develop the necessary emotional resources needed to care for ourselves and others. Finally, the practice of self-compassion improves wellbeing, which includes life satisfaction, as well as physical and psychological health.

Julie Rosenberg, MD, is a global healthcare leader, medical consultant and the author of two books, *Beyond the Mat* and *Be True*. For more information, visit her website at www.drjulierosenberg.com. For consulting and speaking requests, email inquiries to info@drjulierosenberg.com.✧

Drug Abuse Is On The Rise

Narconon reminds families that drug abuse is on the rise in almost every community nationwide. Many families don't know where to turn or what to do about their loved one who is suffering from addiction.

To learn more about how to help your loved one, visit www.narconon-suncoast.org/blog/a-letter-to-any-family-dealing-with-addiction.html.

Narconon can help you take steps to overcome addiction in your family. Call 877-841-5509 for free screenings or referrals.✧

Community Contributions Program Resumes

After pausing community contributions and sponsorships last year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Lee Health is proud to reopen sponsorship requests for virtual and outdoor events.

Lee Health is dedicated to giving back to the community and, through its Community Contributions Program, provides support to registered 501(c)(3) organizations in Southwest Florida.

Lee Health reviews requests for support of new and ongoing programs, education and/or awareness or other community outreach activities that support community health and human services, education and workforce development and other community needs.

Each request will be considered for particular alignment with any of the following health priorities as identified by the most recent Community Health Needs Assessment: Access to Healthcare Services; Cardiovascular and Respiratory Diseases; Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder; and Nutrition, Physical Activity and Weight.

Eligibility requirements include:

Southwest Florida community-based organization with a 501(c)(3) federal designation or an organization that is

being provided fiscal agent oversight by an established community-based organization with such designations, a school or government agency.

The program for which you seek funding fits within the health priority needs listed above.

Services/support offered is available to residents of Lee County; Pediatric, Trauma Center or Injury Prevention Services must be available to the residents of greater Southwest Florida, specifically the five-county region: Charlotte, Hendry, Glades, Collier and Lee.

Due to COVID-19, Lee Health is only considering requests for virtual and outdoor events at this time. Any request for an indoor event that takes place in several months may be submitted and will be reviewed at a later date.

In addition to resuming the Community Contributions Program for sponsorship, Lee Health is unveiling a new online system to streamline the application process. Interested organizations can now apply online by visiting Lee Health's Community Contributions Program website at www.leehealth.org/about-us/community-affairs/sponsorship. Instructions and eligibility requirements are listed on the site.

Any community member, business or organization can also find helpful tips from Lee Health Infection Prevention on the Community Contributions Program webpage on how to stay safe when hosting an outdoor event.✧

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Emergency	911
Lee County Sheriff's Office	477-1200
Florida Marine Patrol	332-6966
Florida Highway Patrol	278-7100
Poison Control	1-800-282-3171
HealthPark Medical Center	1-800-936-5321
Ft. Myers Chamber of Commerce	332-3624
Foundation for Quality Childcare	425-2685
Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce	454-7500
Fort Myers Beach Library	463-9691
Lakes Regional Library	533-4000
Lee County Chamber of Commerce	931-0931
Post Office	1-800-275-8777
Visitor & Convention Bureau	338-3500
ARTS	
Alliance for the Arts	939-2787
Arts For ACT Gallery & Studio	337-5050
Art League Of Fort Myers	275-3970
Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall	481-4849
BIG ARTS	395-0900
Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre	278-4422
Cultural Park Theatre	772-5862
Edison Festival of Light	334-2999
Florida Repertory Theatre at the Arcade	332-4488
Florida West Arts	948-4427
Fort Myers Harmonica Band	610-653-7940
Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers	288-2535
Gulf Coast Symphony	489-1800
Harmony Chorus, Charles Sutter, Pres	481-8059
Naples Philharmonic	239-597-1111
The Schoolhouse Theater	472-6862
SW Florida Symphony	418-0996
Theatre Conspiracy	936-3239
Young Artists Awards	574-9321
CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS	
American Legion Post #38	239-332-1853
Angel Flight	1-877-4AN-ANGEL
Animal Refuge Center	731-3535
American Business Women Association	357-6755
Audubon of SWFL	https://www.audubonswfl.org/
Caloosahatchee Chapter DAR	482-1366
Caloosahatchee Folk Society	321-4620
Cape Chorale Barbershop Chorus	1-855-425-3631
Cape Coral Stamp Club	542-9153
duPont Company Retirees	454-1083
Edison Porcelain Artists	415-2484
Embroiderers Guild of America - Sea Grape Chapter	239-267-1990
FM UDC Chapter 2614	728-3743
Friendship Force Of SW FL	561-9164
Garden Club of Cape Coral	239-257-2654
Horticulture and Tea Society	472-8334
Horticultural Society	472-6940
Lee County Genealogical Society	549-9625
Lee Trust for Historic Preservation	939-7278
Navy Seabees Veterans of America	731-1901
Paradise Iowa Club of SWFL	667-1354
Sons of Confederate Veterans	332-2408
Southwest Florida Fencing Academy	939-1338
Southwest Florida Music Association	561-2118
Kiwanis Fort Myers Beach	765-4254 or 454-8090
Kiwanis Fort Myers Edison	694-1056
Kiwanis Fort Myers South	691-1405
Iona-McGregor	482-0869
Lions Club Fort Myers Beach	463-9738
Lions Club Fort Myers High Noon	466-4228
Lions Club Estero/South Fort Myers	898-1921
Notre Dame Club of Lee County	768-0417
Organ Transplant Recipients of SW Florida	247-3073
POLO Club of Lee County	477-4906
Rotary Club of Fort Myers	332-8158
Sanibel-Captiva Orchid Society	472-6940
United Way of Lee County	433-2000
United Way 211 Helpline (24 hour)	211 or 433-3900
AREA ATTRACTIONS	
Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum	395-2233
Burrough's Home	337-9505
Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium	275-3435
Edison & Ford Winter Estates	334-7419
Fort Myers Skate Park	321-7558
Imaginarium Hands-On Museum & Aquarium	321-7420
JN "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge	472-1100
Koreshan State Historic Site	239-992-0311
Langford Kingston Home	239-334-2550
Ostego Bay Foundation Marine Science Center	765-8101
Skatium	321-7510
Southwest Florida Historical Society	939-4044
Southwest Florida Museum of History	321-7430
True Tours	945-0405

