



THE RIVER WEEKLY NEWS

FREE
Take Me
Home

Vol. 17, No. 48

From the Beaches to the River District downtown Fort Myers NOVEMBER 30, 2018

Holiday Joy At Broadway Palm

by Di Saggau

Elf *The Musical* is now playing at Broadway Palm and it is a sure-fire solution to get you in the holiday spirit. Based on the film starring Will Ferrell, *Elf* tells the story of an orphaned baby boy who was raised by Santa and his helpers at the North Pole. When he grows up, Buddy (Chris Duir) is much taller than his co-workers. Think lanky Tommy Tune and you'll get the picture. While he loves his fellow elves, he eventually realizes that he is definitely different. After learning the truth, he heads off to New York City in search of his father.

Buddy is a 30-year-old innocent, unaware that his bright green and yellow mini top, with matching hat and striped tights, are not the normal attire. Duir's energy and sense of wonder light up the stage reaching everyone in the house, spreading a magical beam of happiness. This is truly his show, and he carries everything off with ease and exceptional talent. When he finds his dad, Walter (Christopher Russell), in his publishing



Cast members of *Elf The Musical*

photo provided

office at the Empire State Building, everything is a madhouse and Buddy doesn't help matters.

Buddy gets a job at Macy's and meets Jovie (Hana Gabrielle), a vivacious yet cynical young woman who isn't in the Christmas spirit nor in the mood for

Buddy. Walter is a non-believer as far as Santa is concerned. He's a workaholic publisher of children's books. His wife Emily (Molly Samson) and their young son Michael, played by Nicholas Salerno the night I saw the show, and shared with Bryeton Archer, feel neglected. Buddy to

the rescue with lots of songs and lots of dances, and a belief in Santa Claus.

The choreography by Amy Marie McCleary is exceptional as always and consists mostly of ensemble work that, at times, resembles the Radio City Rockettes. There are several standout numbers, including *Nobody Cares About Santa*, a bluesy number where Buddy finds himself in a Chinese restaurant with a bunch of fake Santas. The opening dance number with Santa's elves (on their knees) is another winner. The ensemble dancers are amazing.

Victor Legarreta is the perfect Santa, throwing out some one-liners that, while not in the original script, brought big laughs from the audience. The musical score is generic but polished and professional. You probably won't be singing them on the way home but you'll sure enjoy them. *Elf* is directed by Paul Bernier and I highly recommend it for the entire family. All the pieces fit together to create a joyful experience.

Elf The Musical runs through December 25 at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre. Tickets are available at www.broadwaypalm.com, the box office at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers, or by calling 278-4422.✳



The Nowhere Band performing outside at Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center photo provided

Beatles Tribute Band Returns For Festival of Trees

The Nowhere Band returns to the steps of the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center for an outdoor concert on Friday, November 30 from 6 to 10 p.m. The performance will be held during the 12th annual Festival of Trees and features holiday classics alongside Beatles hits.

The premier Beatles tribute band covers

the full spectrum of The Beatles' long and varied career by creating an unparalleled reproduction, entirely live (with no pre-recorded material), of '60s Beatles performances. The band blends period costumes, authentic instruments, modern lighting and a talented quartet of musicians to create an experience any true Beatles fan, young or young-at-heart, simply can't afford to miss. For more information about the Nowhere Band, visit www.thenowhereband.com.

The Festival of Trees holiday festivities continued on page 23

Meet The Artists At Opening Reception

Arts for ACT Gallery will host an opening reception and meet-the-artists session during Art Walk on Friday, December 7 from 6 to 10 p.m.

This month, the downtown gallery will feature Gary Alan Hall's artwork in the main gallery and Yvonne Krystman's art will hang in the White Gallery. New works from the 25 co-op artists will also be showing.

Hall learned to draw as a child by watching his father and continued his artistic interests by working in the graphic arts industry where he learned graphic design and illustration. He worked for Art of the Olympians from 2006 to 2012 as artist liaison and acting curator.

Hall has worked with various mediums over the years and currently favors acrylic painting. Drawing inspiration from illustrators, Hall's work features bold human and animal figures on simple or abstract backgrounds, often reflecting a unique poster-like quality. He has shown his work in galleries and has also participated in several juried exhibits such as Dark Arts 2018, 2D/3D and Art in Public Places at RSW airport.

Krystman brings a multi-disciplinary collection of works inspired by Floridian elements: wind, ocean waves, sunshine and hurricanes. Titled *Wind and Waves*, the exhibit will feature new, mixed media pieces along with raku and traditional pottery.



Catseye by Gary Hall photo provided

For the first time, the Cape Coral-based mixed media artist, potter and photographer will display her samples of wearable art called art4wear wearable art by Yvonne. Visit www.art4wear.com to view the collection. The exhibits will include collections of 12-inch by 12-inch abstract works with 50 percent of sales going to support Abuse Counseling and Treatment, Inc. (ACT).

The closing reception of the exhibition will be held during Music Walk on December 21 from 6 to 9 p.m.

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

Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

Broadway Skyline

by Gerri Reaves, PhD



When this photo of Broadway was taken from Main Street circa 1938, two notable architectural features graced the block, the Colquitt Building's bell tower (left) and the Belmar Building's cupola (midblock right center).

This block of Broadway was conceived and built in the mid-1920s, the brainchild of Hendry Colquitt, George R. Sims, and Lucius C. "LC" Curtright. The city granted permission for the developers to construct the street and the Post Office Arcade (midblock on left) was the first structure to be completed.

The predominate architectural style on this block of Broadway – indeed, in much of historic downtown -- is the Mediterranean

Revivalist style so popular during the Florida boom.

The style's characteristics include non-overhanging eaves, arched openings, red-tile roof, stucco surface, asymmetrical façade and floorplan, and decorative tiles, friezes and ironwork.

A bell tower like the one on the Colquitt corner (far left) qualifies as a more showy and familiar feature of the closely related Spanish Mission style.

Constructed of brick, hollow tile and steel, the building had heart-pine floors, a Spanish-tile roof, stucco façade and an ornamental frieze along the front.

Look closely at the sign in historic photo to read "Fort Myers Café." That business moved in shortly after the Colquitt opened and stayed until 1962, making it the oldest cafe in the city and the longest residing tenant at the time.

The tower contained an actual bell until the late 1940s, when it was removed and bats evicted.

The bell-less tower still stands on that northwest corner.

Cupolas like the one on the two-story Belmar Building are scarce in Fort Myers.

The bell- or cup-shaped cupola is best described as a domed roof accent.

It is not exclusive to the Mediterranean or Mission style and may or may not



In this circa-1938 northward view of Broadway from Main Street, the Colquitt Building's bell tower (left) and the Belmar Building's cupola (right center) distinguish the skyline

photo courtesy IMAG History & Science Center



The bell-less tower remains on the corner but the cupola has been sacrificed to modernization. The gigantic crane etched across the sky (upper center) signals change in the historic district.

photo by Gerri Reaves

contain a bell.

The Belmar opened in 1926 across from the Post Office Arcade. Constructed of tile and stucco, it had a 50-foot frontage, with shops and businesses at street level and offices above.

A series of single-story storefronts extended to Main and around the corner.

Now the Belmar is a law firm, and during conversions over the years lost not only its cupola but most of its original boom-time features.

On the other hand, the Colquitt Building is still home to diverse businesses and retains many original ornamental features, although the half-moon windows about the awnings are blocked off.

While downtown's streetscaping and the bell tower recall Broadway's boom-time look, there's one sure sign of 21st century change that is impossible to miss: the enormous crane stretching across in the sky. It portends change from the Luminary Hotel construction site on Bay Street.

Walk down to Main and Broadway and compare the view to that of eight decades ago.

Then learn more about the invention of Broadway at the following two research centers.

The Southwest Florida Historical Society is an all-volunteer, non-profit organization open Wednesday and Saturday between 9 a.m. and noon and Wednesday 4 to 7 p.m.

It is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard on the campus of the Lee County Alliance for the Arts. Call 939-4044 or visit www.swflhistoricalsociety.org for more information.

The Lee County Black History Society is located at 1936 Henderson Avenue, adjacent to the Williams Academy Museum at Roberto Clemente Park.

Hours for the all-volunteer, non-profit organization are Wednesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday by appointment only.

For more information, call 332-8778 or visit www.leecountyblackhistorysociety.org.

Sources: Archives of the Southwest Florida Historical Society and the *Fort Myers Press*.✽✽

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December 2018

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December 4 & 11 at 9:30 a.m.

Learn about Shell Point's signature Lifestyle with Lifecare, followed by a narrated bus tour that will showcase the community's resort-style retirement options and amenities. Admission to the presentation and tour is free; however, reservations are required by calling (239) 466-1131.

December 3 at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Shell Point Gift Shop Christmas Extravaganza

FREE

Bring your Christmas list and check it twice as the Social Center on The Island is transformed into a holiday shopper's dream. You will be wowed by the selection of beautiful items created by Shell Point residents. Free gift wrapping and free giveaways!



December 7 at 7 p.m.

Southwest Florida Symphony Series Holiday Pops Concert



Welcome the holidays with classics and carols, sparkling through the Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida, and the effervescent personality of conductor Dr. Trent Brown, director of Choral Studies at Florida Gulf Coast University. Enjoy memorable favorites including selections from the Nutcracker, music from the film Home Alone and melodies about falling snow — just to make you glad you don't have to shovel! **To purchase \$35 tickets, visit www.shellpoint.org/concerts, or call (239) 454-2067.**

December 26 - 29

After Christmas Sale at Community Thrift Store



Open 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

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Save 65 percent on all items storewide during Community Thrift Store's After Christmas and End of the Year Sale!

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*If you are unable to attend a class that includes a fee, kindly give 24 hours' notice to receive a refund.

