



Emotional Pandemic by Xavier Brignoni

Opening Night Receptions

Fort Myers High School (FMHS) 2022 International Baccalaureate Visual Arts Exhibition and Xavier Brignoni's Xperience will feature opening night receptions during Art Walk at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center (SBDAC) on Friday, April 1 from 6 to 10 p.m. The



Mom With Newspaper by Summer Kates of Fort Myers High School

show will be on display until April 29.

The FMHS exhibition, which highlights works of art created in fulfillment of IB requirements, showcases the creativity of the students in the downstairs Grand Atrium and Conservatory. Brignoni's artwork, which is constantly evolving and

images provided

pushing the boundaries, will be upstairs in the Capital Gallery.

The FMHS students' works of art explore a wide range of visual media including traditional and digital photography, acrylic and oil painting, printmaking, fiber arts, sculpture and



Sub Realismo Vacio by Xavier Brignoni

ceramics. Paula Beth Wesson-Everhart, FMHS art teacher said, "Since the first IB student exhibit at SBDAC in 2019, our IB seniors have shared their excitement about a "real" gallery exhibition and opening night with the IB juniors, creating a momentum that has become contagious. Students, families, faculty, administrators and our community stakeholders have been able to view student artwork created

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Vickie Vaughn Band

photo provided

Bluegrass Concert At Davis Center

The Vickie Vaughn Band will perform at Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center as part of the 2022 Bluegrass Music Series on Friday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Centered on powerful vocals and poignant songwriting, the band serves a unique brand of bluegrass that blends tradition with youthful funk and energy. The sets engage a wide variety of

audiences by combining the songs of artists such as Bill Monroe, Cat Stevens, Bob Dylan and John Prine with originals and classic instrumentals.

The Vickie Vaughn Band is currently rehearsing and shoring up new originals, instrumentals and covers for a reinvented set. The band can be found performing around Nashville frequently.

Vickie Vaughn was hired as a background vocalist at the Kentucky Opry at age 9. At age 16, she challenged herself to learn stand-up bass and, after

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Dance Troupe To Perform At Egg Hunt



Members of the Hot Flashz at a previous Bunny Hop Easter Egg Hunt

photo provided

Lovegrove Gallery & Gardens has partnered with the Hot Flashz, Lee County's entertainment troupe for charity, for the 10th annual Bunny Hop Easter Egg Hunt at Lovegrove Gallery & Gardens on Saturday, April 16 from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. More than 2,000 eggs will be hidden.

The Hot Flashz will be leading children in various dances at the free event. There will be raffles for items and gift certificates from many area businesses. Space is

limited, so come early. The garden gates will open at 8:30 a.m. The hunt is limited to children ages 10 and younger. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Raffle proceeds will help the Hot Flashz raise money to help support their primary charities: Camp Boggy Creek, founded by the late Paul Newman and General H. Norman Schwarzkopf; Special Operations Warrior Foundation; the Southwest Florida Military Museum; the Brotherhood of

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Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

Pythian Building Opens



by Gerri Reaves, PhD

Just under a century ago, the four-story Pythian Building on Hendry Street opened with great fanfare. In photos old and new, including this circa-1990 one, it is inevitably photographed with its “sister,” the Robb & Stucky Building, which was built right after it. The twosome stands on the east side of the street between Main and Second. Fully completed in 1925 at a cost of \$150,000, the Pythian was conceived as the headquarters for the Royal Palm number 16 chapter of the Knights of Pythias, which had been established in Fort Myers in 1890.

Offices were to be located on the first three floors and the lodge on the fourth. Ground was broken on the 50-by-105-foot brown-brick building in February 1923, thus the date on the façade. Within a year, the first store, as well as the lodge, were occupied.

The structure exemplifies the commercial architecture style with Italianate influence, and notable details include rooftop parapets and an ornate cornice.

Designed to allow good ventilation and natural light on all sides, it was also touted as fireproof. So, it’s no surprise that renovations decades later revealed that it contained asbestos, as was typical of the era.

Some sources state that it had the first public elevator downtown. (The 1915 Heitman-Evans Hardware at First and Hendry had an elevator for employee use and was perhaps the first elevator.)

When it fully opened in February 1925, it was occupied predominately by real estate professionals, contractors and engineers, as to be expected during the boom.

In 1945, RQ Richards bought the Pythian Building to house his pharmacy business, which was on the first floor, and renamed it the Richards Building, as it is still known today.

Perhaps Richards’ main claim to fame was bringing Connie Mack’s Philadelphia



Construction on the Pythian Building began in 1923. It was renamed the Richards Building in 1945 photo by Gerri Reaves

Athletics to Fort Myers for spring training at Terry Park from 1924 to 36. He also owned and operated Royal Palm Pharmacy in the Earnhardt Building on First Street, where the team had a business office.

But even before Richards bought the Pythian, some of the town’s leading medical doctors had their offices there, starting in the 1920s with naturopath Dr. Edwin L. Rasmussen, osteopath Dr. TG Seay and Dr. Ernest Bostleman, as well as dentist Dr. HM Needham.

In the 1930s, physicians Warren A. Harrison, Harvey Stipe, Harry Allen and Louis A. Giradin moved into the building, as did dentist Clarence J. Zimmerman, osteopath Dr. Walter F. Purdo and Fred Bartleson, who went into partnership with Bostleman.

After Richards’ purchase of the building, well-remembered physicians William H. Grace, Angus H. Grace and Quillian Jones became tenants.

It turns out that the building’s superb natural light remained a major asset over the decades – at least for visual artists. In the 1970s and 1980s, a veritable art colony set up studios in the building, in part because of the light.

Well-known local artists such as Greg Biolchini and Polly Matsumoto were among continued on page 6



The Pythian Building (left) and the Robb & Stucky Building on Hendry Street circa 1990 photo courtesy Florida State Archives



Today, the Richards Building is home to professional offices and businesses photo by Gerri Reaves

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Easter Egg Hunts At Lee Parks

Five Lee County Parks & Recreation sites will offer opportunities for children to put their egg-hunting skills to the test in advance of Easter Sunday, which is April 17.

The days and locations for upcoming events are:

Saturday, April 2 – The annual Easter Egg Hunt will begin at 10 a.m. at Wa-Ke Hatchee Recreation Center, 16760 Bass Road, Fort Myers. Children age 12 and younger, their families and friends are invited to the egg hunt and visit from the Easter Bunny. Participation is \$5 per child (cash only); adults can attend for free. For more information, call 432-2154.

Saturday, April 2 – The Pine Island 6-8 Grade Golden Egg Hunt will begin at 10 a.m. at Philips Community Park, 5675 Sesame Drive, Bokeelia. This free event is for children of middle school age. The first 100 participants will receive a candy bag. Participants will have the chance to find golden eggs with special prizes. To register and for more information, call 283-4110.

Saturday, April 16 – Veterans Park Ultimate Egg Hunt will be held 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Veterans Park, 55 Homestead Road South, Lehigh Acres. Cost is \$5 per child. Advance registration is required. Participants can register online at www.leeparks.org/register, at the Veterans Park Recreation Center or by calling 369-1521.

Saturday, April 16 – Estero EGGStravaganza will begin at 8 a.m. at Estero Recreation Center, 9200 Corkscrew Palms Boulevard. Preregistration is required by calling the recreation center at 533-1470 or online at www.leeparks.org/register. The egg hunt, goodie bags, crafts, refreshments and the opportunity to meet the Easter Bunny are for children age 12 and younger. Cost is \$5 per child. The first egg hunt begins at 8:30 a.m. with 15-minute time slots until 10:45 a.m. EGGStraSpecial Egg Hunt at 11 a.m. is an adaptive division for any child with special needs. Each group has the chance to find a prize egg, which wins them an Easter basket full of goodies. This is an outdoor event, weather permitting. For more information, call the center at

533-1470.

Saturday, April 16 – The Boca Grande Egg Hunt will be held 10 to 11 a.m. at Boca Grande Community Center, 131 First Street, Boca Grande. This free event is sponsored by The Friends of Boca Grande Community Center. Activities include an egg hunt for ages 11 and younger, and a photo opportunity with the Easter Bunny. Arrive by 9:50 a.m. Individually wrapped soft candy donations are welcome. For more information, call 941-964-2564 or visit www.leeparks.org.*

Yappy Hour At Alliance Campus

Arts & Eats Café, the Union Artist Studios and Pawz4Dayz are joining forces with the Alliance for the Arts to again host Yappy Hour inside and around the Edwards Building on the Alliance campus on Thursday, April 7 from 5 to 8 p.m.

The event, which focuses on the love for dogs and animals in general, will include live music, elixirs, kava and other non-alcoholic beverages at the Tiki Bar from the Botanical Brewing Co. as well as wine tastings for a small donation.

Vendors from different organizations will set up to provide product samples, supplies, services information and adoption advice, as part of the night's allure. In addition, the Wagging Tail truck will be onsite, serving doggie treats and other goodies for furry friends.

The Arts & Eats Café will be offering a special evening menu during the event hours, including a variety of handhelds, rice bowls, salads, soup, desserts and coffees.

All guests are encouraged to bring their dogs on a leash.

The Alliance for the Arts is located at 10051 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.artinlee.org.*

Dean's List

Jessica Kearney of Cape Coral has been named to the dean's list for the fall 2021 semester at State University of New York at Delhi. Kearney is pursuing a degree in veterinary technology at the college.*

Fundraiser Helps Fight Childhood Hunger

The 2nd annual Brews for Blessings event at Millennial Brewing Company raised over \$26,000 to help support Blessings in a Backpack SWFL's mission to provide food to school children on weekends. All funds raised will go directly to feeding local children in need.

The family-friendly event featured a special children's area in addition to food trucks, a silent auction, craft beer and live music. At the event, families also learned about food insecurity in the area and how they can help feed a child for a school year.

"The community saw the need once again this year and came out to help the children. We sincerely appreciate it," said Cecilia St. Arnold, executive director for Blessings in a Backpack SWFL.

During the week, many young students are fed by federal government programs through school meals. A leader in the movement to end childhood hunger, Blessings in a Backpack SWFL ensures these children receive nutritional



Kyle Cebull, owner of Millennial Brewing and Cecilia St. Arnold, executive director of Blessings in a Backpack SWFL

photo provided

meals over the weekend during the school year. Every Friday afternoon, each child receives a backpack filled with nutritious, kid-friendly, ready-to-eat items. They return the backpacks on Monday, and each is filled and ready for the next weekend.

A donation of only \$115 will provide meals for 36 weekends for one school-age child. Blessings' goal this school year is to feed 6,000 school children.*



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Fort Myers Art:

Most Significant Play In Southwest Florida This Season



by Tom Hall

When *We Were Young and Unafraid* opens on March 30 at Tobye Studio Theatre. It is perhaps the most significant play to be produced anywhere in Southwest Florida during the 2021-22

season.

What makes *Young and Unafraid* so consequential is the light it shines on the tremendous strides we've made in the level and quality of care and support we now provide to survivors of domestic violence. *House of Cards* writer Sarah Treem does this by taking us 50 years back in time to a bed and breakfast (B&B) in the Pacific Northwest that doubles as a safe house for women fleeing domestic violence. It is run by a woman named Agnes with the help of her 16-year-old daughter, Penny.

But remember, this is 1972, and Agnes has no formal education or training in helping the victims of domestic abuse. Neither existed at that point in time. So she's forced to rely on her training as an



From left, Amy Hughes, Paulette Oliva and Giszelle Kirton star in *When We Were Young and Unafraid*
photo courtesy www.artswfl.com

Army nurse and the lessons she's learned.

The former comes in handy when a 26-year-old by the name of Mary Anne arrives at the B&B with a gruesome cut beneath her right eye. As Agnes stitches the gash without benefit of anesthesia, she tells Mary Anne that she's welcome to stay for as long as she wants... provided she stays in her room during the day, resting, reading and watching TV.

Agnes is not being mean. The B&B gives her the financial means to operate her safe harbor, and guests don't want to be confronted during their sylvan retreat

with visible evidence of domestic violence. But it's also necessary to protect her girls from prying eyes.

We now know that it's crucial for domestic violence survivors to quickly establish a seemingly normal daily routine. In fact, emergency shelters, like CARE in Collier County and ACT in Lee County, require every survivor to get a job or go back to school as a condition to their ongoing residency. Survivors need a reason to get up and get out of bed.