To be listed in calling card email your information to:
press@islandsunnews.com

PUZZLES

Answers on page 31



"When's _____ time?"

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Distant
METEOR

Truly
QUIET

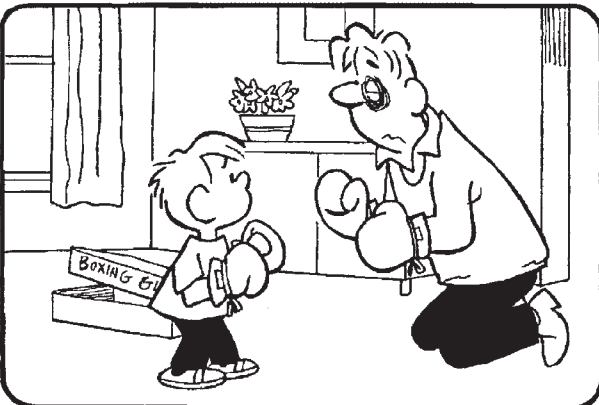
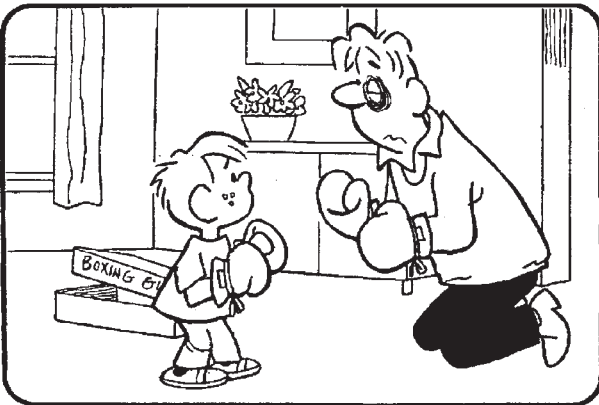
Shiny
SAINT

Edge
FINGER

TODAY'S WORD

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Curtain is wider. 2. Flower is missing. 3. Frame is smaller. 4. Freckles are missing. 5. Pants are different. 6. Flowerpot is different.

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.