Registration Open For Seminar On Energy Vampires

Dr. Constance Clancy, along with artist Katie Gardenia, will lead a one-day, experiential workshop, titled Disempower Energy Vampires Who Surround You and Reclaim Yourself Through the Art of Resilience, on Saturday, January 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Tween Waters Island Resort and Spa, located at 15951 Captiva Drive.

"We encourage people who are highly sensitive, intuitive and caring, referred to as 'empaths,' to attend our seminar," said Clancy. "Because these folks are trusting, optimistic, goal-driven and hard-working, they are often magnets and easy targets for 'energy vampires' who suck them dry. And these manipulators are everywhere – co-workers, employers, family members, romantic partners, spouses or friends," Clancy said. "So empaths end up exhausted, used and taken advantage of on a mental, physical, emotional and even spiritual level."

"All of us have been touched by people who drain you," said Gardenia. "I used to think everybody is just good... but that changed over the years. There are a lot of givers and takers, and the givers unfortunately, attract those who pull the energy out of you."

"This dynamic happens often," Gardenia said. "You may never have even thought about it before. I want attendees to open their eyes and walk away with an



Dr. Constance Clancy photos provided 'A-ha' moment."

Participants will learn the characteristics of empaths, as well as why they appeal to people with toxic personalities, and how best to protect themselves. They will also discover how to recognize the traits of individuals labeled as narcissists, sociopaths and psychopaths.

"Katie and I felt compelled to facilitate this seminar since we are both empaths and have experienced our own wounding as a result," said Clancy. "After much discussion, we said never again will we let these individuals into our lives. And since we have taken time for healing, we want



Katie Gardenia

to share our experiences in dealing with 'vitality depressors.'"

"As I got older and looked back, these circumstances happened to me over and over," said Gardenia. "And I finally realized I did not have to please or love everyone who came into my life. It was not my job to take care of certain people, these energy vampires who flatter you, make you feel special, like you're the only one, boosting your ego. Because, you know what? They are there for another reason and it is not for you."

Gardenia said doing this type of reflection over the years brought her peace and she hopes to provide help



Participants will select a custom energy-healing spirit doll as a remembrance of the seminar, made by Katie Gardenia

to others. "Many women are hurting and I want to tell them it is OK to be by yourself. It is not necessary to have someone in your life to make you feel whole."

The day-long workshop features handouts, open discussions, and storytelling by Clancy and Gardenia.

continued on page 8

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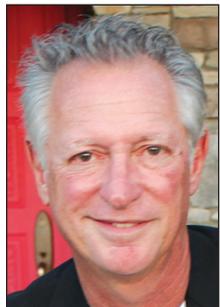
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Fort Myers Art:

Looking For A Play For Six Characters On December 2



by Tom Hall

Del Shores' cult classic *Sordid Lives* enjoyed an extremely popular run in September of 2017, with both straight and LGBTQ audience members reveling in the playwright's

droll and snarky dialogue, deeply relatable characters and profound and universal theme. Well, Del Shores returns to the Lab Theater for a limited engagement with his new one-man show *Six Characters in Search of a Play* on Friday, December 2.

In this hilarious and provocative study, Shores riffs on Pirandello's classic play to bring audiences six characters inspired by his real-life encounters that haven't quite made it into one of his plays, films or TV shows. Over the course of the play's 90-minute run time, the audience will come to know:

Yvonne, a vegetarian-hating Texas waitress;

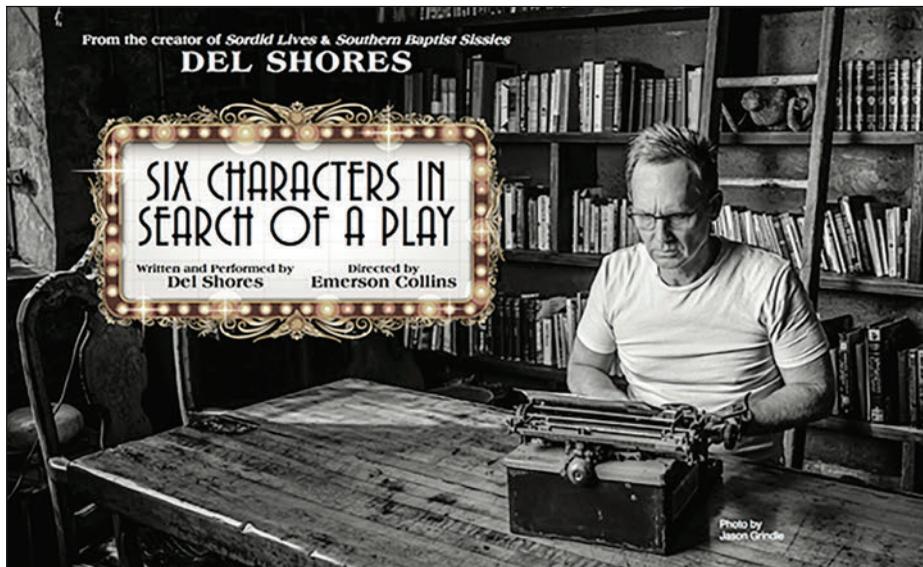
Sarah, an elderly actress who is determined to drink and smoke herself to death if Trump is elected;

Jimmy Ray, the evolving Georgia redneck;

Lorraine, the once brilliant drama teacher who has lost her damn mind and is now obsessed with porn;

Aunt Bobbie Sue, the loud-mouth racist Republican with a heart of gold; and

Marsha, the monkey-hating lesbian with COPD.



Playwright Del Shores typing away in his study

photo by Jason Grindle

Shores' longtime collaborator and native Texan, Emerson Collins, who was a regular on the DFW theater scene before finding success in Los Angeles, will direct.

Six Characters in Search of a Play has only two Fort Myers performances, at 2 and 8 p.m. on December 2. There will also be a Dinner with Del at The Twisted Vine Bistro in downtown Fort Myers at 5:45 p.m. in advance of the evening performance. Seating is limited.

For more information on that price-fixed menu, contact The Lab at 218-0481. For tickets, contact The Lab at 218-0481 or online at www.brownpapertickets.com.

Playwriting Project's Critics' Choice winner and Audience Choice winner

On November 17, playwright Candice Sanzari won the Critics' Choice Award at Lab Theater's 24-Hour Playwriting project. Her one-act play, *Thanksgiving is for Nutters*, bristled with biting banter by and between a caustic, condescending landlady, a prickly pill-popping pixie

and a cross-dresser prone to whole body paroxysms each time he hears a grammatical mistake such as "irregardless" or "these ones" (substitute your own). Heather McLemore Johnson directed the play, which featured Justin Larsche, Kaleigh O'Connell and Stacy Stauffer.

Playwright Dave Chesebro won the coveted Audience Choice Award at Lab Theater's 24-Hour Playwriting project. His one-act play *Sunny with a Chance of Social Anxiety* was filled with funny one-liners, hilarious situational comedy and a sunny, upbeat character who suffered from social anxiety disorder. Maddy Hayes directed the play, which starred Isaac Osin (*Anna in the Tropics*), Cantrella Canady (*A Raisin in the Sun*) and socially anxious Misha Ritter.

Thanksgiving is for Nutters opened

with Larsche dancing around his condominium unit dressed in an ankle length green-and-black plaid dress while breaking into a spirited rendition of *I Feel Pretty* from *West Side Story*. The choice of song and opening scene was serendipitous as 24-Hour Playwriting Project coordinator Char Loomis also incorporated the song into the one-act play with which she won the Critic's Choice Award four years earlier.

But for as good as Larsche and Stacy Stauffer were in Sanzari's nutty comedy, it was Kaleigh O'Connell who stole the show. She's poised to impress and astonish Lab audiences during the holiday season, when she teams up with Audience Choice winner Dave Chesebro and *Thanksgiving is for Nutters* director Heather McLemore Johnson in *Every Christmas Story Ever Told (And Then Some)*.

Sanzari joins an elite group of past Critics' Choice winners that includes Carmen Crussard (2017), Char Loomis (2016 and 2014), Ben Lemoureux (2015) and Laura Lorusso (2013).

The other one-act plays were produced by Laura Lorusso and Darlyne Franklin. All four one-act plays were imaginatively conceived, well-written and extremely funny and, while the Nykkie Rizley, Lauren Redeker Miller and Amanda Skrzypchak gave their coveted Critics' Choice Award to Sanzari, their scores reflected a numerical tie for second among the other three plays and playwrights.

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.✪

Mastersingers Christmas Concerts

The Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers ring in the Christmas season with *Messiah and More*, a holiday concert at Sanibel Community Church on Sunday, December 9 at 6 p.m. Admission to the event is free with a good-will offering taken up to benefit the Florida Baptist Children's Home.

The concert will feature the Christmas portion of Handel's timeless oratorio accompanied by the Mastersingers Chamber Orchestra. Seasonal pieces by Mendelssohn and contemporary composers, Kim Andre Arnesen, Bob Chilcott and Nancy Hill Cobb, round out the program.

"The Mastersingers pride ourselves on a repertoire based in the classics while regularly performing the finest choral pieces written today," said Artistic Director Jeff Faux. "This program offers something for everyone and will put the listener in the holiday spirit no matter your taste in music."

The event is also an opportunity for the community-minded group to extend a helping hand. The Florida Baptist Children's Home, this year's recipient of the free-will offering at the concert, helps thousands of children annually in a variety of measures from emergency shelter, to

foster care, to dealing with childhood hunger.

"This concert has become something of a holiday tradition here on the island," said Mastersingers Vice-President and Sanibel resident Jill Janda-Kanner. "The Community Church is a wonderful space to sing in and outgoing Pastor Donovan and the congregation are so welcoming that it's almost like coming home."

The Mastersingers and their City of Palms Youth Choir will ring in the Christmas season with *Messiah and More*, a holiday concert at First Baptist Church of Cape Coral on Friday, December 7 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15.