Don't misunderstand. Agnes is a true hero in this story, and she's doing her very best to protect and to help Mary Anne and the other women who seek shelter at her B&B. The most intransigent of these patterns is the sobering fact that the typical domestic violence survivor goes back to their abuser seven times before they are finally ready to leave for good... assuming they're not dead by then. Mary Anne herself gives voice to why this is. In spite of the abuse, she's still in love with her husband. He makes her feel desirable. So she makes excuses for the abuse – he came back from Vietnam a different man, but she believes that the man she fell in love with is still in there and will return to her if she gives him more understanding, more patience, more time.

What Mary Anne needs even more than a safe haven is counseling, but that's the one thing that Agnes is ill-equipped to provide. In fact, by segregating Mary Anne from the B&B's guests and essentially depriving her of anybody to talk to, Agnes unwittingly engages in secondary victimization. All too frequently, the negative way in which survivors are treated erodes their resolve to forge ahead and make a new life. In the absence of emotional support, they cannot grieve over the loss of their relationship. And without that closure, a low self-esteem domestic violence survivor like Mary Anne will inevitably return to her abuser – or end up in another abusive relationship.

Thematic content aside, *When We Were Young and Unafraid* is characterized by sophisticated writing, conversational dialogue and well-developed, genuine and highly-relatable characters.

The fact that The Naples Players are

bringing this play to stage right now is also poignant. Toward the end of the play, a character by the name of Hannah effuses over the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, saying that the times, they are a-changing.

When it comes to domestic violence, the Violence Against Women's Act is a really big deal. Since its initial passage in 1994, incidents of domestic violence and sexual assault have declined significantly. But access to services, the availability of emergency shelters and justice for survivors depends in large part on the funding provided by the act, which sunsets for the fifth time in 2027. Without adequate funding, domestic violence survivors could once again find themselves scrambling for safety and support just as they did in 1972.

In the play, Agnes delivers a cautionary note. When Hannah tells her the times they are a-changing, she soberly replies "They'll change back." And that's why plays like *When We Were Young and Unafraid* are so consequential.

Toby Studio Theatre is located at 701 Fifth Avenue South in Naples. For more information and tickets, visit www.naplesplayers.org/show/when-we-were-young-and-unafraid.

*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.**

From page 1

Receptions

for this program, and our IB students have specifically benefited from the professional exhibition setting of SBDAC."

Born in Santurce, Puerto Rico, Brignoni has been a custom framer, educator, decorator and, since 2008, conceptual artist. He moved to Southwest Florida in 2000 following an opportunity to reshape and redirect his professional career. Alongside lifetime friend and visual artist David Acevedo, he co-founded DAAS Co-op Gallery in downtown Fort Myers. As part of the first DAAS Gallery, Brignoni collaborated to establish Fort Myers Art Walk. In 2012, he co-founded Union Artists Studios in the Alliance for the Arts campus. To this day, this is the only organized group studio space in all of Southwest Florida.

In 2017, Brignoni was recognized with a FACE Award for diversity and inclusion in the community. He has exhibited in multiple galleries in Southwest Florida and his work is part of numerous private art collections. As a conceptualist with a powerful influence on pop art, Brignoni's work is bold and relatable. Xperience is on a journey through five decades of the artist's life. From the beginning as a child, growing to adulthood, and on to the present, Xperience addresses collective longing for answers, explanations and reasons.

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

Chavurat Shalom of Southwest Florida Fellowship of Peace

Speakers Series • Thursdays

☆ **April 7 • MINH NGUYEN** at special time 6:30 p.m.
Professor, Communication and Philosophy at Florida Gulf Coast University
"Anti-Asian Discrimination and Attitudes in the U.S."
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☆ **April 14 • JOHN VOORHEES** at 11:00 a.m.
Resident of Sanibel and New Jersey
He will share his journey as a convert to Judaism.

☆ **April 21 • RABBI MYRA SOIFER** at 11:00 a.m.
Emerita, Temple Sinai, Reno, Nevada
"The Passover Seder: The Basics and the Subversive"

☆ **April 28 • EREZ LUKE COHEN** at 11:00 a.m.
Executive Director, Hillel, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
"A Grandchild's Quest to Find Grandmother's Holocaust Story"

To request to virtually join one or more of these free programs by ZOOM, send an email to: chavuratshalom@gmail.com

This Speakers Series is brought to you by Chavurat Shalom of SWFL, a welcoming, unaffiliated community created for the study and celebration of our Jewish cultural heritage.

www.chavuratshalomofsouthwestflorida.org

Speaker programming will pause until November.
Check the website for updates.

Final 2022 Show For Concert Band

The Southwest Florida Concert Band will perform a concert *Traveling the World of Music* featuring music from around the world at South Fort Myers High School on Sunday, April 3 at 2 p.m.

The 45-member community band will start the journey with traveling music based on the theme of the *Arkansas Traveler*. *Bill Bailey Just Won't Come Home* will take a tour of many regions including the Far East, Caribbean, France, Italy, Middle East and Mexico. Travel the world of *Disney Fantasy* with many familiar melodies and visit England for a memorable Beatles Collection including *Hey Jude*. Guest vocalist Janna Braun will sing some jazzy versions of *Girl from Ipanema*

and *Sunny Side of the Street*. The band will perform the challenging and very musical overture *Sedona* and an upbeat Latin piece called *Mambo Greats* with *Mambo #5* and *Sway*. There will be several band sections with featured solos, a march from New Zealand and some traditional music from Greece. The last concert of the season will conclude with *Stars and Stripes Forever*.

At the concert, a scholarship will be awarded to a deserving high school member of the band, and several of the musicians will be conducting the group.

Masks are recommended at this time. All concerts are free with donations accepted.

South Fort Myers High School is located at 14020 Plantation Road in Fort Myers. For more information on the band, scholarship program and other performances, visit www.southwestfloridaconcertband.org.✱

Pools Closed This Weekend

All Lee County Parks & Recreation community pools will be closed Friday, April 1 and Saturday, April 2, so that county lifeguards can assist with the USA Open Water National Championships taking place April 1 to 3 at Lynn Hall Memorial Park, 950 Estero Boulevard on Fort Myers Beach.

The locations closed are:

San Carlos Community Pool, 8208 Sanibel Boulevard, Fort Myers
Lehigh Acres Community Pool, 1400 West Fifth Street, Lehigh Acres

Pine Island Community Pool, 5675 Sesame Drive, Pine Island

North Fort Myers Community Pool, 5170 Orange Grove Boulevard, North Fort Myers

Signs have been posted at the sites to inform pool patrons of the two-day closing.

Lee County and Gulf Coast Swim Team are hosting this annual event, which attracts competitive swimmers from across the nation. Admission to the event is free; patrons must pay to park.

For more information about all Lee County pools, visit www.leeparks.org. For more information about the USA Open Water National Championships, visit www.usaswimming.org/events.✱

Environmental Cleanup Event

Keep Lee County Beautiful, Inc. (KLCB) will again be the local organizer of the Keep America Beautiful Great American Cleanup at multiple locations across Lee County on Saturday, April 2 from 8 to 11 a.m.

The largest cleanup event in Lee County encourages residents and visitors to make a difference in their neighborhoods and communities. Volunteers will be cleaning and

beautifying waterways, shorelines, roadways, parks and any place else that has trash and debris that is not only unpleasant to look at, but it is also harmful to the environment.

The 2021 Great American Cleanup event collected over 15,000 pounds of trash and debris. The event is open to volunteers of all ages, and any individual, family, school, group, place of worship, business or government entity can coordinate or participate. For more information, cleanup sites and to register, visit www.signupgenius.com/go/805094aaaaa2ca4f49-2022.✱

Rare Stone Sculpture Exhibit In Punta Gorda

The sound of chisels clinking against stone will be echoing throughout the Peace River Botanical Gardens through April 18.

ZimSculpt, a world-renowned exhibition of modern Zimbabwean stone sculptures, only travels from Africa to North America once a year to be displayed at a preselected garden. In 2022, this prestigious honor has been bestowed upon the Peace River Botanical & Sculpture Gardens in Punta Gorda, making the local sanctuary of art and nature the only place one can experience this blockbuster exhibition.

These exquisite sculptures are famous for their striking style that is unique to the Shona tribe of southern Africa. The art is carved from various types of serpentine and semi-precious stone, often weighs tons and can be as large as seven feet tall. The ZimSculpt organization represents an artist collective of roughly 100 sculptors. Valuing fair trade, these sculptures have been ethically sourced, and artists are fairly compensated for their talent.

More than 100 of these sculptures will be displayed artfully throughout the garden, and all pieces on display are purchasable. An additional Zimbabwean marketplace will be present at the gardens during the event, where



A modern Zimbabwean stone sculpture photo provided

hundreds of unique carvings, traditional baskets and jewelry pieces will be on sale.

The highlight of the event will be Zimbabwean sculptors Passmore Mupindiko and Brighton Layson demonstrating their masterful artistry on select days.

Cost is \$18 for adults, \$15 for seniors (age 65 and older) and \$9 for students up to age 18. Children age 5 and younger admitted free.

Tickets can be purchased through Eventbrite or purchased at the gate.

For more information, visit www.peacrivergardens.org/zimsculpt.✱

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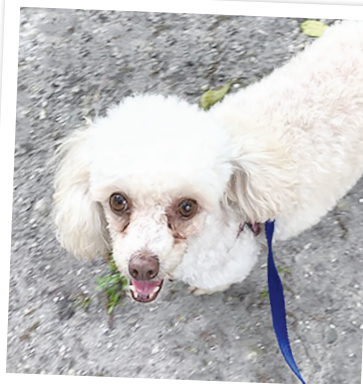
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Big Brother and School Resource Office Jose Castellanos enjoys spending time with his Little Brother Jamari in the school-based mentoring program photo provided

Big Brothers Big Sisters Campaign

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Suncoast has launched its 100 Men in 100 Days campaign to encourage men to become a Big Brother and volunteer with the organization. The recruitment campaign comes at a good time, as there are 200 boys waiting to be matched with a positive male role model. One-to-one matches between “Bigs” and “Littles” truly empower youth and strengthen communities. Professional staff from Big Brothers Big Sisters carefully

build and support each match, and ensure it meets the strictest standards. While Big Brothers Big Sisters accepts volunteers from all walks of life, there is a greater need for male mentors. Currently, 49 percent of the youth in the program are boys and 38 percent of the volunteers are men. Big Brother and School Resource Office Jose Castellanos sees the positive effect he is having on his Little Brother’s life. “I am fortunate to see firsthand the impact my Little Jamari and I have had on each other that makes us grow as better people. We talk about when we first met and where we are today as our friendship has grown. I look forward to celebrating

his graduation. Being his Big Brother has truly been a great experience.” Research shows that having the positive influence of a Big makes a real difference in the life of a child. Littles experience improvements in academic performance, behavior and relationships at home and elsewhere, according to independent studies. Mentoring is one of the most rewarding, enjoyable and simple things a volunteer can do. For as little as one hour a week, volunteers can add joy to the life of a child and, ultimately, contribute greatly to his or her potential. For over 50 years, Big Brothers Big

Sisters of the Sun Coast, which serves Sarasota, Manatee, DeSoto, Highlands, Hardee, Charlotte, Lee, Hendry and Collier counties, has been matching youth in meaningful, enduring, professionally supported mentoring relationships with adult volunteers who defend their potential and help them achieve their biggest possible futures. Big Brothers Big Sisters’ evidence-based approach is designed to create positive youth outcomes, including educational success, avoidance of risky behaviors, higher aspirations, greater confidence and improved relationships. Learn how to get involved at www.bbbssun.org✪

From page 2

Historic Downtown

the local luminaries who occupied spaces for a time – with Biolchini setting a record of several decades on the top floor. The city’s 1982 inventory of historic structures gave the Pythian an “outstanding” rating, meaning that it possibly could meet National Register criteria. While not listed, it is nevertheless an important structure in the historic district. Today, it houses a variety of offices and businesses, from city planners and attorneys to a café and vintage store. Walk down Hendry Street and see one of the boom’s most impressive structures. Then visit the following two research centers to learn more about the many tenants of the Pythian Building in its

almost 100-year history. The Southwest Florida Historical Society is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization open Wednesday and Saturday between 9 a.m. and noon. 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. Call 332-8778 for the hours or visit www.leecountyblackhistorysociety.org. Also stop by the IMAG History & Science Center at 2000 Cranford Avenue or at www.theimag.org. Sources: Archives of the Southwest Florida Historical Society, *Historic Fort Myers* by the City of Fort Myers, the *Fort Myers Press* and *The News-Press*.✪

Churches/Temples

ALL FAITHS UNITARIAN CONGREGATION
Service 10:30 a.m. in house and live on Facebook. Adult Ed Forum 9:15 a.m. in Sanctuary, 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
Friday Shabbat services every week 7:30 p.m. Other programs on vacation. ChavuratShalom@gmail.com.