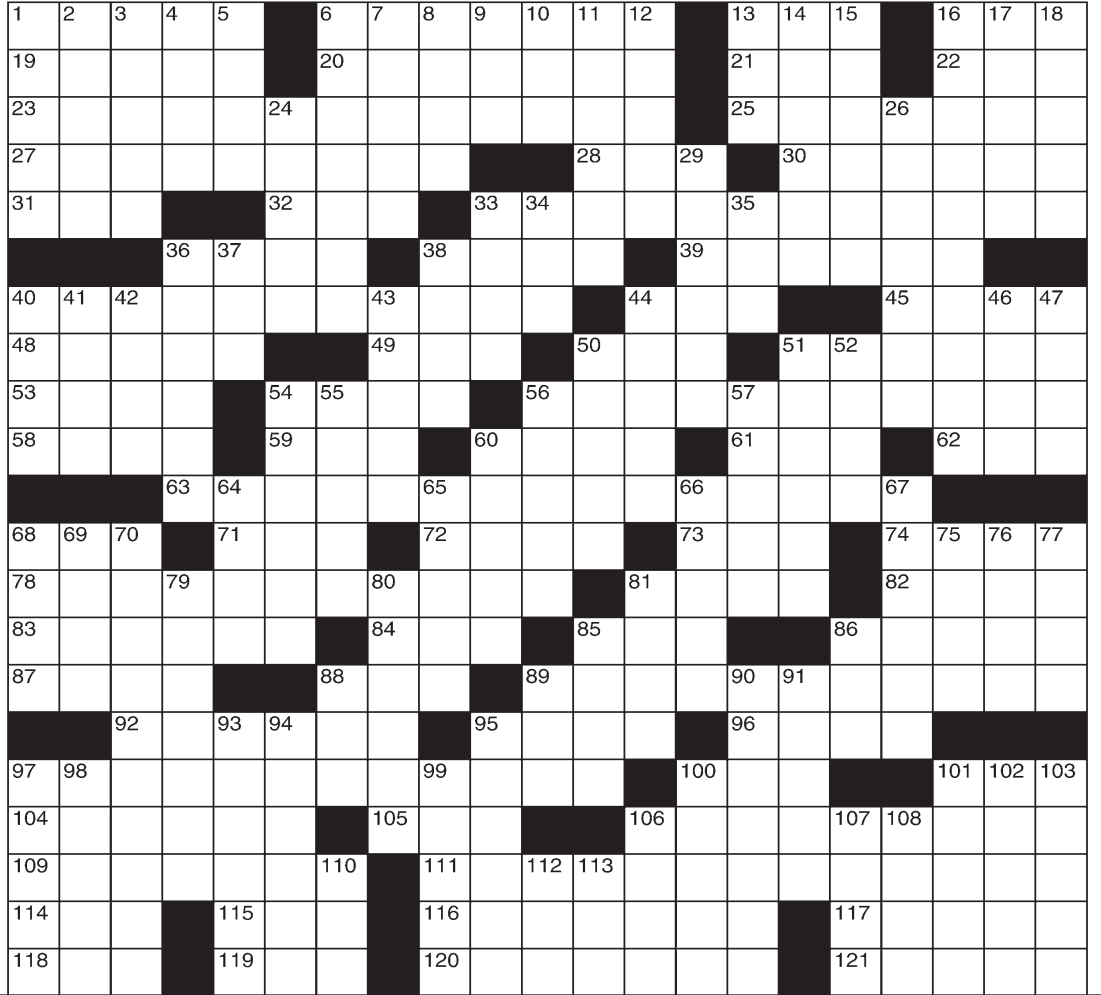
		3			1	8		
	8			4			9	
7			3				2	6
	9		8			4		
3		7		1			5	
		1			5			9
5			6		4		8	
	6		7					3
		2		9		7		