The concert features Southwest Florida's premier choral ensemble singing the Christmas portion of Handel's timeless oratorio, *Messiah*.

The City of Palms Youth Choir (CPYC) rounds out the program by singing seasonal selections. Now in its third year, the CPYC is the educational outreach of the Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers. The group is composed of 54 gifted choristers representing more than 20 schools extending from Bonita to the Cape, Sanibel, Fort Myers and North Fort Myers.

Sanibel Community Church is located at 1740 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel. For more information about the *Messiah and More* concert and the rest of the Mastersingers' 2018-19 season or to purchase tickets, visit www.mastersingersfm.com.✪

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Performing Arts Camp At Alliance



Students ham it up at a previous performing arts camp

photo provided

The Alliance for the Arts will host the Ham It Up! One-Day Performing Arts Camp on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 21, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. While Lee County schools are closed, the camp offers an affordable one-day solution that combines childcare along with an exciting day of learning and play in the theatre arts.

The day is packed with storytelling, movement, dance and performing arts workshops that young artists will love as well as outdoor break time and a visual arts project. Under the instruction of artistic and teaching professional Carmen Crussard, campers gain hands-on experience in creating character, dance, relaxation and more.

In addition to being a full-time theatre and language arts teacher at Gulf Middle School, Crussard is the proud co-founder of the Alliance for the Arts Youth Theatre Program. Her passion

for children and the arts drives her to constantly create opportunities for children to shine, while also providing a safe environment where young artists are encouraged to take risks. Carmen also directs adult theater, with several credits at the Laboratory Theater of Florida.

The camp is designed for students in grades 1 to 6 and is \$50 for Alliance members and \$65 for non-members. Limited spots are available, and re-registration is required. There is no before or aftercare available. Send a lunch and snack to keep your camper energized for the full day of fun. There is no refrigeration available so include a cool pack in the lunchbox if needed.

The Alliance for the Arts is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. For more information or to register, visit www.artinlee.org/hamitup or by calling 939-2787.*

County Parks Holiday Events

Lee County Parks & Recreation is offering holiday events throughout December.

Events include:

Santa Fest – Saturday, December 1 at 9 a.m., Wa-Ke Hatchee Park, 16760 Bass Road, Fort Myers. Fun activities, crafts and breakfast. Bring your camera for a photo opportunity with Santa. Cost is \$5 per child or a toy donation. For more information, call 432-2154.

Light Up Estero – Saturday, December 1 from 4 to 7 p.m., Estero Park, 9200 Corkscrew Palms Boulevard, Estero. Food, music, kid-friendly crafts, a visit from Santa and family fun at the annual holiday tree lighting ceremony. This is a free event hosted by The Estero Rotary Club. For more information, contact the Estero Recreation Center at 533-1470.

Lakes Park Holiday Express – December 14 through 30 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., Lakes Park, 7330 Gladiolus

Drive, Fort Myers. The annual and beloved Holiday Express miniature train transports you through a winter wonderland with lights and decorations. Cost is \$6 for ages 6 to adult. Free for children ages 1 to 5. For more information, call 267-1905.

Breakfast with Santa – Saturday, December 15 at 9 a.m., North Fort Myers Park, 2000 North Recreation Park Way, North Fort Myers. Breakfast with Santa is a fun annual event with breakfast, music, crafts, games and even a visit from Santa. Cost is \$3 per child. For more information, call 533-7200.

Breakfast with the Kringles – Saturday, December 15 at 10 a.m., Veterans Park, 55 Homestead Road South, Lehigh Acres. A continental style breakfast, holiday crafts and a special visit with Mr. and Mrs. Kringle. Cost is \$5 per child and \$3 for any adults eating breakfast. For more information, call 369-1521.

For more information about Lee County Parks & Recreation locations, amenities, and other special events, visit www.leeparks.org, call 533-7275 or email leeparks@leegov.com.*

THE RIVER - NOVEMBER 30, 2018 | 7



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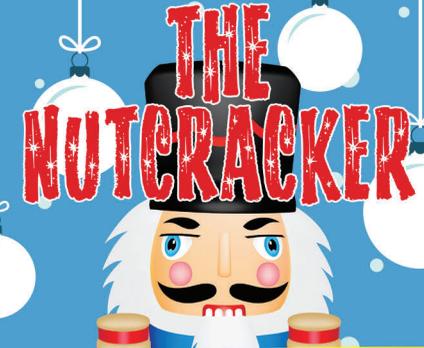
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Along The River

The 12th annual **Festival of Trees** is in full swing at the **Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center** (SBDAC) with entertaining holiday events until Sunday, December 2.

There will be trees decorated by local businesses, and a \$2 admission fee will help raise money for Goodwill of Southwest Florida and SBDAC. The week of fun includes Santa's Block Party; Painting with a Purpose; Find, Design & Wine; Santa's Workshop; and an ugly sweater contest.

On Friday, November 30 from 6 to 10 p.m., the Holiday Stroll is a tradition in downtown Fort Myers. Join the mayor and Santa as they lead the stroll down First Street in a horse-drawn carriage, then stops at the art center to light the giant wreath and pick the winner of the Mayor's Choice tree at the festival.

During that timeframe, The Nowhere Band will perform on the steps of the art center. Southwest Florida's premiere Beatles tribute band will delight fans of all ages with a special holiday show.

Santa's Block Party and Children's Holiday Workshop will take place on Saturday, December 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Inside, the children's workshop is a buzz with activities for kids, offering an opportunity for kids to create holiday art, color Christmas and holiday cards, stroll through the holiday trees, play games, win prizes and watch a holiday movie. Kids can also write letters to Santa and our military service members as well as play games. Admission to the Children's Holiday Workshop is \$6 per child.



Take a photo with Santa at Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center's Festival of Trees

photo provided

Outside, Santa's Block Party includes Santa's ride down First Street on a fire truck. There will be a variety of food truck vendors, entertainment, holiday vendors and face painting. You can decorate cookies from Publix, build a wooden craft with The Home Depot and bounce in a bounce house with Bounce4Less.

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

Holiday Nights at Edison and Ford Winter Estates continues with thousands of lights and hundreds of historic

decorations during the unique holiday experience until December 30. Nightly events – including the all new nightly show from Liquid Fireworks by Waltzing Waters – are from 5:30 to 9 p.m.

This week's lineup includes a live piano performance at the Edison Guest House and Nina Rose Events (baked goods, beer, wine and cocktails) at the Ford Cottage Shoppe, and a visit from Santa and Mrs. Claus on Friday, November 30 and Saturday, December 1. Lee County Resident Nights, which include \$5 off adult admission and Santa and Mrs. Claus, will be held Sunday, December 2 and Monday, December 3.

Other events include Narrative Coffee Roasters (coffee and treats) at the Ford Cottage Shoppe on Tuesday, December 4; inside-the-homes tour on Wednesday, December 5; and Millennial Brewing (locally brewed beer) at the Ford Cottage Shoppe and cartooning with Santa at the Edison Caretaker's Cottage.

For more information, to purchase tickets or view the nightly schedule, visit www.edisonfordwinterestates.org.

The Caloosahatchee Bromeliad Society of Southwest Florida is having its annual **bromeliad plant sale at Araba Shrine Temple** on Saturday, December 1 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Sunday, December 2 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

There will be bromeliads from around the world; all sizes, colors and shapes, old favorites along with the rare and unusual. Take time to look for your favorite plant, piece of driftwood, artwork or plant related item. Growers will be available to answer your questions. There is no charge for admission or parking.

Araba Shrine Temple is located at 2010 Hanson Street in Fort Myers. For more information, contact Betsy Burdette at 694-4738.✳

Toy Drive

Society is getting into the holiday spirit by holding a toy drive for the Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida.

Beginning December 1, patrons bringing a new, unwrapped gift for a child at the Children's Hospital will receive a complimentary bottle of wine with their lunch or dinner purchase at Society. The toy drive will last until December 24.

"The holidays can be a tough time for a lot of people, but especially children who are in the hospital instead of home with their families," said Brad Cozza, owner/partner of Society. "We know we have a lot of generous patrons so we are encouraging them to participate in our toy drive with a free bottle of wine with their meal. And they can enjoy this offer each time they dine with us until December 24 if they bring an unwrapped toy for a boy or girl at the Children's Hospital."

For more information, visit www.societyfortmyers.com or call 334-0900.✳

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From page 4

Energy Vampires

The seminar concludes with Clancy demonstrating a technique that participants can do using an "energy-healing spirit" doll, one personally crafted by Gardenia. Upon arrival, each participant may choose one of these dolls, hand-stitched and embellished by Gardenia, as a remembrance of the seminar.

"Connie and I started sharing energy vampire experiences with each other, and we realized a need for this seminar," said Gardenia. "I had a 'Holy Cow' moment right then and decided to create an energy-healing figure. The idea just popped out of the blue."

Inspired by her passion for fiber art, her 24-inch prototype doll is made from natural elements like sticks and pebbles, intertwined with copper wire and constructed out of felt. A pouch on its shoulder contains a note Gardenia wrote on parchment paper and its chest has a piece of screen that "can filter emotions."

"My prototype also wears a bit of garlic – vampires hate garlic," Gardenia said with a laugh. "I want these dolls to be a fun thing."

Since the workshop has space for 40 guests, Gardenia is creating a unique doll

for each attendee to "have and to hold."

Other workshop topics include: trauma betrayal and its effects on the brain; healing from PTSD; establishing and setting rock-solid boundaries; developing resilience; finding self-love and reclaiming your true power.

Early bird fee is \$175 by November 30; \$195 before January 10, which includes lunch and beverages. The admission fee can be mailed to: Constance Clancy, P.O. Box 82, Snowmass, CO 81654. RSVP to: drconstanceclancy@gmail.com. For more information, contact Brooke Brownyard at sanibelbrooke@aol.com or 281-4179.