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 9 and 11 a.m. English, 10 a.m. Spanish. 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 9 and 11 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.fpcfortmyers.org, 2438 Second Street, 239-334-2261

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

JESUS THE WORKER CATHOLIC
Friday and Saturday, 7 p.m.; Sunday 8, 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., 881 Nuna Avenue, 481-1143.

LAMB OF GOD
Sunday 7:45 and 10 a.m., www.lambofgodchurch.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.saintnicholasmonast

[ery.org](http://www.ery.org), 111 Evergreen Road, 997-2847.

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

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

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

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

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

THOMAS A. EDISON CONGREGATIONAL
Sunday 10:30 a.m., www.taecc.com, 1619 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
Saturday 5 p.m.; Sunday 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m., www.zionfm.org, 7401 Winkler Road, 481-4040.

Email changes to press@islandsunnews.com or call 395-1213.✪

Plant Smart

Catchfly Prairie-Gentian

by Gerri Reaves

Catchfly prairie-gentian (*Eustoma exaltatum*) is an excellent choice for a natural landscape or wildflower garden in coastal or inland spots.

This wildflower is native to much of the southern and central U.S., as well as parts of the Caribbean and South and Central America.

A member of the gentian family, other common names include marsh gentian, blue marsh lily and bluebell gentian, the latter perhaps a reference to its relative, the famous Texas bluebell.

This fast-growing annual can bloom most of the year, but most prolifically in summer.

The showy purple or lavender flowers explain the genus name, *Eustoma*, which derives from the Greek words for "good" or "pleasing" (*eu*) and "mouth" (*stoma*), which refers also to the cup-shape of the five-lobed flowers.

They are two to three inches across with dark purple centers. Sometimes the flowers are white but still have purple centers.

The bright yellow stamens create a pretty color contrast.

But the species' beauty isn't due to the flowers alone, but to the grayish or bluish green leaves too.

Fleshy and generally oval in shape, they are alternate, clasping and about two inches long.

The erect stalks are up to three feet tall.

The flower does well in full sun in a sandy or coastal area. In fact, its native habitats are dunes and salt flats and marshes, thus explaining another common name, seaside gentian.

It is very tolerant of salt spray, wind and soil and can survive brief saltwater inundations.

Give it moist to wet soil. It can grow in nutrient-poor soil, but needs some organic content to thrive.

It has low drought tolerance.

Propagate with the seeds found in the sticky capsule.

The plant also has medicinal uses.

Sources: *Everglades Wildflowers* by Roger L. Hammer, *Native Florida Plants* by Robert G. Haehle and Joan Brookwell,



Catchfly prairie-gentian is a native wildflower related to the Texas bluebell

photo by Gerri Reaves

www.flawildflowers.org, www.fnps.org, and www.regionalconservation.org.

Plant Smart explores the diverse flora of South Florida.✱

Help Needed To Study Virus In Freshwater Turtles

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) continues to study a fatal virus infecting freshwater turtles statewide and is asking the public's assistance in reporting sightings of sick, strangely acting or dead turtles.

The FWC has been studying the turtle fraser virus 1 (TFV1), formerly known as turtle bunyavirus, since early 2018. Since then, the virus has been detected in Putnam, Lake, Seminole, Orange, Polk, Osceola, Brevard, Indian River and Collier counties. TFV1 has been detected in

softshells, cooters and sliders, and the first TFV1 positive common snapping turtle was discovered earlier this year in southern Indian River County.

A turtle may be sick if it displays any of the following signs:

Appears sluggish, unresponsive or reluctant to flee;

Stays in shallow water or beached on banks for prolonged periods of times;

Head and neck outstretched flat along ground;

Sunken, swollen, crusty and/or cloudy eyes;

Reddened skin on head, neck, limbs or bottom of shell; and

Swims irregularly (sideways, in circles unable to submerge).

As part of the ongoing research, the FWC is asking the public for help by taking the following actions:

Report sightings of sick, strangely acting or dead freshwater turtles to the FWC by calling the Turtle Hotline at 352-339-8597 or through the FWC Reporter App;

If possible and without touching the turtle, take photos of the turtle;

To avoid spreading the virus, do not capture, transport or release turtles in new locations, even if the turtle appears healthy (executive order #21-19 prohibits the take or transport of all freshwater softshell turtle species or yellow-bellied sliders until the order is repealed); and

Do not eat turtles that are acting strangely or that appear unhealthy.

There is no current evidence to suggest that humans or wildlife other than turtles can be infected with TFV1.

For more information about TFV1, visit

www.myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats, click on "Wildlife," then "Freshwater Turtles" and "Turtle Frasier virus 1."✱

Free Shred Day Event To Benefit United Way

Markham Norton Mosteller Wright & Co., PA (MNMW) will partner with Secure Shredding, Inc. to host its fifth annual free Community Shred Day event on Friday, April 29 from 9 a.m. to noon. There will be a two-box maximum per person for shredding.

MNMW encourages participants to consider a donation to the United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee Counties when dropping off shred items. Donations for United Way can be in monetary form, canned or non-perishable goods, or new/gently used clothing. A representative from United Way will be on site to receive the donations and answer questions.

Items that can be shredded include bank statements, tax records, contracts and blank checks. A good rule to determine if an item is "shreddable" is "if it tears, it can be destroyed." Items not suitable for shredding include hard drives, cell phones and batteries. All shredded material will be recycled to support an eco-friendly environment.

Markham Norton Mosteller Wright & Co, PA is located at 8961 Conference Drive in Fort Myers.✱



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Just Dumb



by Capt. Matt Mitchell
I cannot state enough the importance of timing around cold fronts. The past week, this played out in all that can be described as a crazy wide-open bite. At times, it was just

dumb.
Don't get me wrong, fishing all week during the south wind was very consistent with lots of fish caught on each trip. This bite peaked with a Fourth of July-like finale in the last few hours before the front went though.
Let me describe the timing and how this amazing bite played out. With yet another front forecast to come through last Thursday, each day the timing on this was pushed later and later in the day. Strong south winds and a slow-moving incoming tide turned out to be the perfect setup with some of the highest tides we had seen in weeks. With a falling barometer no matter where we fished, the bite was on.
We picked wind-blown islands and oyster bars around the southern end of Pine Island, and every stop had hungry fish from snook over 30 inches to redfish and even mid-20-inch-size. Trout days like this don't come very often, but when they do, it's pure magic. Getting out and enjoying this crazy action is all about



Bryan Thomas with a pre-front windy day snook caught while fishing with Capt. Mitchell this week photo provided

timing with the bite only getting better and better until the front passes through.
Come Friday morning, the front had passed through with winds switching to north, and big high pressure made the bite much more like work than just the previous day. We tucked away in mangrove creeks out of the wind, and we continued to catch snook and trout though the action was a trickle compared to the days before. Each day after the front, the bite improved though we are yet to see south winds and high water again.
With everyone running some kind of weather app on a smart phone these days, I often get contacted by clients concerned about the weather up to a week out. With all this forecasting technology, the exact timing of these fronts or weather events is not precise more times than not until just a few hours before. If you're lucky enough to get that magic weather window of an approaching weather event, jump on it. As guides we simply don't take clients in dangerous or bad conditions, which often means making the call to cancel or go the

morning of the charter. If the timing plays out in your favor on an approaching weather event, it more often than not can lead to another dumb day of fishing.
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.✴

Bluegrass Concert

From page 1
graduating high school, she moved to Nashville to study commercial voice at Belmont University. In 2010, she released her four-song EP, which features acclaimed pickers and longtime friends performing three Vaughn originals and Dylan's *Blowing in the Wind*.
The band includes Maggie Estes White on fiddle, Zach White on guitar, Casey Campbell on mandolin and Justin Hiltner on banjo.
"I can't believe some of the amazing experiences I've had in my career in music," Vaughn said. "But nothing even comes close to how happy and at home I feel while playing and creating with my best friends. I feel so lucky."
Tickets are \$45 in advance and \$50 at the door. The concert is underwritten by Pamela Templeton.
The Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center is located at 2301 First Street in downtown Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.sbdac.com or call 333-1933.✴

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Dave Doane with his co-worker Jesse

CROW Case Of The Week:

Barred Owlets



by Bob Petcher

The barred owl (*Strix varia*), known casually as the hoot owl for its rich baritone call, is a striped brown and white owl with dark eyes and a yellow beak. As a newborn, it is more

gray and fluffy.

While mostly nocturnal, barred owls have been seen hunting during daytime as well. They are known to be more passive than their cousins, great horned owls, which are considered a predatory threat.

At CROW, two nestling barred owls were admitted from LaBelle after a failed re-nesting attempt. After two days, the parents were not seen, and the nestlings were found on the ground again.

The young owls, reported to be 2 weeks old at admittance on March 17, were both severely dehydrated. One of the owlets had suffered some beak injuries, likely from falling from the nest.

"To treat the beak injuries, we started the owlet on antibiotics to prevent infection and pain medications so it didn't hurt as much, said CROW Wildlife Rehabilitation Manager Breanna Frankel. "We did not have to treat the wounds externally, but we have monitored it closely."

The siblings were placed under rehabilitative care where they have been learning to eat on their own. After three weeks at the clinic, the patients are doing better. "At this point, we don't have to do anything except feed them and clean their cage," said Frankel. "They started off being fed three times a day and have just transitioned to two feeds a day. Their cage gets cleaned twice a day to ensure the environment they are living in stays



Patient #22-947 and #22-948 relax in a clean indoor environment with expectations to move outdoors when they are able to perch photo by Allie Newhart

clean and healthy. These owlets are being offered prey that is part of their natural diets such as mice and rats – they aren't vegetarians."

The young owls will continue to be raised according to CROW protocol until they are ready to move outdoors and continue rehabilitation.

"Each species we see at the clinic has a veterinary protocol associated with their care. These protocols have been designed by staff over many years to 1) prevent habituation; 2) ensure they get appropriate calories; and 3) ensure they grow properly," said Frankel. "This protocol states how much the animal should be fed, how often it should be fed, what types of food it should be fed, how long it can go overnight without food, etcetera. By stating 'raised according to protocol,' we ensure that all caregivers are following the same protocol to

prevent any issues."

The move outdoors will be predicated on their growth.

"They are still very young and haven't started perching yet. It will be a couple more weeks before they move outside where they will go through the fledging process to learn to fly and survive in the wild," Frankel explained. "Barred owls

are cared for by their parents longer than other owl species, at least four months, so we must ensure that we provide enough care and support that they are successful after release. Release may not be based on a certain age but rather based on developmental indicators. We will monitor their flight progress and ability to find food before we consider them for release."

While the first attempt at re-nesting failed, the effort was applauded since there didn't appear to be any substantial injury. It is best for young wildlife to grow with parental animals, not humans.

"In most situations, re-nesting is always the right thing to do unless you see obvious evidence of trauma or a predator may have been involved – like a cat, dog, hawk. We are good at what we do, but wildlife parent(s) always do it better. We are not their first option, we are their last option," said Frankel. "If successful, re-nesting means those animals have a much better chance at survival because their parent(s) taught them how. There are certain things that we, as humans, can't teach wildlife, so if there is a chance of reuniting them with their parent(s), we will take it."

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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The Tribby Arts Center hosts musical and educational programming in the 400-seat Connie Brown Hall photo provided

New Arts Center At Shell Point Open To Public

Shell Point Retirement Community has opened the Tribby Arts Center to the public. The \$25 million, 44,000-square-foot arts center opened in spring 2021 and is home to musical and educational programming at Shell Point. The Tribby Arts Center includes the 400-seat Connie Brown Hall and three art

galleries showcasing work from residents, as well as regional and national artists.

"In the past year, the Tribby quickly became a vibrant, bustling hub of creative and cultural activity for Shell Point residents," said Jason Smith, senior director of amenities. "We're excited to welcome all and share the Tribby experience with Southwest Florida audiences."

Tickets are now available for the Shell Point Spring Concert Series, including the Mnozil Brass on Saturday, April 2 at 7 p.m.; Viola and Piano Duo Michael Kloz and Grigorios Zamparas on

Thursday, April 14 at 7 p.m.; and Bay Kings Band on Thursday, April 21 at 7 p.m.

A selection of lectures in the Academy of Lifelong Learning are also available to the public, including Classical Crossovers: The Life and Music of George Gershwin on Saturday, April 9 at 4 p.m.; The RMS Titanic – The Most Fateful Maiden Voyage in History on Tuesday, April 12 at 10 a.m.; and Looking for Loot: How Nazi-Stolen Artworks are Finding Their Way Home on Tuesday, April 26 at 10 a.m.