PUZZLES

Answers on page 31

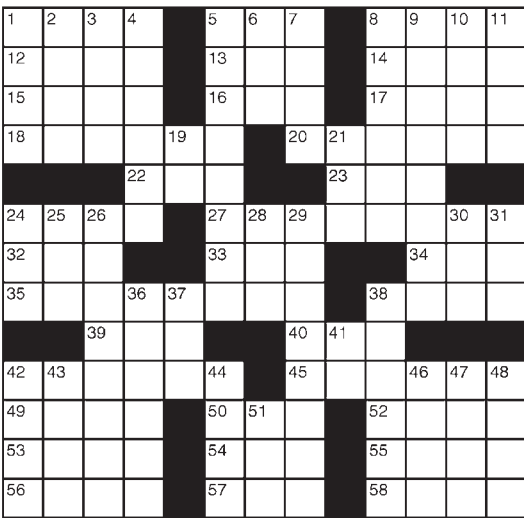
Super Crossword HIT SINGLES

- ACROSS**
- 1 Insurance giant
6 Italian side dish
13 Govt. media watchdog
16 Once lived
19 Cheek makeup
20 Put out of memory
21 "Impressive!"
22 Skiing peak
23 "Glamorous" singer who's a member of the nobility?
25 Dodgy
27 Not disproven
28 "This Old House" airer
30 Hot and heavy
31 Size above med.
32 Kind of camera, for short
33 "Raise Your Glass" singer being scandalous?
36 Cheese variety
38 With 82-Across, Tour de France, e.g.
- 39 Resident doctor
40 "Kiss From a Rose" singer
41 after lots of coaching?
44 Inits. on an ambulance
45 — Romeo
48 "Marat/Sade" playwright
49 With 35-Down, short, easy putts
50 Cup edge
51 Lowly
53 Hostleries
54 Tilted text: Abbr.
56 "Material Girl" singer of high birth?
58 "— chance!"
59 Neither's partner
60 Bit of dust
61 Galena, e.g.
62 Ending for peer
63 "Every Breath You Take" singer
64 working as a spy?
68 — -TURN (traffic sign)
71 Suffix with mountain
- 72 Writer Haley
73 Clutch sitter
74 Moby Dick's pursuer
78 "Have You Ever?" singer doing commercials for Mac computers?
81 Brazilian soccer great
82 See 38-Across
83 Make an exit
84 Negatives
85 In the style of
86 Readily bent
87 — -deuce
88 Needle hole
89 "Yeah!" singer as a deacon?
92 Cheese variety
95 Co. leaders
96 Cry of pain
97 "Hot in Herre" singer on edge?
100 Vehicle navig. aid
101 Bar bill
104 UFO pilots
105 Outer: Prefix
106 Decided by ballot
109 Deviate
- 111 "You Were Meant for Me" singer whom everyone treasures?
114 "Sort of" suffix
115 Sharp bark
116 Most ethereal
117 Popular font
118 No longer active: Abbr.
119 Ocean
120 Frightful flies
121 Shabby
- DOWN**
- 1 Paula of pop
2 Tossed
3 "Filthy" gain
4 Court champ
5 Emeril, e.g.
6 Stole stock
7 Deduce
8 Olympic racer
9 Atop, in odes
10 "It" game
11 Easel, often
12 Last non-A.D. year
13 Rival
14 London's — Garden
15 Cavalry cry
16 Be part of a queue
17 Ailey of dance
18 Bit of dust
- 24 "Wake Up Little —"
26 Hitter of high notes
29 Revealing, as a bikini
33 Dial or Coast
34 Actor Linden
35 See 49-Across
36 Africa's Guinea- —
37 ER workers
38 Not fake
40 Bed size
41 Nevada city
42 "— I a stinker?"
43 Ringo who was knighted
44 Downy duck
46 Air blowers
47 "Ah, me!"
50 Kind of paint
51 Nautical
52 Shangri-la
54 Seeing red?
55 "— is human ..."
56 — -dovey
57 Super 8, say
60 Sculpts
64 At no time, to bards
65 Lake craft
66 Crop off
67 Too gaudy
68 Not a thing
69 Big oil gp.
70 Northeast, on a map
- 75 Doth own
76 It's a pain
77 Lager, e.g.
79 Time between flights
80 "Do I have a volunteer?"
81 In addition
85 "Hey, sailor!"
86 Filmmaker Jean- — Godard
88 Nav. rank
89 Cartoon pic
90 Cowardly evasions
91 Shucks
93 Fiscal sums
94 Oz resident
95 Leachman of "Phyllis"
97 Lowest point
98 "Beloved" actress
Kimberly
99 Yank in Europe, say
100 Skein bird
101 "Namely ..."
102 Really got to
103 Tummy
106 Connections
107 Open a bit
108 Lynn or Miles
110 Hot tub site
112 Afore
113 Op. — (kin of "ibid.")



King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Repast
5 "Ben- —"
8 Lawman Wyatt
12 "Frozen" snow queen
13 "Right you —!"
14 Computer brand
15 Slightly
16 Actress Long
17 Hindu royal
18 Tidy up
20 Toto, to Dorothy
22 Peyton's brother
23 Commonest English word
24 Easter entrees
27 Vinegar variety
32 X-ray's cousin
33 Chopper
34 Hostel
35 "Becoming" author
38 Read quickly
39 Knock
40 Wildebeest
42 "Yippeel!"
45 Held up
49 "Mamma Mia" group
50 Gardner of Hollywood
52 Actress Kate
- 53 Fibs
54 Diarist Anais
55 Footnote abbr.
56 Minus
57 Young fox
58 Till bills
- 6 Swiss canton
7 Harvest
8 Sultry singer
Kitt
9 Campus figure
10 Gambling mecca
11 Bluenose
19 Chicago transport
21 UFO crew
24 "Let me think ..."
25 "Exodus" hero
26 Germs
28 Rocker Rose
- 29 "Shampoo" Oscar winner
30 — pickle
31 Blitzler's channel
36 Badger
37 Clean-air org.
38 Hand in
41 "Forget it!"
42 Corridor
43 Theater award
44 Tug
46 Innocent one
47 Ms.
Brockovich
48 June honorees
51 Half of XIV
- DOWN**
- 1 Intend
2 North Sea feeder
3 Largest continent
4 Coffee bar orders
5 Carthaginian general



MAGIC MAZE ● — STRIKE

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: PROTESTER REFUSING TO EAT

- | | | | |
|--------|-----------|-------------|----------|
| Air | General | Pre-emptive | Teachers |
| Called | Hammer | Sit-down | Third |
| Drone | Lightning | Surgical | Wildcat |
| First | Lucky | Sympathetic | |