Dr. Constance Clancy, EdD, LMHC, LPC, NCC is a licensed and nationally certified mental health counselor, hypnotherapist, integrative life enhancement coach, local columnist, public speaker and seminar facilitator. She is working on a book, *In the Nick of Time; Rising to Resilience from the Depths of Betrayal*.

Katie Gardenia is a self-taught fiber artist, currently residing in North Carolina in a circa 1834 post office. Future plans call for Gardenia to open an art-inspired space at Captiva's Bubble Room restaurant, a venture she founded and owned.

This seminar is their first together.✳



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The Southwest Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra with Sinfonietta Conductor Nadia Bangash photo provided

Youth Orchestra To Perform At Celebration

The Southwest Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra will perform holiday favorites celebrating the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights, on Sunday, December 2 at 5 p.m. The performance takes place at Temple Shalom, located at 23190 Utica Avenue in Punta Gorda.

This performance is being held in conjunction with Temple Shalom's communitywide Hanukkah celebration. In addition to the youth orchestra's appearance, families of all faiths are invited to participate in lighting the menorah, the traditional candelabra used during Hanukkah, and to enjoy traditional latkes (potato pancakes), sufaniyot (jelly doughnuts) and gelt (chocolate coins).

This event is free and open to the public. No reservations or advanced registration is required.

For more information, call 418-0996 or 941-625-2116.*

Churches/Temples

ALL FAITHS UNITARIAN CONGREGATION

Sunday 10:30 a.m., 2756 McGregor Boulevard, allfaiths-uc.org, 226-0900.

ALL SAINTS BYZANTINE RITE CATHOLIC

Sunday 10:30 a.m. 10291 Bayshore Road, 305-651-0991.

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX

Sunday 9 and 10 a.m. 8210 Cypress Lake Drive, annunciation.fl.goarch.org, 481-2099.

BAT YAM-TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS

Friday Shabbat at 7 p.m. 2050 Periwinkle Way, www.batyam.org 579-0296.

BETH SHILOH MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE

Friday 8 p.m., Saturday 11 a.m. 15675 McGregor Boulevard, 437-3171.

BIBLESHARE

10 a.m. Sunday and 7 p.m. Tuesday, 7050 Winkler Rd, Suite 121, www.simplysimpleworship.com, 437-8835.

BREAD OF LIFE MINISTRIES

Sunday 10:30 a.m. 16581 McGregor Boulevard, 267-3166.

CHABAD LUBAVITCH ORTHODOX

Friday 6:30 p.m. 5620 Winkler Road, chabadsfwf.org, 433-7708.

CHAPEL OF CYPRESS COVE

Sunday 10 a.m. 10200 Cypress Cove Circle, revtedalthouse@aol.com, 850-3943.

CHURCH OF THE CROSS

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

CONGREGATIONAL

Sunday 10:30 a.m. 1619 Llewellyn Drive, taecc.com, 334-4978.

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN

Sunday 10 a.m. 2439 McGregor Boulevard, 334-8937.

CYPRESS LAKE BAPTIST

Sunday 9:45 and 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; Wednesday 6:30 p.m. 8400 Cypress Lake

Drive, 481-5442.

CYPRESS LAKE PRESBYTERIAN

Sunday 8, 9, 10 and 11 a.m. 8260 Cypress Lake Drive, www.clpc.us, 481-3233.

CYPRESS LAKE UNITED METHODIST

Sunday 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. 8570 Cypress Lake Drive, 482-1250.

FAITH FELLOWSHIP WORLD OUTREACH

Sunday 10:30 a.m., Thursday 7:30 p.m., Friday 7:30 p.m. 6111 South Pointe Boulevard, 278-3638.

FAITH UNITED METHODIST

Sunday 8:45 and 10:30 a.m. 15690 McGregor Boulevard, 482-2030.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

Wednesday 12 noon Testimony Service, Sunday 10:30 a.m. 2390 West First Street, christiansciencefortmyers.net, christianscience.com.

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. 13545 American Colony Boulevard, 936-2511.

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. 2466 First Street, www.fumcftmyers.org, 332-1152.

FORT MYERS CHRISTIAN

Sunday 10:30 a.m., 5916 Winkler Road, 437-4330.

FORT MYERS CONGREGATIONAL

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST; Sunday 10 a.m., 8210 College Parkway, 482-3133.

IONA-HOPE EPISCOPAL CONGREGATION

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

JESUS THE WORKER CATHOLIC

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

KINGDOM LIFE

Sunday 10:30 a.m. 2154 McGregor Boulevard, 218-8343.

LAMB OF GOD

Sand Sculpting Doubles Winners



Bruce Phillips and Jihoon Choi with their sculpture *Return to Oz* was chosen top sculpture in the Master Sculptor Double Division photo by Shayne Wolfe

The 32nd annual American Sand Sculpting Championship on Fort Myers Beach recently announced the winners of the doubles division and advanced amateur competitions from the past weekend.

In the Master Sculptor Doubles Division, *Return to Oz* by Bruce Phillips and Jihoon Choi captured first place, while *Dreaming Nonna's Bedtime Stories* by John Gowdy and Laura Cimador-Gowdy placed second and *Connected/Disconnected* by Bert Adams and DeLayne Corbett took third.

Return to Oz was also selected as The

Sculptor's Choice and People's Choice.

In the Advanced Amateur Division, Lisa Fewless seized first place with *Alien Vacation* and Amanda Bolduc placed second with *Pucker Up*.

Presented by the Seminole Casino Hotel, the 2018 10-day event was reportedly the best attended event in its history with thousands of guests coming to Fort Myers Beach to take in the annual competition. For more information, visit www.fmbssandsculpting.com or the event's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/sandsculptingfestival.*

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

NEW BEGINNINGS CENTER

Friday 6:30 and 7 p.m. 8505 Jenny Cae Lane, nbcministry@embarqmail.com, facebook.com/nbcministry, 656-0416.

NEW COVENANT EYES

Monthly 9 a.m. 1900 Park Meadows Drive, newcovenanteyes.com, 220-8519.

NEW HOPE BAPTIST

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

NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN

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

PEACE COMMUNITY

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

PEACE LUTHERAN

Sunday 8 and 10 a.m. 15840 McGregor Boulevard, www.peaceftmyers.com, peace@peaceftmyers.com, 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. 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. 111 Evergreen Road, saintnicholasmonastery.org, 997-2847.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC

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

SOUTHWEST BAPTIST

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

TEMPLE BETHEL SYNAGOGUE

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

TEMPLE JUDEA (CONSERVATIVE)

Friday 6:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. tjswfl.org, 14486 A&W Bulb Road, 433-0201.

THE NEW CHURCH

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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

UNITY OF FORT MYERS

Sunday 10 a.m. 11120 Ranchette Road, unityoffortmyers.org, 278-1511.

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

WORD OF LIFE

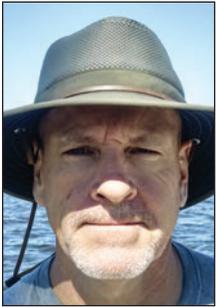
Sunday 10 a.m., Wednesday 7 p.m. 2120 Collier Avenue, 274-8881.

ZION LUTHERAN

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

CROW Case Of The Week:

Merlin



by Bob Petcher

The merlin (*Falco columbarius*) is a small yet powerful falcon that uses a surprise attack to wound and take down small songbirds and shorebirds. It spends long periods

of time perched high above in trees in open areas to scan for prey. Once the prey is observed, the merlin will use quick wingbeats during a high-speed attack and typically catch its target in midair. They are also known to team up to hunt large flocks of waxwings

History tells us that Catherine the Great and Mary Queen of Scots, among other medieval European noblewomen, used merlins for sport to hunt skylarks.

During the breeding season, merlins are highly territorial around the nest, chasing away other merlins and potential predators. Both sexes claim their territory by soaring high in the air near their nest. Outside of the breeding season, they are usually solitary.

At CROW, an adult merlin was admitted to the clinic from Fort Myers. The small falcon was found on the ground in a person's yard and unable to fly. Upon admission, the merlin was given an exam which revealed that it had swelling/inflammation of the left elbow.

Radiographs did not show evidence of any fractures. It was given pain and anti-inflammatory medication, fluids and offered food.

There are only theories as to what may have happened prior to intake.

"We suspect some kind of initial trauma caused an infection in the elbow joint, leading to the patient being unable to fly," said Dr. Malka Spektor, CROW veterinary intern. "The elbow joint, along with the other joints of the wing, is crucial for flight. Once down, the merlin may have weakened due to an inability to obtain food and also developed aspergillosis."

The merlin also reportedly had a small puncture wound on the pad of its foot that had been caused by its own talon. It was started on an antibiotic to treat/prevent infection, and the foot was bandaged to allow the puncture to heal.

"The merlin had some intermittent difficulty standing and, with the deficits in foot function, it stood with its toe pointed into the pad of the foot. Once weakened, it lost the ability to stand normally, and therefore punctured his foot," said Dr. Spektor. "This is a common injury in stressed or neurologic raptors. Sometimes, when they grab at other things, they accidentally puncture themselves."

The puncture wound was not deemed to be too serious.

"A puncture that size, assuming it does not get infected, only takes a couple days to heal," said Dr. Spektor. "Its foot was bandaged to prevent the patient from stepping in feces and contaminating the wound."

After just over a week in CROW's care, the merlin's health took a turn for



Patient #18-4300 passed away, and later plaques were found on its air sacs

photo by Brian Bohlman

the worse. The report of its demise was revealed after the past weekend.

"Unfortunately, the patient has passed away. It was found non-responsive in its cage, and emergency treatments were started, however, it did not respond to treatment," said Dr. Spektor. "A necropsy – an autopsy for animals – was performed, and found plaques on the air sacs. Those plaques are generally caused by aspergillosis, a fungal infection caused by an organism normally found in the environment. Birds are extra

susceptible due to their delicate respiratory system, especially if they are down or immunosuppressed."