Within the trio of galleries, exhibitions open from Thursday, April 7 through Saturday, April 30. They include The

Style of Place: New Works by Suzanne Bennett; Keith Johnson and Peter Zell in the Shell Point Gallery; Wood'n Things: Works by the Shell Point Wood Shop in The Legacy Gallery; and Expressing Our Artistry: Works by the Shell Point Photo Club in The Overlook Gallery. Gallery admission is free.

Visitors can relax in the Tribby Café, reflect in the outdoor sculpture garden and find something special in Serendipity, the Tribby gift shop.

Shell Point's Tribby Arts Center is located at 17281 On Par Boulevard in Fort Myers. Visit www.tribbyartscenter.com/boxoffice for tickets or call 415-5667 for more information.*

Virtual Fly Fishing Film Festival Begins Friday

The International Fly Fishing Film Festival, coming virtually to all of Florida on Friday, April 1, features nine short and feature-length films from all corners of the globe in showcasing the passion, lifestyle and culture of international fly fishing. Festival viewing will begin at 6 p.m.

Admission to the statewide virtual International Fly Fishing Film Festival is \$15 and may be accessed at <https://watch.eventive.org/if4us/play/6216654cd9c447006821ef6c>. Viewers may log on to the site anytime within 48 hours of the showing. Once logged in, access to the film will be granted for seven days.

The event is hosted by Sanibel FlyFishers, Inc. In addition to the films, there will be fly fishing product giveaways and other promotions.

One attendee will be selected to win the 2022 grand prize drawing, consisting of fly fishing gear provided by International Fly Fishing Film Festival sponsors and valued at thousands of dollars.

Among the films to be screened are: *Caddis Magic* – A film of hope that bugs will hatch and trout will rise to them;

Four Weeks of Daylight – Atlantic salmon on the northern coast of the Kola Peninsula;

Out West – Smallmouth bass on flyrod poppers cast by Brian O'Keefe;

Casting Maya – Ascension Bay in Mexico's Yucatan in search of bonefish, permit, snook and tarpon;

A Season in the South – Remote rivers in the different regions of New Zealand's South Island;

Flat Out – 2021 Stimmies Anglers Choice Winner exploring Australia's Pacific and Indian Ocean saltwater flats;

Into Blue – A trip up to the salt of Far

North Queensland, Australia, wading and wandering the flats.

Other films include *A Fly-fishing Refugee*, the uplifting story of a Polish dissident in the early 1980s yearning for wild rivers; and *Home Waters*, a look at the trophy trout of British Columbia, Canada.

For more information and film trailers, visit www.flyfilmfest.com.*

Donate Food Before Traveling

Lee County Solid Waste's fourth annual Donated not Wasted campaign will launch Monday, April 4, to encourage seasonal residents and visitors to donate unopened pantry items before returning north.

Since the program's inception, 15,193 pounds of food have been diverted from potential disposal and sent to the Harry Chapin Food Bank – enough food to provide 12,660 meals.

The food bank continued to be both a conduit and safety net to the community during the pandemic.

"In 2021, our food distribution programs provided 47.6 million pounds of food, including 12.6 million pounds of fresh produce, to the Southwest Florida community," said Meg Madzar, food-drive coordinator for Harry Chapin Food Bank.

To help, drop off unopened canned or dry goods between Monday, April 4 and Monday, April 18, at any library or Lee County Recreation Center. Additional collection containers are located at Six Mile Cypress Slough Preserve and the Lee County Topaz Court Household Chemical Waste Facility.

Partners in the campaign include Harry Chapin Food Bank, Lee County Solid Waste, Lee County Parks & Recreation, Lee County Library System, the city libraries of Sanibel and Fort Myers Beach, Waste Pro and FOX4.

For more information, call 533-8000 or visit www.leegov.com/solidwaste.*

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From page 1

Dance Troupe

Heroes Resource Center; and the Quality of Life Center.

Prior to the egg hunt, the Hot Flashz will perform at the Kidney Walk at 9 a.m.

on Sunday, April 3 at Lakes Park, located at 7330 Gladiolus Drive in Fort Myers. For more information, call Marjean at 482-6252.

Lovegrove Gallery & Gardens is located at 4637 Pine Island Road NW on Matlacha Island. For more information or pre-affle tickets, call 482-6252.*



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APRIL EVENTS

CONCERTS

Sat. April 2 • 7 p.m.

Mnozil Brass Presents "Gold"

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them into a magical hour of music they call "This Magic Moment." This seven-piece band with two vocalists will take you on a journey that includes hits by Sam and Dave, Aretha Franklin, Elvis, Earth, Wind & Fire and more. Tickets \$40

ACADEMY OF LIFELONG LEARNING

Thur. April 14 • 7 p.m.

Michael Klotz and Grigorios Zamparas, Viola and Piano Duo

This wonderful classical concert features violist Michael Klotz and pianist Grigorios Zamparas performing works by Beethoven and Brahms. Tickets \$40



Sat. April 9 • 4 p.m.

Classical Crossovers: The Life and Music of George Gershwin with Professor Thomas Cimarusti and Guests

Dr. Cimarusti will discuss how Gershwin fused classical and jazz idioms into a distinct musical genre that remains popular among Broadway, classical and jazz enthusiasts. Tickets \$15



Tue. April 12 • 10 a.m.

The RMS Titanic: The Most Fateful Maiden Voyage in History!

When the RMS Titanic steamed out on her maiden voyage in April 1912, she was considered practically unsinkable — or so it was promoted. Dr. Jerry Franz of FGCU will discuss the very short history of this mammoth and luxurious ship. Tickets \$15



Tue. April 26
10 a.m.

Looking for Loot: How Nazi-Stolen Artworks Are Finding Their Way Home

Art looting has a very long history, but nowhere was it practiced on a greater scale than when Europe was under Nazi domination. FGCU lecturer Carol Jonson will discuss the efforts museums and galleries are making today to look for "loot" in their collections and retribute it to rightful owners and heirs. Tickets \$15

Flowers by German artist, Lovis Corinth-1913



To purchase tickets, contact the Tribby Arts Center Box Office at (239) 415-5667
Mon. – Fri. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. and Sat. 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. or visit www.tribbyartscenter.com/boxoffice

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Shell Point is located on the Caloosahatchee River in Fort Myers, just minutes from the islands of Sanibel and Captiva.

Book Review

For Whom The Shell Tolls



by Di Saggau

For Whom the Shell Tolls is book eight in the Sanibel Island Mystery series, written by Jennifer L. Schiff.

The action starts right away when a man is found dead in his car.

Guin Jones, local reporter and amateur sleuth, is at her friend's house helping to paint shells for the National Seashell Day treasure hunt when she learns about the incident. The group of talented artists and shell lovers are known as the Shell Fairies. Guin decides she will talk to her on-again-off-again boyfriend Detective O'Loughlin about the case.

They soon learn the identity of the man. He is a lawyer named Jackson Brennan. His TV ads and billboards refer to him as Action Jackson, and an autopsy discovers he died of cyanide poisoning. In his possession is one of the shells that was to be part of the treasure hunt, only this one has a skull and crossbones with a note that says "Time's Up."

We find out Jackson was planning to run for Congress. So that tends to rule out suicide. And the list of suspects starts

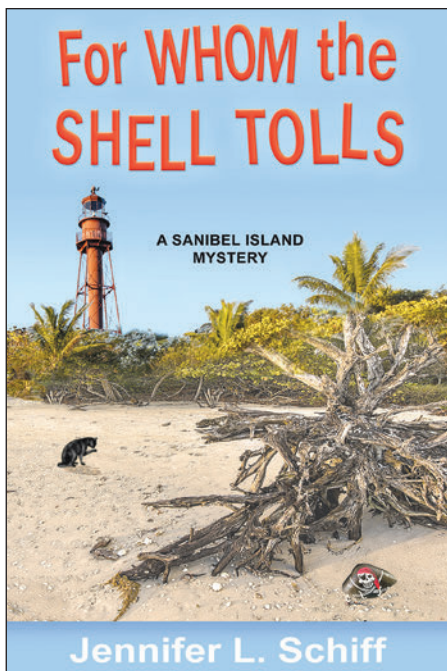


image provided

to grow. Could it be Audra Linwood, who is not a fan of Jackson due to a land deal on the island that fell through? Or is it Anthony Mandelli, a man with questionable character and a silent partner involved in the real estate deal? There is also Beth, Jackson's ex, and a young gal named Paris, who was sort of involved with the victim.

Schiff does a great job of adding suspects to the list without letting us figure out who is guilty. There is a lot of dirt and rumors spreading about most of

them.

Schiff always refers to local establishments such as Doc Ford's, the Sanibel Bean, the Savoury, the Island Cow, and many more. The reader has fun picturing characters in known locations. Amidst all the turmoil, Guin finds out that Detective O'Loughlin has made a decision that affects her emotionally. To further complicate matters, an old flame, Ris, returns to the

island. Guin has not been lucky in some of her relationships. Perhaps that will change. In fact I'm pretty sure it will in Schiff's next book. The epilogue in the book points in that direction. Meanwhile, I suggest you pick up a copy of *For Whom the Shell Tolls*. It's a fun read.

Schiff will be signing copies of her book on Monday, April 11 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at MacIntosh Books and Paper, 2340 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel.✱

School Smart



by Shelley M. Greggs, NCSP

Hello Readers, I am republishing this column as I believe it contains some very valuable information about playground safety for toddlers and

preschool children. This information caught me by surprise, and it may surprise you as well since it is such a counterintuitive behavior for a caring parent or caregiver. It seems that if you as a parent or caregiver goes on a slide holding your child, the chances of your child injuring him/herself is significantly higher. You are trying to protect the child from injury on a slide and yet the very force of an adult sitting behind a child on a slide can cause a child's leg to break.

Dr. John Gaffney, a pediatric orthopedic specialist, reported that every spring he sees a high number of young children with broken legs from slide accidents. "As soon as the weather gets warm, this starts to happen," he said. "It's so common, but parents say: 'how did I not know about this?' I thought it was doing something good for my child by having them sit on my lap'."

Although nobody keeps national statistics, orthopedic specialists say they treat a number of toddlers and young children each year with broken legs as a result of riding down the slide on a parent's lap. A study at Winthrop University Hospital in Mineola, New York, found that nearly 14 percent of pediatric leg fractures over an 11-month period involved toddlers riding down the slide with a parent. Dr. John Gaffney conducted the Mineola study, after he had treated a sudden increase of playground slide fractures. The hospital's data indicated that every sliding fracture involved a child younger than age 3 riding in an adult's lap. The fracture might not be instantly noticeable, but typically the child seemed to be in pain and could not put weight on the leg.

This is clearly a situation when a child is safer by himself. If a foot gets caught while the child is sliding alone, he can just stop moving or twist around until it comes free. But when a child is sitting in an adult lap, the force of the adult's weight behind him ends up breaking his leg.

Dr. Ed Holt, orthopedic surgeon in Annapolis, Maryland, has also seen an increase in what he calls "sliding board"

fractures. Dr. Holt wants parents and children to go to playgrounds together and even play on slides, but he is extremely concerned about the risks of sliding with a child on your lap. Dr. Holt recommends, "to prevent the injury, the best solution is to allow a child to slide by himself, with supervision and instructions on how to play safely. Young children can be placed on the slide at the halfway point with a parent standing next to the slide. At the very least, parents should remove a child's shoes before riding down the slide with the child on their laps, and make sure the child's legs don't touch the sides or sliding surface".

Dr. Holt has been so concerned about this problem that he has made an instructional video for YouTube that tells parents about this danger and how to avoid it. It's about two minutes long and well worth watching (www.youtube.com/watch?v=6EzJL3qp-el). His message is simple. Go to the playground, have fun and, if you choose to go down the slide, just make sure to do it safely.

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. To contact her, email smgreggs@gmail.com or visit www.schoolconsultationservices.com.✱

Student Artwork Exhibit To Open

The Fort Myers Beach Art Association (FMBAA) will hold the Student Scholarship Award Show exhibition from Saturday, April 2 to Wednesday, April 6. This exhibit will contain works from college-bound seniors from Cypress Lake Center for the Arts and Cypress Lake High School.



To encourage development of the arts in the community, three scholarships are awarded to seniors going on to study art at the college or university level. The show and awards are supported financially through grants by the yearlong fundraising activities of the members of the Fort Myers Beach Art Association.

The judging team for this year's recipients for the scholarship awards consists of Rene Chastant and Carolyn Bachman.