Blueberry Chia Seed Pudding

photo courtesy Fresh From Florida



Blueberry Chia Seed Pudding

- ¼ cup fresh blueberries
- 2-3 teaspoons of honey
- 1 cup unsweetened vanilla almond milk
- ½ teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- ⅓ cup of chia seeds

Pinch of cinnamon
Add the first 5 ingredients to a blender and combine for 10-15 seconds until smooth. Transfer mixture to a sealable jar and add in the chia seeds. Mix well and let sit for 5 minutes. After 5 minutes, mix the pudding one more time, then cover and place in the fridge for a minimum of 5 hours, preferably overnight. Top and serve as desired various toppings: granola, coconut shavings, fresh blueberries.✱

My Stars ★★★★★
FOR WEEK OF APRIL 19, 2021

- Aries** (March 21 to April 19) Whether a waiting period is taking longer than expected, or just seems that way, the anxious Lamb would do well to create a center of calm within her- or himself, and not do anything rash.
- Taurus** (April 20 to May 20) Practical matters dominate the week, but cultural activities also are favored, especially those that can be shared with someone special in the Bovine's life. Some important news might be forthcoming.
- Gemini** (May 21 to June 20) You need to know more about a possible career move in order to see if it offers a real opportunity or just a change. You're sure to get lots of advice – some of it good – but the decision must be yours.
- Cancer** (June 21 to July 22) The arrival of hoped-for good news about a loved one dominates most of the week and provides a great excuse for the party-loving Moon Child to plan a special event to celebrate.
- Leo** (July 23 to August 22) Leos and Leonas rushing to finalize their plans might want to think about slowing down the pace, or risk overlooking an important consideration that could become a sore

- point down the line.
- Virgo** (August 23 to September 22) The week's challenges call for logical approaches. But sentiment also has its place. Sharing memories with a special someone, for example, strengthens the bond between you.
- Libra** (September 23 to October 22) A brand-new approach to a problem could have a good chance of succeeding if it's based on a solid foundation of fact to strengthen its potential for standing up to scrutiny.
- Scorpio** (October 23 to November 21) A favorable report should give your optimism an important boost as you confront another phase of a challenge. Don't be timid about accepting advice from someone you trust.
- Sagittarius** (November 22 to December 21) You might want to target another goal if your current aim is continually being deflected. But stay with it until you find that first sign of an opening, and then follow through.
- Capricorn** (December 22 to January 19) Although offers of advice might not always please the usually sure-footed Goat, good counsel is always worth considering, especially from those whose experience can be invaluable.
- Aquarius** (January 20 to February 18)

PETS OF THE WEEK



Fiona ID# A856887 photos provided
Lee County Domestic Animal Services

Fiona And Tillie

Hello, my name is Fiona. I'm a tan and white 1-year-old female bulldog mix. I often have a look of wonder because I do not know why I have found myself at a shelter. I'm both beautiful and loving. LCDAS officials believe that I have definitely been in a home as I was quite scared when I first came to the shelter. The staff and volunteers have shown me that while this is not my perfect place, I am well loved and protected while I wait for someone to come and take me home. My adoption fee is \$75.
Hi, my name is Tillie. I'm a black 4-year-old female domestic shorthair.



Tillie ID# A856671
I'm not quite a kitten, but I come with the cutest built-in white mittens that I love to 'make bread' with on my favorite Minnie Mouse blanket. I am quite motherly in my interactions with younger cats, so take advantage of LCDAS' adopt one and get a feline friend at no additional fee. My adoption fee is \$50.
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.✱

- Don't rush to make up for lost time. Your productivity can be measured not only by what you do, but how you do it. Move carefully until the job is done the way you like it.
- Pisces** (February 19 to March 20) Emerging facts about someone you know might cause you to rethink your relationship. But remember to make judgments in context of a full situation, not just on scraps of data.
- Born This Week:** You are known both for your love of acquiring beautiful things as well as for your generosity to others.

MOMENTS IN TIME

- On April 27, 4977 BC, the universe is created, according to German mathematician and astronomer Johannes Kepler. Scientists in the 20th century developed the Big Bang theory, which showed Kepler's calculations were off by about 13.7 billion years.
- On April 28, 1789, three weeks into a journey from Tahiti to the West Indies, the HMS Bounty is seized in a mutiny led by Fletcher Christian, the master's mate. Captain William Bligh and 18 of his loyal supporters were set adrift in a small boat. They reached the East Indies in June, after a voyage of about 3,600 miles.