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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Winter And Spring Tactics



by Capt. Matt Mitchell

Most days this week started off with cool, windy, winter-like conditions, then by mid-morning, temperatures gradually warmed. Trying to get fish to eat live shiners for the first few hours of a charter was just not happening, so we needed to switch it up. Going to the cold-water winter standby of chunks of shrimp on a jighead caught a wide variety of species including sheepshead, black drum and rat redfish. By mid-morning as things warmed up, we were able to switch back to live shiners and get lots of snook to bite.

Along with the morning cold and north winds, we also had extremely low full moon tides, making many mornings feel more like it was January. These minus low tides exposed sandbars and grass flats all over the sound that I have just not seen since last winter. During these super low tides, fish stack up in deeper water areas. This low water setup is an excellent time to catch lots of fish. A few of the places that worked really well for us on the minus-low water included docks at the south end of the Roosevelt Channel, the Chino Island Channel and Shell Creek. What all these places have in common is deep, fast-moving water with structure. This week brought some of the first legal-sized sheepshead I have caught this winter.

By mid-morning as the incoming tide started to rise, we had some great catch-and-release snook action. Snook are still spread out from the beaches and passes to the back country. We are in a major transition time as these fish are just starting to make the move to the warmer, sheltered, water places.

Once we located these snook, the bite was often wide open with 20-plus fish coming out of one shoreline. Wind-blown mangrove creeks and shorelines exploded with snook of all sizes being caught. Some days, it took a little bit of moving until we found these fish, but once we did, you could often just keep bumping down the shoreline to keep this bite going. As conditions warmed by the weekend, we began to catch snook earlier and earlier each day.

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.*



Nick Little from Columbus, Ohio with a 35-inch snook caught while fishing with Capt. Matt Mitchell this week photo provided

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Gray nicker's stems are armed with sharp thorns photos by Gerri Reaves

Prickly seed pods ripen to a reddish brown and then split to reveal smooth gray seeds that resemble marbles or tiny bird eggs

Spikes of brownish yellow flowers bloom throughout the year, but mostly in spring and summer

Plant Smart
Gray Nicker

by Gerri Reaves

Gray nicker (*Guilandina bonduc*) is a vine-like shrub that is found in Florida's coastal areas such as hammocks and mangrove thickets.

This member of the pea family is also called yellow nicker, nickernut, nickerbean and sea pearl.

Although native to the state, it is not recommended for landscapes because it can be aggressive and invasive. With thorny stems up to 25 feet long, it can scamper up into trees, shade out other plants and form impenetrable thickets.

Characteristics like fast growth rate,

high drought tolerance, and tolerance of nutrient-poor soil enable it spread. It thrives in full sun and tolerates temporary salt or brackish water too.

One practical use for it is as a low-maintenance barrier or security plant.

Butterfly gardeners have a reason to keep it around, albeit with monitoring so it doesn't get out of hand. The plant is both a host and nectar plant for several native butterflies: the martial scrub-hairstreak, Miami blue, Ceraunus blue, and nickerbean blue, all protected species at the state level and the latter three at the federal level.

Dense flower spikes of six to 10 inches long bloom throughout the year, peaking in spring and summer.

The fragrant flowers are brownish

yellow and about one-third of an inch across with five flaring petals.

Dark green compound leaves are 10 to 18 inches, with pairs of elliptical leaflets measuring one to two inches long.

The woody stems are armed with sharp straight thorns and the undersides of the leaves with curved ones.

The prickly clam-shaped pod is about four inches long. After ripening from green to reddish brown and then to dark brown, it splits to reveal grayish seeds, usually two per pod.

The seeds' buoyancy and hard impervious coating helps them to spread via ocean currents, thus another common name, sea bean.

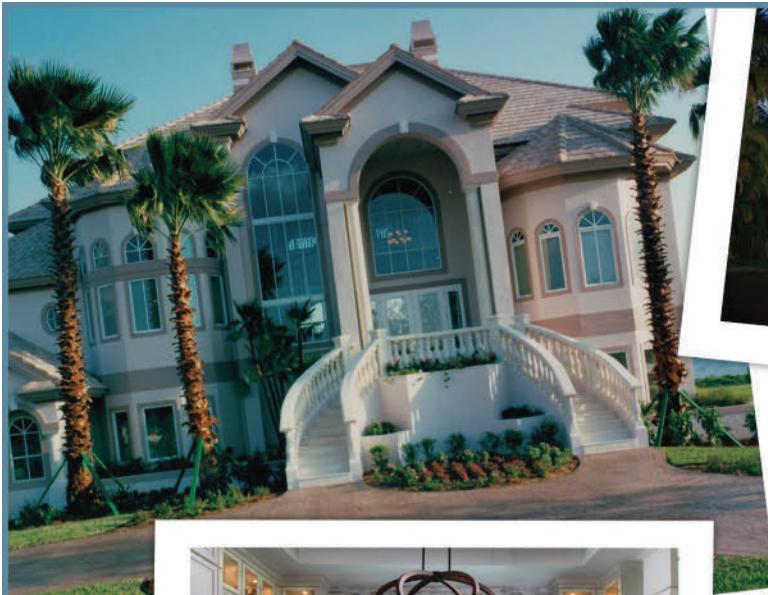
Jewelry is made from those seeds,

which resemble tiny bird eggs or marbles. The name "nicker" derives from the Dutch word "knikker," a baked clay marble.

The seeds are poisonous but nevertheless have many medicinal uses.

Sources: *Coastal Hammock & Mangrove Guide* by Daniel Austin et al.; *Everglades Wildflowers* by Roger L. Hammer; *Florida Wild Flowers and Roadside Plants* by C. Ritchie Bell and Bryan J. Taylor; *Growing Native* by Richard W. Workman; *The Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida* by Gil Nelson; *Wildflowers of Florida Field Guide* by Jaret C. Daniels and Stan Tekiela; and www.regionalconservation.org.

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



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Pine Island fifth graders arriving at Cayo Costa State Park

photos provided

Students Attend No Child Left On Shore Program

Fifth grade students from Pine Island Elementary School took part in the most recent No Child Left On Shore (NCLOS) environmental education outreach project field trip. The NCLOS program is a collaborative endeavor of

Captiva Cruises and Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF), which strives to provide the younger generation of Southwest Florida with an opportunity to experience firsthand the invaluable resources of the Caloosahatchee watershed and the back bay estuary habitats.

Students in Regina Notarianni and Nancy Benjamin's fifth grade classes boarded Captiva Cruises' motor catamaran vessel *The Playtime* at Lee



Students recording observations in their field trip journals

County's commercial dock on Pine Island and cruised to Cayo Costa State Park. While traveling on the waters of Pine Island Sound, students marveled at the shallow sea grass beds and were thrilled with the wildlife they encountered, which included dolphins, white pelicans, osprey, great blue herons, a belted kingfisher and brown pelicans.

Students had the opportunity to explore the tidal zones on the protected barrier island and record their observations of the evidence of sea life washed in by waves and tides. Sand dollars were found, and students were amazed with the mangrove swamp they took in from the boardwalk leading them to the gulf beach.

Captiva Cruises and SCCF saw a need to try to provide these experiential field trips. Cuts in public funding for school environmental education field trips have drastically reduced the number of students who can experience for themselves the importance of the coastal environment. Many families within Southwest Florida, especially those with language, cultural, physical and economic barriers, do not have the means to get out on the water. It is this segment of the Southwest Florida community that SCCF and Captiva Cruises are reaching out to and would like to engage by providing them with the



One of the students with his shell finds

opportunity to take part in one of these learning experiences.

For more information about the NCLOS initiative, or to sponsor a local youth group field trip, contact SCCF at 472-2329 or Captiva Cruises at 472-5300.*

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Crossroads by David M. Kessler

images provided

Alliance To Hold Abstract Painting Workshop

The Alliance for the Arts presents a three-day Bigger, Faster, Fresher, Looser Abstract Painting Workshop from January 10 to 12. The course, which will run from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day, is instructed by visiting artist David M. Kessler from Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

The workshop is not only about painting abstract compositions, but also about learning to loosen up and paint more freely. This workshop is non-media specific. All who utilize watercolor, acrylic, pastel and oil are welcome. Each meeting will include instructor discussion, an instructor painting demonstration, student painting time and critiques of student work.

"I am ready to instruct, inspire and motivate you to become the painter you have always wanted to be," said Kessler. "I am here to serve painters, to help them shorten the learning curve that I struggled with for so long."

The class is for ages 16 or older and is \$350 for Alliance members and \$435 for non-members. Pre-registration is required by December 10.



Sense of Place 2 by David M. Kessler

Alliance for the Arts is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. For more information or to register, visit www.artinlee.org/education or by calling 939-2787.**

Indie Movies December 4

Indie movie lovers can screen some of this season's best films at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center on Monday, December 4. The house opens for cocktails at 6:30 p.m. and the show starts at 7 p.m.

Help hosts Eric Raddatz and Melissa DeHaven, plus judges Mike Donlan, Mark Krzos and Bob Massey select films for viewing at the 2019 Fort Myers Film Festival during TGIM's December showcase. There will be cocktails and live entertainment during intermission, while judges comment on the films all evening long.

The Fort Myers Film Festival is an independent filmmaker's preferred event to create, unite and showcase the finest artistic cinematic works. FMff will be held in April 2019 at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall, Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center, Alliance for the Arts, Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre, Fort Myers Regional Library and Imaginarium with parties and dinners at Twisted Vine Bistro, Firestone and other select venues.

Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for students and seniors.