For more information, visit www.fortmyersbeachart.com, contact Pam Flaherty at publicity@fortmyersbeachart.com, call 463-3909, or drop by the Fort Myers Beach Art Association gallery located at 3030 Shell Mound Boulevard on Fort Myers Beach.✱

EPIC FIRES OF FORT MYERS

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

THOMAS P. HALL
ROBIN C. TUTHILL, EDITOR

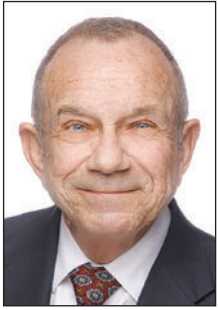
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"More than a meticulously researched chronicle of the disasters that shaped Fort Myers, this book details the historical moment of each blaze, creating a rich portrait of a community forged and tempered by fire. A must-read for anyone interested in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

Those Who Forget The Past



submitted
by Tom Uhler

In his book, *The Life of Reason*, George Santayana wrote, "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it." That was in 1905.

Many others have said similar things, but the point is pretty clear. If we don't learn from history, we'll make the same mistakes over and over.

One thing we've learned in the 20-year history of our firm is that a long-term view is quite predictable, but the short-term is equally unpredictable.

Another thing we've learned, and you can quote me on this, is that optimism is the only reality. People complain about the 24/7 news cycle. As a kid, the news was typically a couple of days old when we received it, especially in the newspaper.

Now, we've got a fiber-optic connection to the entire world. We have more computing power in our hand than our country used to put a man on the moon 53 years ago. And we're about to have self-driving cars.

Each generation has it better than their parents. We're healthier, wealthier and have a better lifestyle. And part of the reason this continues to happen is that the great companies of the world develop life-enriching products and services that we want and are willing to purchase.

People often ask me about risk. My reply is, "What risk are you asking about?" Today, I might get the inflation answer, as in, "Well, everything costs more; how can I afford that?" Let's look at the facts.

For the most recent 100 years, inflation in the USA has averaged about three percent per year. However, for the last decade, it's fallen below that and, in our short-term memories, we think that's the norm – even as recent reports show inflation hovering around 7.5 percent. What's dangerous about inflation is how insidious it is. Think about it, what a dollar purchases today will require \$1.03 a year

from now and about \$1.10 in three years.

That's okay if your income is increasing to keep up, but what if you're retired and have your nest egg in certificates of deposit and bonds paying a fixed, low rate of return? Even at three percent increases, your purchasing power decreases each year. But eventually, we'll revert to the mean, and the inflation concern will be replaced by another fear.

The answer is to own assets that increase in value at a rate greater than inflation (and taxes) reduce their purchasing power. What are those assets?

We call them equities – which just means ownership. Your home, your business and your stock market portfolio are all growing assets... if you're in it for the long term.

Stop focusing on the short term – those doom and gloom scenarios you see on the evening news – and focus instead on the growth in quality of life which you've seen in your life. Think long term and think positively, because optimism is the only reality.

Tom Uhler is a principal with Uhler and Vertich Financial Planners, a locally owned comprehensive financial advisory firm.✴

Permitting Portal To Be Offline For Upgrades

The eConnect permit portal for Lee County Department of Community Development (DCD) will be offline for technical upgrades from 5 p.m. Friday, April 1 until 7 a.m. Monday, April 4. The updated eConnect portal will enhance business operations to allow for an easier user experience. Users may notice a refreshed look to the eConnect portal, but functionality will remain the same. Future upgrades are expected to include an account management tool for users.

The VoicePermits Interactive Voice Response system will also be offline during the weekend update. Contractors who plan to schedule inspections for Monday, April 4, should call in before the system is taken offline at 5 p.m. April 1.

DCD transitioned to the fully electronic submittal process for building permit, zoning, planning and development

review applications in February 2021.

Contractors, design professionals and agents are required to submit applications and supporting documents through the eConnect public portal.

The system is also used by the Department of Transportation, Natural Resources and the Utilities Department, and those customers will also be affected

Rescue Plan Act Funding Portal

The United Way of Lee County, in cooperation with the Lee Board of County Commissioners (BoCC), has launched a new online portal that will allow nonprofit organizations to apply for funds through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The BoCC agreement with the United Way of Lee County will manage the distribution of up to \$16.2 million of funding to nonprofit human service agencies for direct service delivery to the community. Applications are open only to 501(c)(3) organizations.

The BoCC also approved a \$3 million grant for United Way of Lee County. These funds will be used to increase and enhance direct-service programs that are operated within United Way, such as United Way 211, WeCare, United Way Houses, Gifts-In-Kind and VITA. Additionally, the funds will be used to increase partnerships, collaborations,

during the offline period.

If the dates for the technological upgrade are delayed, the county will communicate directly with contractors and other stakeholders and will provide media an update.

For more information, visit www.lee.gov/dcd. Questions can be directed to econnect@lee.gov.✴

information technology, communication, data management and data security.

The United Way's Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) process will accept applications for ARPA funding until 5 p.m. April 29. Applicants must be an IRS-designated 501(c)(3) nonprofit and provide services in Lee County. Lee commissioners are expected to vote on recommended allocations in June.

Officially called the Lee County Government/United Way Nonprofit Human Services Grant Project, the grants will be provided to qualifying organizations to deliver direct services that help with currently unmet needs caused or made worse by the COVID-19 pandemic.

To start the application process, United Way asks prospective applicants to visit www.unitedwaylee.org/arpa to register.

Registered agencies and organizations can direct ARPA grant-project questions to Fred Richards at arpa@unitedwaylee.org.

The collaboration with United Way is one portion of the Lee Board of County Commissioners' ARPA commitment.✴

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Will Power

The Problems With Incentive Trusts



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

In my ongoing examination into my clients' fears that bequeathing large amounts to children and grandchildren will erode drive and ambition, I review a solution proposed by some – incentive trusts.

An incentive trust is one that rewards work and income. "My trustee shall distribute to each beneficiary an amount equal to their earned income in the previous calendar year." The idea is that if a beneficiary intends to sit on the sofa to play video games, or visit Las Vegas to play poker for the rest of his life, the trust won't distribute income to him, forcing him to work – to be a productive member of society.

Incentive trust advocates will contrast the video game player or gambler with another beneficiary in sales, who works very hard to earn income of \$150,000 per year. That beneficiary would receive that amount (or some factor of it) from the trust share. He's being rewarded as a productive member of society.

But what of the disabled beneficiary? Surely, an incentive trust can be drafted to consider a beneficiary who cannot work so that she's not penalized.

As I illustrate an incentive trust, you might think this is a great idea to consider for your estate plan.

Borrowing from ESPN's Lee Corso, "Not so fast, my friend!"

Consider a brother and sister. Brother has built a pornography website earning several million dollars a year. The incentive trust therefore pays him the maximum amount. His sister, on the other hand, got a degree in teaching, choosing to work in underprivileged communities helping youngsters attain their dreams to attend college. While her value to society towers over that of her brother, her earned income is

small, and consequently, so would be the distribution from her incentive trust.

Is that what the parents had in mind?

Or how about another set of facts – this time, sister is a high-income neurosurgeon and brother works as an interpreter at the United Nations, since he can speak multiple languages fluently. Should sister be entitled to more money from her incentive trust than brother simply based upon earnings? Or what if brother is a stay-at-home father who earns nothing while he raises his family because his spouse is already a high earner?

What of the family business owner who has a down year?

I could come up with example after example.

You might argue that the trustee should have discretion to make distributions notwithstanding the income. So, why have an incentive trust? Once you factor the subjective nature of determining how much a beneficiary should receive, then you're into a general needs trust based upon a combination of objective and subjective factors.

I argue that incentive trusts might create more problems than they solve. I had an interesting discussion with Marty Shenkman, a well-known attorney who has published many books and articles, who is a leader in the estate planning field. Shenkman makes the point that if the children/beneficiaries aren't productive members of society or leading good lives by the time their parents' die, no amount of estate planning is going to change the arc of their lives.

This is particularly true as life expectancies increase. Many children/beneficiaries are over the age of 60 by the time their benefactor parents pass away.

So, what's the answer? How do we mold our families into solid citizens?

Obviously, this must start during our children's youth through modeling good behavior. But what more can estate plans accomplish? I'm going to be tackling that subject in the coming months.

In the meantime, if you already have an incentive trust built into your estate plan, give it a careful look to make sure it's really what you want.

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Costume Shop Donates Funds To Children's Hospital

Spirit Halloween presented a \$69,496 check to the Child Life professionals of Golisano Children's Hospital during Child Life Month. The funds were part of the Spirit of Children campaign held last October, when the company also gifted \$4,000 in costumes, decorations and crafts – helping to make Halloween fun and the hospital less scary for the children hospitalized during the holiday.

March is Child Life Month, a month where hospitals celebrate child life specialists and the child life profession through education and awareness of their work. The certified child life specialists bring joy and comfort to hospitalized kids and their families through evidence-based techniques such as medical play and therapeutic disciplines to help normalize the hospital experience.

Spirit of Children, the fundraising program of Spirit Halloween, has gifted more than \$322,000 since partnering with Golisano Children's Hospital. Last year's gift was used to equip sensory rooms that help patients with special needs to cope with hospital stays and doctor appointments. The sensory rooms include fiber optic lights, bubble towers, exercise balls and many squeeze balls with different textures. Even simple toys can calm a child in a new setting.

"The ability to purchase sensory items with the funds donated from Spirit of Children help bring comfort and familiarity to this special population," said Stacie Kmetz, certified child life specialist and events coordinator at Golisano Children's Hospital. "We had a family recently visit the sedation unit, and they were very nervous bringing their



The check presentation at Golisano Children's Hospital

photo provided

child into a new, possibly scary setting. Our child life specialist was able to meet with them upon arrival and provide sensory items to comfort the child."

Spirit of Children focuses on making hospitals less scary for children and their families by partnering with child life departments working to create more comfortable hospital environments. With donations raised in Spirit Halloween stores and from vendor partners, they continue empowering child life programs and roles, including hiring essential Child

Life Specialists; purchasing sensory and educational items as well as adaptive toys and medical teaching dolls; supporting art, music, canine, and horticulture therapy programs; and constructing and renovating playrooms, playgrounds, teen lounges, and family spaces.

"At Spirit Halloween, we are in the business of bringing joy to Halloween celebrations everywhere, but what we're proudest of are the moments of happiness we can deliver to children at pediatric hospitals," said Steven

Silverstein, President and CEO of Spirit Halloween. "The work we do and the funds we raise for families going through difficult times wouldn't be possible without the generous donations from our guests and vendors. If we can make Halloween a bit brighter for the patients, families and our hospital partners, that is what matters most."

To learn more about the child life program at Golisano Children's Hospital and ways to make a difference for young patients, visit www.leehealthfoundation.org/childlife.✧

Airport Reports February Traffic

During February, 1,149,618 passengers traveled through Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW) in Fort Myers. This was an increase of 58 percent compared to February 2021. Year-to-date, passenger traffic is up 55 percent compared to last year.

The traffic leader in February was Delta with 210,182 total passengers. Rounding out the top five airlines were Southwest (198,162), United (159,276), American (141,073) and Spirit (132,475).

Southwest Florida International Airport had 10,032 aircraft operations, an increase of 27 percent compared to February 2021. Page Field saw 13,194 operations, a 23 percent increase compared to February 2021.

Southwest Florida International Airport served more than 10.3 million passengers in 2021 and is one of the top 50 U.S. airports for passenger traffic. No ad valorem (property) taxes are used for airport operation or construction. For more information, visit www.flylcpa.com or facebook.com/flyrsw.✧

Superior Interiors

Designing A Book Nook In Your Home



by Katie Frederick

There's nothing cozier than curling up in your home with a great book to relax, which is why designing a designated book nook may be the best next project in your abode.

Any space in your home can become a book nook with the right interior design, whether it's your bedroom, living room or an unused corner in your home. All you need is the right furniture and design pieces to capture the warm, welcoming vibes of your ideal book nook.

Ready to get started? Read on and discover the ways you can design your dream book nook:

1. Integrate warm lighting – You want your space to be cozy, but it also needs to serve its main purpose: reading. This is where you can have fun with different light fixture designs. Warm lighting will allow you to see the pages of your book without feeling like you're working in an office space. Take a look at table lamps, standing lamps and hanging lights that are designed with natural materials, such as wood, wicker or woven material. This creates a relaxing atmosphere, perfect for reading. Once you have the main reading light, you can also have fun with additional lights, such as string lights to add a soft, atmospheric design.

2. Work with the space you have – Whether it's a corner section of your living room, a closet or even your attic, look for furniture that fits and complements the space you've selected for your ideal book nook. For tight spaces, a plush armchair can make the

perfect addition – great for snuggling up with your favorite book. You can also opt for a piece that acts like a fitted bench, such as a daybed. This offers the added benefit of storage possibilities.