- On May 2, 1939, New York Yankees first baseman Lou Gehrig benches himself for poor play and ends his streak of consecutive games played at 2,130. The left-handed slugger led the American League in RBIs five times.
- On May 1, 1941, *Citizen Kane* makes its debut at the RKO Palace Theater in New York City. The film about a publishing tycoon's dying words consistently ranks at the top of film critics' lists of America's greatest films.
- On April 29, 1974, President Richard Nixon announces that he will release transcripts of 46 taped White House conversations in response to a Watergate trial subpoena. In August, Nixon resigned to avoid an impeachment trial after proof of his guilt was found on the tapes.
- On April 26, 1986, the world's worst nuclear accident occurs at the Chernobyl nuclear plant near Kiev in Ukraine. An estimated 4,000 clean-up workers died from radiation poisoning and a large area of land may not be livable for almost 150 years.
- On April. 30, 1997, at 12:11 pm, London's iconic Big Ben clock, the most famous clock in the world, stops ticking for 54 minutes. In 1962, snow delayed

continued on page 30



FRIDAY
Sunny
High: 83 Low: 71



SATURDAY
Mostly Cloudy
High: 79 Low: 70



SUNDAY
Cloudy
High: 81 Low: 69



MONDAY
Cloudy
High: 82 Low: 72



TUESDAY
Mostly Cloudy
High: 81 Low: 70



WEDNESDAY
Mostly Cloudy
High: 82 Low: 73



THURSDAY
Mostly Cloudy
High: 81 Low: 70

Redfish Pass Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	12:10 pm	5:08 am	11:25 pm	5:11 pm
Sat	12:23 pm	5:45 am	None	6:01 pm
Sun	12:29 am	6:18 am	12:40 pm	6:49 pm
Mon	1:30 am	6:47 am	1:00 pm	7:37 pm
Tue	2:30 am	7:12 am	1:24 pm	8:26 pm
Wed	3:33 am	7:33 am	1:52 pm	9:18 pm
Thu	4:45 am	7:47 am	2:26 pm	10:15 pm

Point Ybel Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	11:15 am	5:10 am	10:30 pm	5:13 pm
Sat	11:28 am	5:47 am	11:34 pm	6:03 pm
Sun	11:45 am	6:20 am	None	6:51 pm
Mon	12:35 am	6:49 am	12:05 pm	7:39 pm
Tue	1:35 am	7:14 am	12:29 pm	8:28 pm
Wed	2:38 am	7:35 am	12:57 pm	9:20 pm
Thu	3:50 am	7:49 am	1:31 pm	10:17 pm

Punta Rassa Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	11:39 am	5:12 am	11:26 pm	5:16 pm
Sat	12:08 pm	5:54 am	None	6:10 pm
Sun	12:23 am	6:33 am	12:32 pm	6:59 pm
Mon	1:12 am	7:09 am	12:54 pm	7:47 pm
Tue	1:59 am	7:44 am	1:15 pm	8:36 pm
Wed	2:53 am	8:18 am	1:38 pm	9:26 pm
Thu	3:55 am	8:54 am	2:07 pm	10:18 pm

Cape Coral Bridge Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	12:22 am	8:24 am	2:20 pm	8:27 pm
Sat	1:35 am	9:01 am	2:33 pm	9:17 pm
Sun	2:39 am	9:34 am	2:50 pm	10:05 pm
Mon	3:40 am	10:03 am	3:10 pm	10:53 pm
Tue	4:40 am	10:28 am	3:34 pm	11:42 pm
Wed	5:43 am	10:49 am	4:02 pm	None
Thu	6:55 am	12:34 am	4:36 pm	11:03 am

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From page 28

Moments In Time

the bells, causing Britain’s capital to ring in the New Year 10 minutes late.

- “If you have dogs, keep a towel near your door. Then you can wipe off muddy paws before they have a chance to get the carpets dirty!” – TY in Mississippi
- If you’re reattaching a button to shorts or pants, try using dental floss, the unwaxed kind. It’s much stronger, and can hold the button better than regular thread. Use a marker to darken it if the color is an issue.
- Here’s a great way to get a longer life from a bar of soap: Press the plastic top of a pop bottle into one side of a wet bar of soap. When you set the bar down in your soap dish, put it plastic side down. This way, the bar doesn’t sit in any residual water and turn into a goopy mush. The plastic top comes out easily if you need to remove it.” – YP in Illinois
- Store brooms either handle down or on a hook that allows the bristles to

suspend over the floor. When brooms rest their bristles on the floor, it bends them and breaks the ends. Broken ends make it hard for the broom to work efficiently.

- “After a recent bathroom redecoration, we had a toilet paper holder left over. I mounted it on the wall in my shop, and I use it to dispense twine. It’s actually working well and is the perfect size, since it’s not really wide enough for more than one duct tape roll.” – AL in Texas
- It’s easy to leave a group text chain on an iPhone. There’s a setting for this. It’s not as easy on an Android phone, but it’s doable. Simply mute the conversation and delete the text thread. If you have a big family group and you’re getting too many notifications, you can always mute the conversation until you’re finished with whatever you’re doing.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

- Alligators will give manatees the right of way if they swim near each other.
- A day on Mars lasts 24 hours, 39

minutes and 35 seconds. You’d assume therefore that there are fewer days in a Martian year than an Earth year, right? Nope – because Mars orbits the sun more slowly than Earth, a Martian year actually comprises 687 days.