The Sidney & Berne Davis Art

Center is located at 2301 First Street in downtown Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.sbdac.com or 333-1933.**

Morning Meander At Lakes Park

Take a nature walk with a bird patrol guide at Lakes Regional Park on Saturday, December 1 at 8 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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Will Power

Tying Step-Relations Together



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

I'm going to turn a popular estate planning technique upside down.

The technique I'm referring to is leaving trusts to provide for your surviving spouse, and then upon his or her death, leaving the remainder to your children.

These are commonly referred to as "Marital" or "Family" trusts. There is a difference between the two. A Marital Trust generally refers to a trust that qualifies for the federal estate tax marital deduction, which leaves amounts exclusively for the surviving spouse until her death. A Family Trust usually does not qualify for the marital deduction, and can be left exclusively for the surviving spouse or may be sprinkled amongst the surviving spouse and other beneficiaries.

In situations where your spouse is not the parent of your children, these trusts can become problematic, as I'll describe below. Keep in mind that a trust that continues for the lifetime of a spouse and then distributes to children at his or her death ties all of the parties together economically.

I can best illustrate the issues with an example.

"Alan" was a physician who had been in a second marriage with "Sally" for over 20 years. He had two adult daughters from a prior marriage, "Betty," age 32, and "Carla," age 30. Alan instructed his attorney to create a Marital Trust for the benefit of Sally for her lifetime. The trust was to pay Sally income, with principal invasions authorized for her health, maintenance and support if the income was insufficient for those purposes.

Every dollar that Sally received from the trust was one less dollar that would ultimately be distributed to Betty and Carla. Betty and Carla wanted the trust to invest in more growth-oriented holdings, since they were interested in receiving as much as possible when Sally died. Sally, on the other hand, who relied on the income from the

trust to pay her monthly bills, naturally desired that the trustee invest in high income producing assets.

The trustee, whoever is named as such, has a fiduciary duty to balance the needs of Sally against the needs of Betty and Carla. In other words, the trustee shouldn't invest all of the trust in either growth or income producing assets, but rather a healthy percentage of each, unless the language of the trust itself directs otherwise.

Many such trusts don't instruct the trustee at all as to which of the beneficiary's needs takes priority. Consequently, the trustee must assume that Alan, here, would have wanted the needs balanced. Imagine if either Sally, Betty or Carla are also serving as trustee. In this case, they have a conflict of interest that could present some problems, although it is common to have family members serve in this role. So long as the family gets along, then problems normally don't arise. But when Alan died, the glue that held the familial relationship may have died with him, thus straining the family with the economic relationship.

There are alternatives. One alternative is the Family Trust, that can sprinkle its benefits between Sally, Betty and Carla during Sally's lifetime rather than the daughters having to wait until the step-mother's death to enjoy the fruit of the trust. This presents additional problems, particularly if the trust language doesn't speak to the relative priority of the beneficiaries.

Another, less common alternative is to invest in an insurance policy. Imagine if Alan had instructed his attorney to draft the language of his trust to first address Sally's needs as opposed to Betty's and Carla's. Understanding that Sally might consume the entire trust, or at a minimum, live a long life which would delay the daughters' inheritance, Alan might look into purchasing an insurance policy. He could name Betty and Carla as the outright beneficiary to the policy, thereby ensuring that they receive at least some inheritance immediately after his passing.

Insurance could therefore be used to mitigate the economic tension that might otherwise exist between the surviving spouse and Alan's daughters.

That's just one alternative. In any event, if you have a situation similar to Alan's, you should carefully review the trust language to ensure that your intent is clearly stated, and direction is provided to your trustee.

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America's Boating Course

America's Boating Club and the San Carlos Bay Sail & Power Squadron, a boating organization that serves South Fort Myers, Fort Myers Beach, Bonita Springs and Estero will be offering America's Boating Course, a two-part class in the San Carlos Bay Sail & Power Squadron classroom beginning on Saturday, December 8 from 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The second session will be on Saturday, December 15 at the same time.

This course is recognized by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators. The State of Florida recently passed legislation requiring anyone born after January 1, 1988 to have passed a safe boating course and obtain a Boating Safety Education ID card which is valid for life, in order to operate a boat with more than 10 HP.

Each student will receive a card/

certificate from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission upon completion of the class. Topics covered include hull design, docking, anchoring, handling boating emergencies, reading channel markers and many other topics to make each boating experience safer and more enjoyable. Successful completion of this course entitles the boater to six months free membership in the United States Power Squadrons with the purchase of a 12-month membership. In addition, students who join the squadron will also be eligible for a free three-hour On The Water training session.

Cost of the course is \$60 with a \$30 cost for a second person sharing the instruction materials. The cost includes lunch after the second Saturday class.

The San Carlos Bay Sail & Power Squadron is located at 16048 San Carlos Boulevard. Students can register online at www.scbps.com or call the squadron office 466-4040 and leave a message. Future classes will also be held on January 12 and 19, February 9 and 16 and March 9 and 16.✪

Blueway Fishing Tournament Set For December 8

The Calusa Blueway Kayak Fishing Tournament returns to Matlacha at The Olde Fish House Marina on Saturday, December 8. The tournament will begin at safe light. Weigh-ins will be from noon to 3 p.m. and the ceremony will begin at 3:30 p.m.

All fishing will be catch, photo and release. Anglers must fish from paddlecraft on Lee County waterways. Last year's tournament attracted over 60 anglers from all over Florida. All proceeds from the tournament will benefit the Candlelighters of Southwest Florida, a charity that benefits childhood cancer research.

Point Ybel Brewing Company will host the captains' meeting and registration the night before the tournament. All anglers must be present. Registration begins at 6 p.m. and the captains' meeting is at 7 p.m. The entry fee is \$65 per angler.

The tournament is a family-fun event, featuring door prizes, raffles, food, live music and silent auctions from noon to 4 p.m. It is organized by Gulf Coast Kayak.

New this year are the SUP division and a top Lady Angler Prize. Local sponsors have donated the Gold (\$1,000), Silver (\$500) and Bronze (\$250) cash prizes this year. Body Glove will be giving away a Body Glove Mariner iSUP at the event. The SUP anglers are the only participants eligible to win the iSUP.

"We are proud of our long-standing partnerships to support charity

events throughout Lee County," said Mike Hammond, Lee County Parks & Recreation's Calusa Blueway Coordinator. "This is a great event, which continues to grow in popularity year after year. Gulf Coast Kayak is dedicated to doing good things in their community and promoting the Great Calusa Blueway, and we're happy to be a part of it."

The Olde Fish House Marina is located at 4530 Pine Island Road on Matlacha. Race details and registration can be found by searching for "Calusa Blueway kayak fishing" at www.eventbrite.com or call Mike Hammond at 707-7981.✪

Church Fairs On Sundays

There will be an Arts & Crafts Fair at Unitarian Universalist Church on Sundays, December 2 and 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The fair will feature next-to-new booths and a bake sale.

Unitarian Universalist Church is located at 13411 Shire Lane in Fort Myers. For more information, contact Suzanne at suzanneziemer@gmail.com or 463-9020.✪

Calusa Blueway Speaker Series

Introduction to Kayak Fishing Tournaments will be presented by Dan Carns as the first talk in a series of free Calusa Blueway-related programs on Tuesday, December 4. All talks will be held at the Wa-Ke Hatchee

continued on page 18



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Book Review

Clock Dance

by Di Saggau



Anne Tyler's latest book *Clock Dance* is an inspiring novel of one woman's transformative journey. Willa Drake can count on one hand the defining moments

of her life. In 1967, she is a schoolgirl coping with her mother's sudden disappearance. In 1977, she is a college coed considering a marriage proposal. In 1997, she is a young widow trying to piece her life back together. And, in 2017, she yearns to be a grandmother but isn't sure she ever will be.

Early in the book, Willa, a college student, is flying home with her boyfriend when suddenly the man sitting on the other side of her whispers, "This is a gun, and it's loaded. Move and I shoot." She freezes for a few minutes before her oblivious boyfriend asks to switch seats. Nothing happens, the gunman never speaks again. When the plane lands, he's the first one off. Willa tells her boyfriend who considers it a joke. To Willa, it reveals something about herself.

Willa drops out of college to marry her boyfriend because he wants her to. After he dies, she moves from San Diego to Tucson with her second husband because he wants to. Willa never complains, she prefers to be agreeable no matter what. It's a pattern that leads her almost robotically through life.

One day, Willa receives a startling phone call from a stranger saying that Willa's little granddaughter needs someone to look after her while her

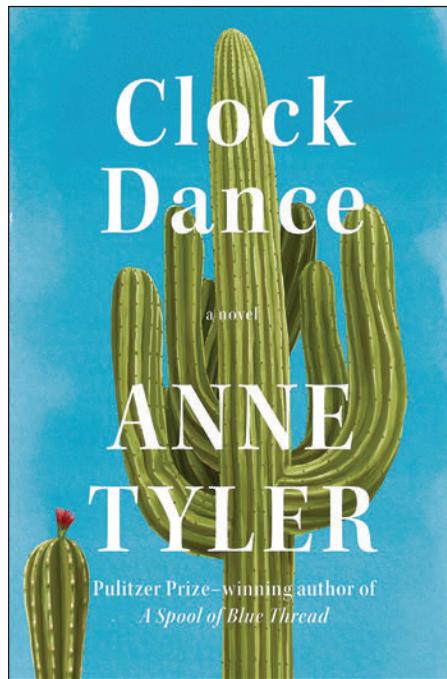


image provided

mother is in the hospital. Without fully understanding why, because Willa doesn't have a granddaughter, she flies across the country to Baltimore to look after a young woman she's never met, her 9-year-old daughter and their dog, Airplane. This impulsive decision will lead Willa into uncharted territory. Surrounded by eccentric neighbors who treat each other like family, she finds solace and fulfillment in unexpected places.