3. Have fun with textiles – Textiles are great, simple design additions that can add color, warmth and comfort to your dream book nook. From textured pillows to shag rugs and soft drapery, your space will become the most welcoming place to read in your home. What's more inviting than a woven, soft blanket to wrap yourself in at the end of the day? Add your favorite colors or patterns and you've created the perfect book nook.

4. Invest in a bookshelf or book display. A fun bookshelf can be the perfect inspiration to get you seated in your book nook. With all your options on display, you'll be motivated to sit down and explore the pages of a new or familiar book at a moment's notice. Look for bookshelves that can fit into the available space and add to the cozy atmosphere. If you don't have room for a full-size wooden bookshelf, you can explore other options, such as floating wall shelves or utility carts that can be wheeled into the space.

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

Blood Donors Needed

Lee Health is seeking blood donations to help replenish supply levels. As home to the region's only trauma center, it is vital that the health system's blood supply remains at healthy levels in order to quickly care for patients needing an urgent transfusion.

All blood donated at Lee Health stays within the health system to care for patients in Southwest Florida.

For more information on how and where to donate, visit www.leehealth.org/our-services/blood-centers.

Children's Center Hires Director Of Operations

Matthew Parkinson has joined the Children's Advocacy Center of SWFL (CAC) as the director of operations. In this role, Parkinson will oversee the daily operations of all of CAC's programs.

"Matthew has extensive experience in child welfare and operational management, that will enhance and strengthen our staff and, in turn, augment the services the center provides to children who have been abused and their families," said Julie Boudreaux CAC's CEO. "His knowledge and skills will be an asset to our team, and we are thrilled to have him."

Parkinson is a graduate of Florida State University's College of Criminology and Criminal Justice. He is originally from Pennsylvania but was raised in the Southwest Florida community. Prior to joining the CAC, Parkinson had an extensive career in child welfare and advocacy specializing in child welfare case management, most recently serving as the director of case management



Matthew Parkinson

for the Children's Network of SWFL. Additionally, Parkinson has held positions in quality management and as a safety practice expert for the Department of Children and Families.

Nonstop Flights To Las Vegas And Charleston

Beginning in June, Breeze Airways will begin service to Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW) with nonstop flights to Las Vegas (LAS) and Charleston, South Carolina (CHS). The flights will operate twice a week on Wednesdays and Saturdays, utilizing a new A220-300 aircraft with 126 seats in a three-class configuration.

"We are looking forward to welcoming Breeze Airways, one of the newest airlines in the United States, to Southwest Florida International Airport this summer," said Ben Siegel, CPA, CM, executive director of the Lee County Port Authority. "It is outstanding to have a new carrier at RSW, but even more exciting that Breeze will serve Charleston, South Carolina and Las Vegas, which are highly sought destinations by our community."

To book a flight or find out more information, visit www.flybreeze.com. For more information about Southwest Florida International Airport, visit www.flylcpa.com or facebook.com/flyrsw.

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Frankly Speaking



by Howard Prager
NCAA-A! That third A is for Amazing. For the first time in March Madness history, a 15th-ranked team defied all odds and made it to the Elite Eight. Then along came Goliath in the

form of North Carolina and they let out all the air. The St. Peter's express was sent back to the freight yard, albeit with greater knowledge and respect than ever. The Tar Heels want to ruin another fan favorite this coming weekend when they face archrival Duke. Basketball fans will be cheering for Coach K. to go out on top (or for Kansas, the only No. 1 left, to do what the other top seeds failed to do). But the Peacocks can't erase what we saw, what we experienced as all of our brackets got busted in part by a team with a coach who makes far less than an assistant coach at a power-ranked school. For that's what sports does, leveling the playing field and allowing underdogs let it all hang out on any given Sunday – until last Sunday. I looked at the odds. What started out as a 1,000 to 1 shot for St. Peter's to win it all came up as just 30 to 1 odds once they reached the Elite Eight. We all love the Horatio Alger stories of the self-made person or, in this

case, self-made team. At a time when all we read about overpaid, out-of-touch players and owners, here shined a little spotlight on a school no one had ever heard of and doing remarkable things. Keep dreaming my friends, for there are thousands of Davids out there, all wanting to slay Goliath. This quote from Yahoo Sports and Peacocks coach Shane Holloway says it all: "They hooked basketball fans but also non-basketball fans who identified with what they represented." They "shocked the world," Holloway said, and made memories they'll eventually share with kids and grandkids, and that, he was adamant, is what matters. "It's a story within a story," he said. No New Jersey school had made the men's Elite Eight in three decades, and "Saint Peter's did it. Point-blank, period. And I'm gonna end it on that."

What else is on the move? The bases. In all ballparks, the bases have been enlarged from 15 to 18 inches square. Why you ask? According to Kyle Glaser of *Baseball America*, increasing the size of the bases would ideally lead to an increase in stolen base success rates, increase in infield hits and decrease in number of collisions and injuries around the bag. On the flip side, your scribe wonders if there will also be more double plays, given the fact that so many players have to "cheat" at second to get the ball to first base in time. This was tried in Triple A ball last year, and there was some increase in stolen bases. We'll see what happens this year. In conjunction with that, all minor league teams will

re-envision the baseball diamond in the second half of the season. They are moving second base in, and Jayson Stark from The Athletic explains the geometry behind it. "The reason tracks back more than a century to the weirdness of where second base was originally located on the diamond. There has never been a distance of 90 feet between first and second or second to third base. The goal is to create a shorter distance to encourage more base stealing and first-to-third base running. The short explanation is that first and third were originally repositioned to help umpires make fair/foul calls. But they never moved second base too, which they will now do, inwards so it will be closer to first and third base by about 13.5 inches." Keep your eyes open for more thievery the second half of this minor league season.

Our good news story of the week comes from the Good News Network. "Bismack Biyombo has announced he will donate the entire \$1.3 million value of his contract to the construction of a hospital in his home town in Congo. Taking last season off to care for his sick father, who passed away in August of 2021, Biyombo said he became aware of just how fortunate he was simply to be able to bring his father to the hospital. The announcement was made two months after Biyombo signed a one-year contract with the Phoenix Suns in January of this year. The construction will be carried out through the Bismack Biyombo Foundation, which uses the star's success as an NBA player to help

those in the DR Congo. During the early pandemic, the foundation delivered \$1 million in medical supplies to hospitals across the country.

"The foundation focuses on creating initiatives in three areas to multiply opportunities for children in the DRC: athletics, education and health. Its work results in 185 annually-granted scholarships, 150 higher education opportunities, and helps over a thousand patients every week receive treatment at Congolese hospitals. 'I told my agent my salary for this year would be going to the construction of a hospital back home to give hope to the hopeless,' Miyombo said in an interview released on his foundation's YouTube channel. 'I want to be able to give them better conditions so that they can somewhat have hope that their loved ones will be able to live and see another day. The hospital will be named in honor of the man whom Miyombo described as 'my friend, my business partner, my mentor, and everything, my father'." What a generous and selfless act. Most of us can't honor our parents in this way so, as I say in my book *Make Someone's Day*, thank your parents or other role models and influencers for how they helped you in life. They'd love to know, and you'll be glad you made the effort to do so.

*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 to press@islandnews.com.**

Report Horseshoe Crab Sightings For Conservation

Spring marks the peak mating season for horseshoe crabs. Help biologists with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) gather information about these ancient creatures by reporting sightings on the online survey.

Horseshoe crabs mate by pairing up, with the smaller male attached to the larger female. They then crawl onto the beach up to the high tide line where the female digs a nest and lays her eggs, all while the male is attached and fertilizing the freshly laid eggs. They mate year-round, but it is most common to see mating groups along the shore of sandy, lower wave action beaches in March and April, as well as September and October.

Beachgoers will have the most luck spotting horseshoe crabs around high tide within a few days of a new or full moon. Reporting horseshoe crab sightings provides valuable information about habitat use, population distribution and environmental conditions for nesting to the FWC.

Although horseshoe crabs have existed for more than 450 million years, scientists are still learning about Florida populations. Public sighting information helps FWC researchers target nesting beaches for the Florida Horseshoe Crab Watch Program, a citizen science-based



Horseshoe crabs photo provided

initiative to collect data throughout the state.

If you see a horseshoe crab on its back, you can help it flip back over by gently picking it up (holding both sides of the shell), turning it over and releasing it back into the water. Simple actions such as this help conserve this species and the many other species that depend on it.

The FWC asks the public to report sightings by visiting www.myfwc.com/ research and clicking on Crustaceans then Horseshoe Crabs and selecting Report Your Nesting Horseshoe Crab Sighting.*

Steer Clear Of Power Lines While Boating

While experiencing the Southwest Florida waterways in your boat, remember your sunscreen, towels, snacks and the most important part of boating – safety.

Lee County Electric Cooperative reminds all boaters to avoid coming into contact with power lines. Not only does contact pose a risk of power interruptions, it could mean serious injuries and even death. Be sure to keep at least a 10-foot distance between your boat and power lines.

If your boat comes in contact with a power line, do not jump into the water. The water could be energized and dangerous. Remain calm and stay in the boat, but do not touch anything metal until help arrives and the boat is no longer in contact with the line.

If your boat's wiring is not in compliance with American Yacht Club Standards, hire a professional to get your boat's electrical system in compliance.

Check that your dockside outlets have ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs), and that any cords plugged into the outlets are in good condition without any exposed wires or broken casing.

Respect the importance of boating safely around power lines. For more safety tips, visit www.lcec.net.*

SPORTS QUIZ

1. What piece of sports equipment served as the ball in the first-ever game of softball played in Chicago in 1887?
2. Name the Scottish golfer who won the Open Championship in 1985 and the Masters Tournament in 1988.
3. During the 1970s, the unofficial, unsanctioned cross-country auto race known as the Cannonball Run had its finish line at what location?
4. What bowling show aired on NBC TV from 1959-61 and had Leo Durocher, Mel Allen and Bud Palmer among its hosts?
5. Name the Australian tennis great who won 24 Grand Slam singles titles – including seven straight at the Australian Open – during her pro career from 1959-77?
6. Who succeeded Buddy Ryan as head coach of the Philadelphia Eagles in 1991?
7. Basketball Hall of Famer Nate Archibald has his No. 1 jersey retired by what NBA franchise?

ANSWERS

1. A boxing glove. 2. Sandy Lyle. 3. The Portofino Inn in Redondo Beach, California. 4. Jackpot Bowling. 5. Margaret Smith Court. 6. Rich Kottke. 7. The Sacramento Kings.

Doctor and Dietician

Positive People Live Longer



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

Did you know that people who feel happy or have a positive outlook on life live longer? The Greek philosopher Aristotle said, “happiness is the meaning and purpose of life, the whole aim and end of human existence” more than 2,000 years ago. Happiness

is defined as a state in which pleasure decidedly predominates over pain. Others describe happiness as “subjective well-being” or basically how satisfied people feel with their lives. Other researchers describe happiness as the experience of joy, contentment or positive well-being, combined with a sense that your life is good, meaningful and worthwhile.

Studies over the years have shown that people with positive outlooks live anywhere from four to 18 percent longer than their less positive counterparts. In our book club, we are reading and discussing *Positive Intelligence*, as we mentioned a few weeks ago. We recently learned that we can first help shift our own thoughts from negative to positive, and then help bring others along to the positive as well. When we feel anger, resentment, hurt, or other negative emotions, we can learn to treat them like we do when we put our hand on a hot stove – acknowledge it and then quickly lift your hand off it. If we love and feel peace toward ourselves, we can easily do this.

For our Caring Medical patients who are dealing with very difficult health and/or personal situations, it sometimes

becomes difficult to not “go to the dark side” – something we have all experienced at some time or another. Remember the song titled *What Doesn't Kill You Makes You Stronger*? Well, that holds true, right? Being able to turn tragedy, difficult situations, hurts, or disappointment into a gift can end up being a tremendous blessing to someone else, and ourselves as well. Coming through to the other side of these types of situations strengthens us and prepares us for the next thing. We were recently discussing how people who exercise or train or compete in sporting events are used to taking their bodies to a point of pain. Those last 6.2 miles of a 26.2 running marathon have pushed us to that point many times.

Those with positive outlooks also tend to be healthier, gain less weight and eat better, which obviously contributes to improved longevity. Here are some of our favorite tips to help you work on attaining a positive outlook and improving longevity: take responsibility for your own health; realize that everything you say, do and think has either a positive or negative effect on your body; prayer can change your life; analyze whether you're a selfish

or selfless person; reduce time spent on the Internet and television, especially related to negativity and violence; connect with real people and develop real relationships; meditate and focus on the positive aspects of your life; get at least seven to eight hours of sleep per night; listen to positive and calming music; exercise regularly – at least 30 minutes per day of moderate exercise; keep moving – motion is lotion as our Back in Motion physical therapist friends say; and eat well – you cannot expect to feel positive if your body is not running well. Our bodies need energy and nutrients to function optimally.