- The board game Cranium was the first non-coffee product to be sold at Starbucks.
- A Mickey is the smallest detectable movement of a mouse cursor on a screen. The term was coined by computer scientists, who use it when programming mice and other input devices.
- And while we’re on the subject of “small,” the tiniest item ever photographed is the shadow of an atom, captured via a super-high-resolution microscope by a team at Australia’s Griffith University in 2012.
- The Welsh word for jellyfish is “Psygod wibli wobli.”
- Out of the millions of creatures that inhabit planet Earth, humans are one of just three species capable of laughter, the other two being chimpanzees ... and rats!

- *The Galop Infernal*, composed for an opera as a soundtrack to a man descending into hell, is better known to most of us as *The Can-Can* song.
- Proof that some things never change: the world’s oldest known joke is a Sumerian fart joke.
- The most expensive pizza in the world will set you back a cool \$12,000. Why? Well, it takes 72 hours to make, can only be produced in your home by three Italian chefs, and is topped with three types of caviar, bufala mozzarella, lobster from Norway and Cilento, and pink Australian sea salt!

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Don’t worry about failures, worry about the chances you miss when you don’t even try.” – Jack Canfield

TRIVIA TEST

1. **Geography:** What is the deepest point in Earth’s oceans?
2. **Comics:** What is the name of the newspaper in the *Shoe* comic strip?

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1/26 ★ TFN

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required. To apply for this 20 hour/week
position, please send a resume to
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1/22 ★ TFN

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HELP WANTED

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4/23 ★ 4/30

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4/23 ★ 4/23

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3/19 ★ TFN

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12/11 ★ TFN

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- Demonstrating use of equipment and exercises
- Cleaning of equipment

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4/9 ★ 4/30

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4/9 ★ TFN

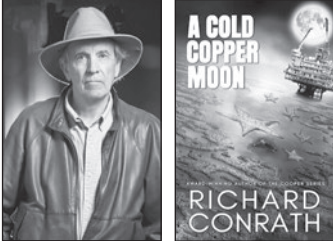
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3/26 ★ 4/23

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- 3. **Literature:** Which 19th-century novel features the characters Catherine and Heathcliff?
- 4. **Movies:** What was the name of Yoda's home planet in the *Star Wars* movie series?
- 5. **Business:** When did the social media service Facebook launch?
- 6. **Music:** How many strings does a cello have?
- 7. **Food & Drink:** What kind of alcohol is distilled from juniper berries?
- 8. **History:** In what year did the first human heart transplant take place?
- 9. **Science:** Which plant can be processed to make linseed oil?
- 10. **Language:** What is the scientific study of diseases and their effects on population called?