The bond that develops between Willa and the lonely child is what forms the emotional heart of *Clock Dance*. As one of Willa's elderly neighbors tells her, "Figuring out what to live for. That's the great problem at my age." A bewitching novel of hope, self-discovery and second chances, *Clock Dance* gives us Anne Tyler at the height of her powers. ✨

School Smart



by Shelley M. Greggs, NCSP

Dear Shelley,
My first grade daughter is bilingual. We speak both English and Spanish at home. Is it true that bilingual kids

have more learning advantages than children who speak only one language? How does this help her?

Lucia M, Fort Myers

Lucia,

Your daughter is very lucky to be bilingual, and it is true that bilingual students have some learning advantages. Research tells us that the acquisition of two languages in early childhood provides a beneficial effect on cognitive development that can lead to increased achievement and academic success.

There is some recent research that also suggests an additional advantage in learning for bilingual students. A new study suggests that bilingual students learn more easily in a noisy environment. Bilingual students seem to outperform their monolingual peers on academic tasks completed in a noisy classroom in an elementary school.

"Children who speak two languages outperform their monolingual peers in the classroom because they are more likely to filter out disruptive noises, according to this new research. Pupils raised bilingually develop a more acute sense for words – even when presented with background chatter in the classroom – that allows them to remain "on task" during exercises, it is claimed".

The researchers further reported that noise negatively affected monolingual students' ability to pay attention, especially when comprehending more difficult sentences and found that pupils speaking only one language fell behind in reading tests by the age 9.

Researchers also found that the ability to overcome verbal interference

improved with age in bilingual speakers but not in monolinguals. One researcher noted, "The observation that the ability to control interference improves with age, but only within the bilingual group, is a remarkable finding".

The study was published in the *Journal of Bilingualism: Language and Cognition* and involved children age 7 to 10 at a Cambridge primary school. The sample was quite small, only 40 students, but the evidence was significant.

So again, we have information that tells us that the acquisition of two languages in early childhood provides

a beneficial effect on learning, and the study provides further evidence of the importance of learning a second language as early as possible.

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

Author Leads Training Seminar At Collaboratory

The Southwest Florida Community Foundation brought nationally renowned author and TED talk speaker Dan Pallotta to town on November 3 for a one-day board training seminar for 120 leaders and their board members from 32 nonprofits.

Designed specifically for nonprofit boards, The Bolder Board Training taught how to work with CEOs to create possibilities for impact.

The Bolder Board Training marked the first public event to be held at the Community Foundation's new Collaboratory located at 2031 Jackson

Street in downtown Fort Myers. The event was so successful the Community Foundation says they plan to bring Pallotta back next November.

Pallotta is an American entrepreneur, author and humanitarian activist who invented the multi-day charitable event industry with the AIDS Rides and Breast Cancer 3-Days, which raised over half a billion dollars in nine years and were the subject of one of the first Harvard Business School case studies on social enterprise. His 2013 TED talk on philanthropy is one of the 100 most-viewed TED talks of all time. Pallotta's book *Uncharitable* is the best-selling title in the history of Tufts University Press. He is also a regular contributor to Harvard Business Review online and is widely credited with changing the national conversation about impact and overhead in charity in America. ✨

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Female Pioneers of Fort Myers

Women Who Made a Difference in the City's Development

By Robin C. Tuthill and Thomas P. Hall








"Packed with facts and employing an engaging storytelling style, [*Female Pioneers of Fort Myers*] both teaches and entertains. Local history buffs and newcomers to history will value Tuthill and Hall's research and appreciate the accessible format, too."

Gerri Reaves, PhD, author of *Legendary Locals of Fort Myers* and *Fort Myers, Then & Now*

Financial Focus

Time To Think About Year-End Investment Moves



by Jennifer Basey

We've still got a month left in 2018, but it's not too soon to start thinking about some year-end investment moves that might benefit you. Here are a few possibilities

(although not all will apply to your situation):

Add to your IRA. For the 2018 tax year, you can put up to \$5,500 into your traditional or Roth IRA (assuming you are eligible), or \$6,500 if you're age 50 or older. If you haven't reached this limit, consider adding some money. You have until April 15, 2019, to contribute to your IRA for 2018, but why wait until the last minute?

Increase your 401(k) contributions. You already may be

investing in your 401(k) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan, but you might be able to bump up your contributions for the rest of the year, if it's allowed. Of course, you should always put in enough to earn your employer's matching contribution, if one is offered.

Take your RMDs. If you are age 70½ or older, you must start taking withdrawals – called required minimum distributions, or RMDs – from your traditional IRA and your 401(k) or similar retirement plan. Generally, you must take these RMDs by December 31 every year. But if you turned 70½ in 2018, you can wait until April 1, 2019, until you take your first RMD. However, you will then have to take a second RMD (the one for age 71) by December 31, 2019. Taking two RMDs in one year could give you an unexpectedly large taxable income for the year, possibly bumping you into a higher tax bracket and affecting the amount of your Social Security benefits subject to taxes. So, if you are considering delaying your first RMD, consult with your tax advisor.

Make changes in response to life events. In 2018, did you experience a major life event, such as a marriage, divorce or addition of a child?

Or did you change jobs or retire? Any of these events could lead you to adjust your investment plans, so now may be the time to do so, possibly with the help of a financial professional.

Review your investment mix. At least once a year, it's a good idea to review your investment mix to ensure it's still suitable for your goals and risk tolerance. Sometimes, even without you taking any action, your portfolio might change in ways you hadn't expected. For example, suppose you wanted your portfolio to contain 60 percent stocks and 40 percent bonds and other investments. After a period of rising prices, though, the value of your stocks may have increased so much that they now occupy 65 percent of your portfolio – which means you may be taking on more risk than you had

originally intended. Consequently, you may need to rebalance your portfolio to get back to your original 60 percent to 40 percent ratios. (Keep in mind that these figures are just for illustration; everyone's ideal portfolio mix will depend on their individual situations.)

These aren't the only year-end moves you may want to consider, but they can help you close out 2018 on a positive note. Plus, they can serve as a reminder that you need to be vigilant as you keep working toward your financial goals.

*This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones financial advisor. Jennifer Basey is a financial advisor in Fort Myers. She can be reached at jennifer.basey@edwardjones.com.**

Superior Interiors

Give The Gift Of Decor



by Linda Coin

With the holiday season among us, many are faced with the dilemma of finding gifts for loved ones. Be it a spouse, friend or host of a holiday party, here are some versatile

ideas to guide you through the gifting process.

Mirrors are a great option for any recipient, as they require no color matching and are always appropriate. Small sizes can be placed virtually anywhere in a home and act as a practical present.

Artwork, like mirrors, are useable in most areas of a home. They can bring an area to a whole new level and elevate the existing decorations. Small art pieces can be placed in open bookshelves as layers of interest or on easels as desk top accents.

Flora seems to be a go-to host gift, and for good reason. Bringing plants into a room livens it up and is appropriate at any time of the year. If caring for plant life is not your

recipient's forte, high quality artificial ones can bring in the same effect with a lower level of commitment. Orchids, cactus and other succulent varieties also offer easy care.

Vases, candleholders and trays are staples in the decorating world. Vases come in all shapes and sizes; variation is always appreciated when it comes to dealing with varying styles of floral arrangements. Deliver your vase pre-equipped with fresh flowers for an extra touch. Veer from the expected by utilizing a planter or a cache pot in clay, or ceramic. Candleholders are another way to add elegance and interest to a room in a subtle way. A silver design lends itself to the metallics of winter and spring, whereas bronze or gold designs fit in with the summer and fall months. Trays can be useful items for serving, showcasing accessories, or used as an extra table top area.

Another gift with appeal is the timeless gift of a decorative box. It acts as a practical decoration, bringing interest to a table top and allowing for miscellaneous items such as office necessities or electronic remotes to be stored out of sight.

When in doubt, a gift certificate for design services from an interior design professional could solve your gift-giving dilemma, as well as the decorating challenges of the recipient.

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

Shell Islands Garden Club presents

"FESTIVAL OF WREATHS" and White House Decorator, Carol Kolar Tuesday, December 11, 2018



Sanibel Community House
2173 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel
11:30 am

Everyone is invited!
\$5 Donation suggested.



Shell Islands Garden Club invites you to join us in celebrating the holiday season with a "Festival of Wreaths."

This silent auction features an array of wreaths and other decorations beautifully hand-crafted by our creative Club members. From traditionally-decorated forms to unconventional materials, there will be something for everyone.



At the same time, SIGC is sponsoring a presentation by **Carol Kolar** who decorated the White House for Christmas in 2015. Carol will share her expertise and ideas for holiday décor and design.

Place your silent auction bids before the program begins at 12:00 pm.
Bidding will close at 1:15 pm.

For more information, go to
www.sanibelgardenclub.org



From page 16

Calusa Blueway

Recreation Center at 6:30 p.m.

Carns is a professional kayak fishing guide with years of experience fishing the waters of the Calusa Blueway and participating in paddle-fishing tournaments. He will bring his own equipment and discuss preparing for fishing tournaments, planning strategies, rigging your craft, measuring fish and more.

"With the Calusa Blueway Kayak Fishing Tournament being just a few days after our first talk, we thought it would be a great idea to have Dan focus

on tournament fishing," said Calusa Blueway Coordinator Mike Hammond of Lee County Parks & Recreation. "He is our most requested speaker, and we are excited to have him back."