It is never too late to turn over a new leaf. Start the process toward positivity and be a light in the darkness. You will be blessed and so will others.

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.✧

dearRPharmacist

Put Horseradish On The Table



by Suzy
Cohen, RPh

Dear Readers:
I went to a local Polish German restaurant the other day, and as I was eating the beet horseradish with the corn beef, I had to blow my nose, and

then my mind wandered...What causes the unique 'burn' sensation that so quickly clears my sinuses, lol?! What is this stuff?

It's a root! Horseradish (*Armoracia rusticana*) has a few critical minerals like zinc, calcium, magnesium and potassium. But the condiment has a pungent flavor thanks to “sinigrin.” You may not have heard of sinigrin but you've certainly tasted it before because it naturally occurs in other foods and condiments such as wasabi, mustard and the crucifer veggies like Brussels sprouts, kale and broccoli. The sinigrin converts naturally to form this other compound called “allyl isothiocyanate” (AITC).

There are medical benefits to natural horseradish, so if you like it, eat it every now and then. It's not possible to eat enough in one sitting to make any

kind of nutritional dent, so don't go off your medicine for any of the following problems. That said, here is where it has some medicinal activity:

Respiratory problems – You knew this already! If you have bronchitis, a mild cough, or sinus congestion, the horseradish will temporarily clear that up and help with drainage. Horseradish is often used holistically as a natural adjunctive treatment for asthma and hayfever.

Digestion – There are holistic practitioners that know horseradish helps normalize bowel movements and therefore might help with constipation by stimulating peristalsis.

Tumor Growth – There is some research that suggests liver cancer spread may be slowed in the presence of sinigrin. Slowing metastasis down is important. In 2010, there was another study that proved AITC beneficial “as a cancer chemopreventive phytochemical.” And, in a paper from *Carcinogenesis* 2010, researchers concluded that AITC “is a multi-targeted agent against bladder cancer... and potentially inhibits bladder cancer development and invasion.”

Horseradish is a strong anti-inflammatory food. It inhibits COX, LOX and prostaglandins. It lessens inflammation and has some antimicrobial activity. In short, it has some useful analgesic activity.

Little ones like 3-, 4- and 5-year-olds shouldn't be eating horseradish. Also, pregnant women should not eat too much because it has naturally occurring (and irritating chemicals) in it along with that

AITC. The same can be said if you are breast-feeding because your baby will not like your breast milk very much. But for everyone else, it's tasty and healthy.

One simple way to incorporate horseradish is to put it on top of your hamburger or a roast beef sandwich. Traditionally, you see it served with red meat dishes. I've never had a Bloody Mary, but they put horseradish and hot pepper sauce in that drink! I'll have to try that one

day, but only if some Pepcid is handy.

I have a longer version of this article posted on my website, plus some recipes using horseradish and a recipe cookbook, available at www.suzycohen.com.

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

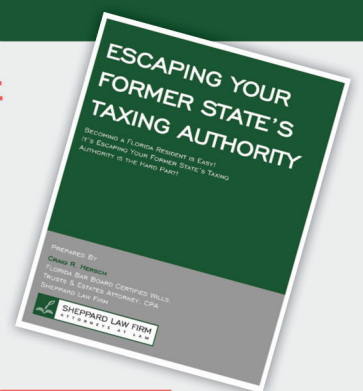
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- Emergency 911
- Lee County Sheriff's Office 477-1200
- Florida Marine Patrol 332-6966
- Florida Highway Patrol 278-7100
- Poison Control 1-800-282-3171
- HealthPark Medical Center 1-800-936-5321
- Ft. Myers Chamber of Commerce 332-3624
- Foundation 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
 - 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 23



"I think of him as the answer to my fight
against _____."

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!

Simple
EAVIN

Notify
MORFIN

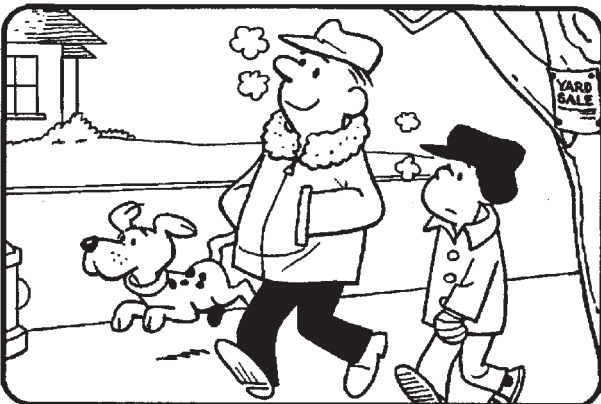
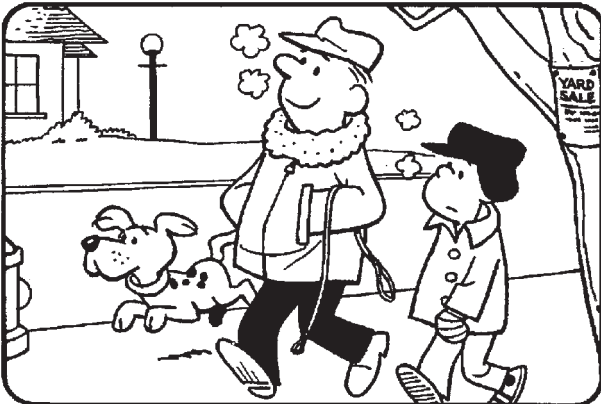
Glue
STAPLER

Celebration
STARAY

TODAY'S WORD

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Lamppost is missing. 2. Dog's ear is missing. 3. Collar is different. 4. Leash is missing. 5. Jacket is smaller. 6. Poster is different.

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

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.

PUZZLES

Answers on page 23

Super Crossword

BLOOMIN' HUMANS

- ACROSS
- 1 "Rabbit food"

6 Back-and-forth talk

12 Cold case solvers, often

20 Oven maker

21 Source of weather upheaval

22 This instant

23 MTV's first Latina video jockey

25 "Don't go anywhere"

26 Dresses up

27 Cubs' and Eagles' gp.

29 Mazda

30 Common conjunction

31 Social-climbing snob on "Keeping Up Appear-ances"

37 Gp. in the Arab League

40 Funny Conan

42 Blends to mush

43 35th president's mother

46 Banjoist Fleck

47 Inkling

51 Carve — career

52 Post-Q string
- 53 "The Sea, the Sea" novelist of 1978

56 Highway jam

58 Adhesive rolls

60 German king called "the Great"

61 Verb suffix in London

62 When Hamlet's soliloquy is recited

66 — New Guinea (island nation)

69 Li'l Abner's mother

71 Friend of Lucy van Pelt and Patty

76 Beef up

77 Clout

79 Gold, in Peru

80 "You can't — train"

83 Actress Dianne

84 Famed killer whale

86 "Lost Souls" novelist of 1992

90 Penpoint

93 Siberia locale

94 Chichi

95 Tehran locale

96 Vampiric TV housewife
- 100 Shorthand whiz, in brief

102 Poe's "radiant maiden"

103 Cleveland-to-Raleigh dir.

104 Aunt of Harry Potter

109 DJ's platters

111 Level, grassy plain

112 Pub fixture

113 Ball-shaped blooms

117 Aim for

121 Hippies (and an alternate title for this puzzle)

125 Tidied up

126 Novelist Gay

127 Trashed stuff

128 Declared

129 Declared

130 Busybody
- DOWN
- 1 "Smooth Operator" singer

2 "Walk Like —"

3 Woodsy den

4 Actor Williams

5 Diary

6 God, in Latin

7 — de-France

8 Actress Sheridan
- 9 Ignited

10 Last year before the first century

11 Busybody

12 HMO VIPs

13 Petty peeve

14 — Khan

15 Lymphoid organ in the neck

16 Moral code

17 Sort not to be trusted

18 E_ggy cake

19 Elbow grease

24 "Giant" novelist Edna

28 Wolf-headed Egyptian god

31 Inkling

32 "— -haw!"

33 Common conjunction

34 Uno plus dos

35 Ship's wheel

36 Romeo

37 Bit of expert advice

38 Writer — May Alcott

39 "Your Best Life Now" author Joel

41 ICU figures

44 Water, to Watteau

45 "Gadzooks!"

47 Dog collar attachment

48 Part of many an emoticon
- 49 Friendly introduction?

50 Sushi tuna

54 Keanu of the screen

55 Driving paths

57 Check-giving time at work

58 Fri. follows it

59 Arrid target

63 Film dancer Charisse

64 Wee kid

65 Ring victory, for short

66 Cooking vessels

67 Muhammad —

68 Guitar piece

70 Overly sweet

72 Suffix with journal

73 Celebrity tributes

74 Fighting forces

75 1983 Lionel Richie hit

78 Film holder

80 Health club

81 Blue Jays, on sports tickers

82 Decide

83 Triumph in the end

85 Keeps

87 Tube-shaped pasta

88 La — Tar Pits
- 89 Senator Paul

90 Big Apple's city and state: Abbr.

91 "I'd say," in a text message

92 Coarse sack material

97 Unwell

98 Spike of films

99 They may cry "Uncle!"

100 One napping noisily

101 Inserted plant shoots

104 Main course of action

105 Nobody — (mine alone)

106 Spanish bar appetizers

107 Link up

108 Messy impact sound

110 MIT business school name

113 Historical slave Scott

114 — facto

115 Countertenor

116 Filter slowly

118 Strep doc

119 Golf prop

120 Singular

122 Ending for Motor

123 Soggy

124 Suffix with journal

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	10	11		12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
20						21							22								
23					24								25								
26										27		28				29					
			30				31	32	33				34	35	36						
37	38	39		40		41					42										
43			44							45		46					47	48	49	50	
51					52					53	54					55					
56				57				58	59							60					
61				62	63	64	65						66	67	68						
69			70								71	72						73	74	75	
			76						77	78								79			
80	81	82						83								84	85				
86						87	88	89					90	91	92		93				
94					95					96	97	98				99					
				100						101		102						103			
104	105	106	107							108					109		110				
111															113				114	115	116
117						118	119	120					122	123	124						
125										126							127				
128										129							130				

King Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Slander in print

6 L-P link

9 Old map letters

12 Fred's dancing partner

13 Goal

14 Salt Lake athlete

15 Lightweight wood

16 "Lust for Life" punk rocker

18 Duration

20 Sea predator

21 "I'm not im-pressed"

23 Poseidon's home

24 Serpentine

25 "— a roll!"

27 Lent a hand

29 Live-in nanny

31 Mine vehicle

35 Call on

37 Activist Parks

38 Island porch

41 Stitch

43 Resistance unit

44 "Oops!"