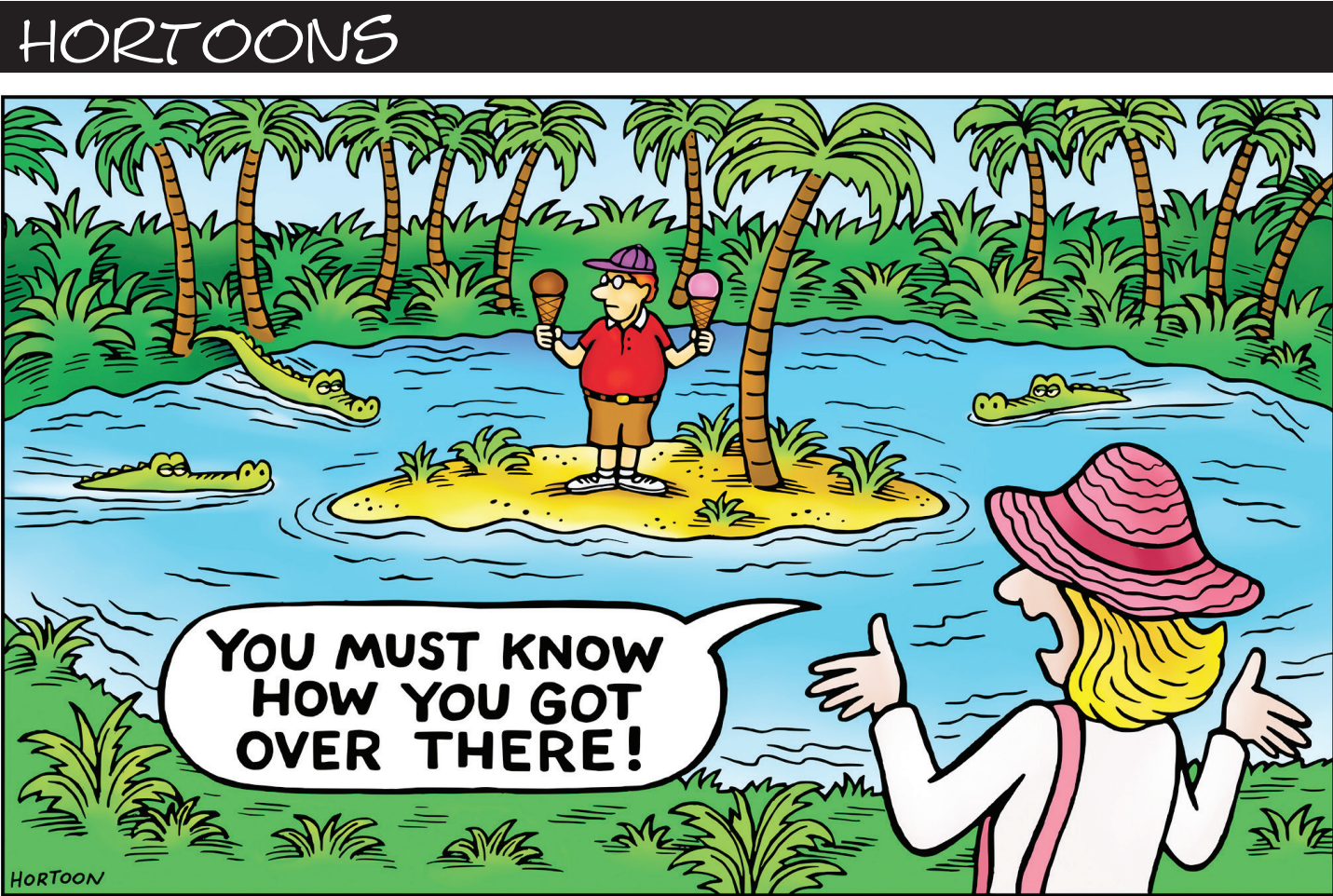
TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. The Mariana Trench in the Pacific Ocean
2. The Treefrogs Tattler 3. "Wuthering Heights" 4. Dagobah 5. 2004 6. Four
7. Gin 8. 1967 9. Flax 10. Epidemiology

SCRAMBLERS ANSWER

- 1. Remote 2. Quite;
3. Satin; 4. Fringe

Today's Word
QUITTING



PUZZLE ANSWERS

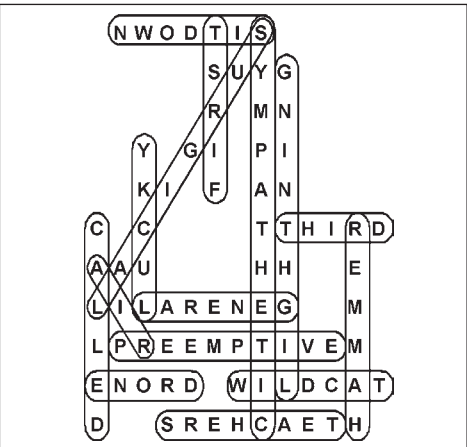
SUPER CROSSWORD

A	F	L	A	C	R	I	S	O	T	T	O	F	C	H	W	A	S			
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D	U	C	H	E	S	S	F	E	R	G	I	E	V	A	S	I	V	E		
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KING CROSSWORD

M	E	A	L		H	U	R		E	A	R	P
E	L	S	A		A	R	E		A	C	E	R
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MAGIC MAZE



SUDOKU

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

Top 10 Real Estate Sales

Subdivision	City	Year Built	Square Footage	Listing Price	Selling Price	Days On Market
Bonita Beach	Bonita Springs	2019	7,000	\$7,875,000	\$7,875,000	4
Barefoot Beach	Bonita Springs	1993	5,000	\$5,675,000	\$5,550,000	181
Gulf Ridge Sub	Sanibel	1985	3,917	\$5,200,000	\$4,995,000	81
Spring Ridge	Bonita Springs	2002	6,464	\$3,600,000	\$3,625,000	312
Metes And Bounds	Captiva	2002	6,820	\$2,790,000	\$2,790,000	233
Sanibel Estates	Sanibel	1993	4,000	\$2,999,999	\$2,775,000	84
Portofino	Miromar Lakes	2013	4,189	\$2,795,000	\$2,750,000	3
Rookery Lake	Bonita Springs	2001	5,475	\$2,750,000	\$2,650,000	358
Bay Harbour Estates	Fort Myers	2017	5,852	\$2,495,000	\$2,495,000	6
Imperial Shores	Bonita Springs	2019	3,515	\$2,599,000	\$2,299,000	3



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