45 Proverbial burg

47 1987 Peter Weller film

49 Hotel posting

52 CBS logo
- 53 Group of two

54 Said something

55 ISP alternative

56 Norm (Abbr.)

57 Plains shelter
- DOWN
- 1 Science room

2 Writer Tarbell

3 Hotel staffer

4 Otherwise

5 Inclines

6 Rum cocktail

7 At hand

8 Texter's
- "Wow!"

9 Toyota model

10 Inventory

11 Settle a debt

17 There

19 Bike components

21 Ms. Farrow

22 Ostrich's kin

24 Sun. talk

26 Arizona tribe

28 Fawned (on)

30 Jr.'s son

32 Stove work-space

33 Fireplace resi-due
- 34 Zodiac animal

36 14-legged crustacean

38 Enticed

39 Greetings at sea

40 Prestigious prize

42 German sausage

45 Sulk

46 Scruff

48 LPs' successors

50 Scrape (out)

51 Observe

MAGIC MAZE ● NECKLACE STYLES

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: Fits Tightly Around the Neck

- Bib
- Collar
- Festoon
- Graduated
- Lariat
- Lavaliere
- Locket
- Matinee
- Multi-strand
- Negligee
- Opera
- Pendant
- Princess
- Sautoir
- Tassel



Deviled Potatoes

photo courtesy Fresh From Florida



Deviled Potatoes
1-pound small gold potatoes
1 egg, hard-boiled
1 rib celery, finely diced (small amount reserved for garnish)
2 mini sweet peppers, finely diced (small amount reserved for garnish)
2-3 strips bacon, cooked and crumbled, reserve 1 tablespoon bacon grease (small amount reserved for garnish)
3 tablespoons mayonnaise
1-2 tablespoons mustard (start with 1 tablespoon and add more to taste)
Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste
Fill large pot with water and bring to

a boil, add 1 tablespoon salt, and boil potatoes until fork-tender, about 10-12 minutes. Remove, drain, and cool enough to handle. Slice a very small amount off one end of the potato, creating a stable surface. Using the small end of a melon baller, scoop out approximately 3/4 of the potato, making sure to leave enough of the potato intact in order to fill back up. In a small bowl combine the scooped-out potato, cooked egg yolk, reserved bacon grease, and mash until you reach a smooth consistency. Stir in mayonnaise, mustard, chopped egg whites, celery, and sweet peppers. Season with salt and pepper, taste and adjust if needed. To fill potatoes, use a pastry bag or small spoon. Garnish with remaining peppers, celery, and crumbled bacon.
Fresh tip: use other toppings for different flavors, such as chopped olives or pickled vegetables.*

PETS OF THE WEEK



Boost ID# A907865 photos provided Lee County Domestic Animal Services

Boost And Klaus

Hello, my name is Boost. I am a black and white 2-year-old male domestic shorthair. I am a playful tuxedo cat that absolutely loves playing with toys. Give me an automated one, and I will be busy for hours. I will analyze it first to try to figure it out. I play in the cat window to try to get the attention of all who walk by as I wait for my person to come. My adoption fee is \$20.
Hi, I'm Klaus. I am a smoke-colored 1-year-old male Siberian husky. I am a recent graduate of the Cell Dog program with the Lee County Sheriff's Office. This 10-week program teaches basic obedience skills such as loose leash walking, sit, lay down, stay, come when



Klaus ID# A903940

called, and I am house- and crate-trained. My adoption fee is \$75.
It is all fun and games at Animal Services during April leading up to the eighth annual Flip This Kennel event. This year's theme is children's toys, and the Animal Service's staff is kicking off the month with reduced adoption fees. All adult dogs will be just \$20 and cats just \$10 with an approved application.
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.*

My Stars ★★★★★ FOR WEEK OF MARCH 28, 2022

Aries (March 21 to April 19) Be careful about doing someone a favor when you don't know the full story behind the request. Don't rely on someone's unsubstantiated assurances. Insist on all the facts before you act.
Taurus (April 20 to May 20) That workplace problem still needs your attention before you finally can close the book on it. Meanwhile, a long-anticipated reunion gets closer to becoming a happy reality.
Gemini (May 21 to June 20) You might be demanding more from others than they can give. Best advice: Have a long and frank talk to determine what the facts are. Tensions should abate as the week winds down.
Cancer (June 21 to July 22) Aspects are favorable throughout this week for making contacts that could be important to your career plans. Meanwhile, an old friend offers the advice you're seeking.
Leo (July 23 to August 22) It's time to stop licking your wounds from past mistakes. Get up and get going toward your future. Loyal friends will

be there to help the Lion get back into rip-roaring shape.
Virgo (August 23 to September 22) Take time out to go over what's expected of you before you begin your new project. Otherwise, you run the risk of pushing yourself harder than you need to.
Libra (September 23 to October 22) An unusual request could put you in an awkward position. Best advice: Deal with it immediately. The longer you delay, the more difficult it will be to get out of it.
Scorpio (October 23 to November 21) You should feel recharged and ready for whatever your workaday world holds for you. The same positive energy spills over into your personal relationships.
Sagittarius (November 22 to December 21) A prospect might be less than it appears to be. Like the Archer in your sign, you always aim for the truth. And this is no time to settle for less than full disclosure.
Capricorn (December 22 to January 19) Start doing some serious thinking about a career move that could entail more than just changing job sites. Some lifestyle changes also might be involved.

Aquarius (January 20 to February 18) With tensions easing at the workplace, a more positive environment once again encourages the free flow of ideas so typical of the always-innovative Aquarian.
Pisces (February 19 to March 20) Show some of that usually hidden steel-strong Piscean backbone, and stand up for yourself if you hope to make a case for that promotion you know you deserve.
Born This Week: You enjoy doing new things and staying ahead of the crowd. You would make a fine sports coach or military leader.

MOMENTS IN TIME

• On April 6, 1776, the Continental Congress takes the first step toward American independence by announcing its decision to open all American ports to international trade with any part of the world that is not under British rule. It was the first act of independence by the Continental Congress.
• On April 9, 1859, a 23-year-old Missouri youth named Samuel Langhorne Clemens receives his steamboat pilot's license. Clemens

would later write under the pseudonym Mark Twain, a boatman's call noting that the river was only 2 fathoms deep, the minimum depth for safe navigation.
• On April 10, 1879, Schandor Herz – the future John Hertz, the man behind what will one day be the world's largest car-rental company – is born in present-day Slovakia. In 1923, Hertz bought a fleet of used Ford Model Ts and named the business Hertz Drive-Ur-Self Corporation.
• On April 5, 1955, Sir Winston Leonard Spencer Churchill, the British leader who guided Great Britain and the Allies through the crisis of World War II, retires as prime minister of Great Britain. In the first year of his administration, Britain had stood alone against Nazi Germany.
• On April 7, 1961, President John F. Kennedy sends a letter to Congress recommending that the U.S. participate in an international campaign to preserve ancient temples and historic monuments in Egypt's Nile Valley threatened by construction of the Aswan High Dam.
• On April 4, 1973, the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center officially



FRIDAY
Few Showers
High: 80 Low: 69



SATURDAY
Mostly Cloudy
High: 81 Low: 71



SUNDAY
Mostly Sunny
High: 79 Low: 68



MONDAY
Sunny
High: 80 Low: 71



TUESDAY
Sunny
High: 82 Low: 70



WEDNESDAY
Sunny
High: 80 Low: 71



THURSDAY
Sunny
High: 81 Low: 70

Redfish Pass Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	2:06 am	7:42 am	2:02 pm	8:14 pm
Sat	2:50 am	7:59 am	2:16 pm	8:52 pm
Sun	3:34 am	8:15 am	2:33 pm	9:31 pm
Mon	4:22 am	8:29 am	2:55 pm	10:14 pm
Tue	5:18 am	8:40 am	3:21 pm	11:02 pm
Wed	6:39 am	8:39 am	3:52 pm	None
Thu	4:30 pm	12:00 am	None	None

Point Ybel Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	1:11 am	7:44 am	1:07 pm	8:16 pm
Sat	1:55 am	8:01 am	1:21 pm	8:54 pm
Sun	2:39 am	8:17 am	1:38 pm	9:33 pm
Mon	3:27 am	8:31 am	2:00 pm	10:16 pm
Tue	4:23 am	8:42 am	2:26 pm	11:04 pm
Wed	5:44 am	8:41 am	2:57 pm	None
Thu	3:35 pm	12:02 am	None	None

Punta Rassa Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	1:43 am	8:04 am	1:54 pm	8:29 pm
Sat	2:21 am	8:33 am	2:12 pm	9:08 pm
Sun	3:02 am	8:58 am	2:25 pm	9:46 pm
Mon	3:47 am	9:16 am	2:34 pm	10:24 pm
Tue	4:35 am	9:25 am	2:53 pm	11:03 pm
Wed	5:25 am	9:29 am	3:26 pm	11:50 pm
Thu	6:22 am	9:43 am	4:09 pm	None

Cape Coral Bridge Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	4:16 am	10:58 am	4:12 pm	11:30 pm
Sat	5:00 am	11:15 am	4:26 pm	None
Sun	5:44 am	12:08 am	4:43 pm	11:31 am
Mon	6:32 am	12:47 am	5:05 pm	11:45 am
Tue	7:28 am	1:30 am	5:31 pm	11:56 am
Wed	8:49 am	2:18 am	6:02 pm	11:55 am
Thu	6:40 pm	3:16 am	None	None

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THE RIVER
WEEKLY NEWS
FROM THE BEACHES TO DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS
Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Bird Walks With Audubon Society

The Sanibel-Captiva Audubon Society is offering bird walks at 8 a.m. at the following locations:
April 2, Lighthouse Beach Park
April 9, Lakes Park in Fort Myers
Visit www.san-capaudubon.org for more information, including directions to each site.✧

From page 20

Moments In Time

open in New York City. The buildings replaced the Empire State Building as the world’s tallest building, though they would only hold that title for a year.
• On April 8, 1989, California Angels rookie pitcher Jim Abbott, who was born without a right hand, makes his Major League Baseball debut in a 7-0 loss to the Seattle Mariners.

NOW HERE’S A TIP

• For moister and softer cookies, use honey as a substitute for a third of the sugar in your cookie recipe.

- And speaking of honey, did you know it has antibacterial properties? Yep. Try rubbing a bit of it over a small cut for faster, more natural healing.
- “Keep venetian blinds from sticking to one another and discourage dust by rubbing them down individually with a sheet of fabric softener. This effect will last at least a month, in my experience.” – SF in Alabama
- “Have a headache? Try drinking a couple of glasses of a sports drink. This works for my friends and me. Maybe we just need to be drinking more water, but the sports drinks get us back on track more quickly than medicine most times.” – EL in Colorado
- “This time-tested tip will keep your houseplants in the green while you’re away from home: Set plants in the bathtub in an inch or less of water. If your flowerpot does not have drain holes, get a short length of cotton rope and feed it from the topsoil to the tub. This will keep plants alive and thriving for a week or more.” – DR in Florida
- “Having a hard time cutting out soda? Try this: Every time you reach for a glass of soda, drink a full cup of water first. You will find that your thirst is sated better, and you are not as “thirsty” for that sugar water!” – FE in South Carolina

STRANGE BUT TRUE

- Agree with those diehard fans of Pluto who still insist it’s a planet? So does New Mexico. Its legislature resolved that Pluto is still legally a planet... at least whenever it passes over the state.
- During a time of political turmoil, Michelangelo hid in a secret room under Florence’s Medici Chapel for three months, passing the time by sketching on the walls. His secret wasn’t discovered until some five centuries later, when the museum director stumbled upon the room in 1976.
- Honorary members of the Harlem Globetrotters include Pope John Paul II and Pope Francis.
- The Rhizanthella gardneri orchid, which grows entirely underground, was discovered by an Australian farmer in 1928 and generated such excitement that a wax model of it toured the British Isles.
- A hen will eat her own raw eggs if not satisfied with her diet.
- The Mexican language Ayapaneco, or, more properly, Nuumte Oote “the true voice”, is dying out, and small wonder: Its only fluent speakers number a grand total of two, and they refuse to talk to each other.
- A paired kidney exchange allows people to donate their kidney that wasn’t a match for an intended recipient to a

stranger in exchange for a kidney that is a match for their loved one.
• In 2010 a San Diego Chipotle customer in a wheelchair successfully sued the restaurant chain with the claim that their tall order counter denied him the full “Chipotle experience” – like watching his order being assembled.
• Sand is the most extracted material in the world.
• Actor Joe Pesci was a singer and guitar player in his early 20s and once played in the same band, called Joey Dee and the Starlifers, as Jimi Hendrix.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Change your thoughts and you change your world.”
– Norman Vincent Peale

TRIVIA TEST

1. **Literature:** Who wrote the poem *Nothing Gold Can Stay*?
2. **Television:** Eric Taylor was the dad in which 2000s TV drama?
3. **Math:** What is the Arabic number equivalent of the Roman numerals MDCCLXXVI?
4. **Geography:** Where is the Tyrrhenian Sea located?
5. **Food & Drink:** What is the primary ingredient in the canned

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Contact Lisa 239-395-0153.
1/21 ✧ TFN

LOST & FOUND

LOST BLACK ZIPPERED
BRUSH CASE

I am a full-time artist on the island and I lost my brush case full of watercolor brushes, pens and pencils etc. over a week ago, somewhere along Middle Gulf Drive. It's a black zippered case. I offer a \$100 reward if you find it. These brushes are of high sentimental value to me. Please contact me at shadjebi@gmail.com
3/25 ✧ TFN

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CYCLING
SAFETY NOTES

- Ride to the Right
- Warn to Pass
- Wear a Helmet
- Use Lights at Night
- Always be Courteous

Shore Fishing:



Don't Harm The Fish
by Capt. Matt Mitchell

Landing a big fish from the beach can be hard on the fish. Dragging a fish up onto the sand if you're going to release it is not an option as it usually damages or kills the fish.
Hold the fish in the water while you unhook it if you're going to release it.
The less you can touch a fish before release the better for the fish.
If you want a picture with the fish, support it as you lift it out of the water – and do it quickly.
Before releasing, revive the fish while holding it in the water; moving it slowly back and forth so water goes over its gills. The fish will let you know when it's ready to swim off.
Florida residents as well as out of state visitors need a fishing license to fish from shore.



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