The schedule for the Calusa Blueway Speaker Series includes:

January 8: Brian Wyllie – Building Your Own Kayak

February 5: Connie Mier – Photography from a Canoe

March 6: Tommy Thompson and Peg Phillips – Paddling Florida Adventures

Wa-Ke Hatchee Recreation Center is located at 16760 Bass Road in Fort Myers. For more information, call 432-2154.*

UFF Lifetime Achievement Award Honoree

The Uncommon Friends Foundation (UFF) recently honored Gray Davis with a Lifetime Achievement Award for his many years of service to the Uncommon Friends Foundation, including serving seven years as chairman of the board of directors (2008 to 2015). Davis is agency executive/senior vice president of McGriff Insurance Services, a member of BB&T Holdings, the fifth largest independent insurance agency in the United States and the world. He was instrumental in raising donations to build the Gale McBride Pavilion in 2015 and also in establishing the Hilliard Student Scholarships to Florida Gulf Coast University. He holds an MBA in finance from Walden University and an executive MBA from Babson College, is a veteran of the United States Navy, and a retired member of the United States Marine Corps.

Brenda Stewart and Jody VanCooney were also recognized for more than 20 years each of invaluable volunteer service to Uncommon Friends Foundation on the scholarships program, public relations, and serving on events committees – always giving a helping hand where needed.

The nonprofit Uncommon Friends Foundation, celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2018, is dedicated to lifelong character building among today's



Marilyn Stout presents the Lifetime Achievement Award to Gray Davis

photo courtesy Red Door Photography

youth and business leaders. It strives to inspire future leaders toward excellence of character, a spirit of innovation and a sense of purpose. Through character education, business ethics programs, scholarships and historic preservation of the Burroughs property, UFF carries on the generational values of Fort Myers

businessman Jim Newton and his friends Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, Dr. Alexis Carrel and Charles Lindburgh.

For more information, visit www.uncommonfriends.org or contact UFF Executive Director Jennifer Nelson at 337-9305.*

Commissioners Select Kiker As New Chairman

The Lee Board of County Commissioners recently selected Commissioner Larry Kiker to serve as chairman for 2018-19. Commissioner Brian Hamman was selected to serve as Vice Chairman.

The chairman presides over the commission's regularly scheduled meetings and has the authority to call special meetings. The chairman is responsible for signing all orders and proclamations of the board. The vice chairman serves in these roles if the chairman is unavailable. The board votes to select a chair and vice chair each November.

Commissioner Kiker has served on the board since 2012 and served as vice chairman this past year.

Prior to the regular meeting Tuesday, Commissioners Cecil L Pendergrass and Brian Hamman each took the Oath of Office to serve new terms on the board following their re-election. Pendergrass has served on the board since 2012 and served as chairman this past year. Hamman has served on the board since 2013.

For more information, visit www.leegov.com.*

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Top High School Basketball Tournament Returns For 46th Year



by Ed Frank

Fast approaching is the City of Palms Classic, the premier high school basketball tournament in the nation featuring many of the top players and teams in the United States.

The 2018 classic marks the 46th year for the tournament that is now recognized as the No. 1 event of its type in all of the United States. It will be held December 17 to 22 in the Suncoast Credit Union Arena on the campus of Southwestern State College.

It all started in 1973, like so many tournaments today, as a simple holiday basketball tournament. Over the years, however, it expanded to include the nation's finest athletes and teams and has set the standard by which all tournaments are compared.

Here is just a glimpse of the amazing history of the tournament:

More than 530 players have advanced to NCAA Division I colleges;

140 players moved onto play professionally in the National Basketball Association;

Hundreds of coaches and scouts at every level come here for recruiting, such as Roy

Williams, Mike Krzyzewski and John Calipari.

As we get closer to the start of the tournament, we will highlight some of the talent that will play here. ESPN rankings have six of the top 25 seniors and four juniors as top recruits that will play here.

University School out of Fort Lauderdale pulled off an upset victory over top-ranked Memphis East to win the 2017 championship. The east coast Florida team will return this year to defend their crown.

The following 26 teams from throughout the United States will compete this year in the Classic: Charlotte High School, Punta Gorda, Florida; Gary College Academy, West Columbia, South Carolina; IMG Academy, Bradenton, Florida; Imhotep Charter School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Immaculate Conception High School, Montclair, New Jersey; McEachern High School, Powder Springs, Georgia; Miami Christian School, Miami, Florida; Mountain Brook High School, Mountain Brook, Alabama; Oak Hill Academy,

All-Star Classic December 5

It's one last chance to see some of Lee County's most talented high school football players before they move on to college. Florida State commits Quashon Fuller and Derick Hunter, Jr. are among the 68 players selected from across the county taking part in the 30th annual Rotary South All-Star Classic at Fort Myers High School on Wednesday, December 5 at 7 p.m.

Hunter, a tight end from Dunbar, and Fuller, a defensive end from Lehigh Senior, will join forces on an imposing South squad that will take on a North team that includes Mariner athlete Rashawn Hunter, who has offers from Iowa State, Virginia, Marshall and Fordham.

The all-stars aren't just the players on the field. Each school is sending two cheerleaders as well, for a total of 38, and three team managers will also take part. Every all-star gets a customized commemorative ring or charm.

Some of the All-Stars aren't just promising college prospects. Nearly two dozen players who've taken part in the game over the past three decades have gone on to the NFL, including Sammy Watkins, Phillip Buchanon and Jevon Kearse.

Game tickets are \$5 and are available at the gate and at each participating Lee County high school. Parking is \$5 per vehicle and includes a complimentary game program.

Former Estero and Florida Atlantic Player Wilfred (JR) Rivera, now a motivational speaker and author of the book *What's Eating Up Your Time?: The Full 24*, will serve as the keynote speaker at an awards banquet at the Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre on Monday, December 3 from 6 to 9 p.m. A limited number of tickets to the banquet are available at the theatre on 1380 Colonial Boulevard or by calling 278-4422.

Visit www.rotarysouthallstarclassic.org to see player, cheerleader and manager rosters and learn about the history of the All-Star Classic as the game celebrates its 30th year.*

Mouth of Wilson, Virginia; Olive Branch High School, Olive Branch, Mississippi; Osceola High School, Kissimmee, Florida; Paul VI High School, Fairfax, Virginia; Riverview High School, Sarasota, Florida; University School, Fort Lauderdale, Florida; Vashon High School, St. Louis, Missouri; Woodrow Wilson High School, Washington, DC; Brunswick High School, Brunswick, Georgia; Glens Falls High School, Glens Falls, New York; La Crosse Central High School, La Crosse, Wisconsin; Petal High School, Petal, Mississippi; Lakeland High School, Lakeland, Florida; Lehigh Senior High School, Lehigh Acres, Florida; Miami Palmetto High School, Pinecrest, Florida; The Villages Charter School, The Villages, Florida; West Oak Academy, Orlando, Florida; and Booker High School, Sarasota, Florida.

Florida Everblades Begin Six-Game Homestand This Week

The Florida Everblades began the week with a 9-5-3 season record and a third-place standing in the South Division of the ECHL, five points behind Jacksonville.

The local hockey team began a six-game home stand Wednesday of this week against South Carolina in the now-named Hertz Arena.

The Everblades will host South Carolina again tonight, Friday, and tomorrow night.

Next Wednesday, Jacksonville provides the competition with Greenville here for a weekend series.*

Red Sox Spring Training Tickets

Tickets for the 2019 Red Sox Spring Training exhibition season go on sale at JetBlue Park and online at www.redsox.com this Saturday, December 1 at 10 a.m. The team will play a total of 17 home games, including 16 Grapefruit League games and a game against the Northeastern University Huskies.

Season ticket prices will be held at 2018 levels. Prices for individual game tickets will increase between \$3 and \$5 for most seating categories, with tickets for the lawn area remaining at \$5.

Fans needing ADA accessible seating or those who may not have a computer may call 877-REDSOX9. Hearing impaired

fans may call the Red Sox TTY line at 617-226-6644.

The Red Sox will permit fans to begin lining up for tickets at JetBlue Park on Friday, November 30, starting at 6 p.m. Vehicle and tent camping is prohibited.

The Red Sox' equipment truck will depart from Fenway Park on Monday, February 4. Pitchers and catchers are scheduled to hold their first workouts on February 13 and position players on February 18. Workouts are free and open to the public.

There will be an Open House at JetBlue Park on Saturday, February 16, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The free event, open to the public, welcomes fans to walk around the park and the grounds, while enjoying concessions and entertainment on Fenway South Drive – a street festival inspired by Jersey Street in Boston.*

SPORTS QUIZ

1. Who holds the major-league record for most consecutive games reaching base safely at least twice per game?
2. Which of the following major-league players known for their longevity pitched in the fewest major-league seasons: Tommy John, Jim Kaat, Jesse Orosco or Nolan Ryan?
3. Name the last player before Cleveland's Terrelle Pryor in 2016 to have three rushes, three receptions and three passes attempted in the same NFL game.
4. Name the last NCAA men's college basketball team to reach three consecutive NCAA championship games.
5. Who was the last NHL player before Washington's Evgeny Kuznetsov in 2018 to have a four-assist game in the Stanley Cup Final?
6. When was the last time before 2018 that the U.S. women's hockey team won Olympic gold?
7. In 2018, Brooks Koepka became the fifth golfer to win the U.S. Open and PGA Championship in the same year. Name two of the four others to do it.

ANSWERS

1. Boston's Ted Williams, with 21 games. 2. Orosco pitched in 24 seasons, trailing Ryan (27), John (26) and Kaat (25). 3. San Francisco's Billy Kiner, in 1964. 4. Kentucky (1996-98). 5. Colorado's Joe Sakic, in 1996. 6. It was 1998. 7. Ben Hogan (1948), Jack Nicklaus (1980), Gene Sarazen (1922) and Tiger Woods (2000).

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Front row from left, Julie Mathis, Jannette Hawley and Jacqueline Benjamin; back row from left, Marlene Hofer, Ashley Maher, Sushila Cherian and Marilyn Thorndycraft photo provided

Foundation Raises \$10,000 To Support Children

Guardian ad Litem Foundation, 20th Judicial Circuit, recently raised \$10,028 at the nonprofit organization's Fashion to a Tea fundraising event on November 7.

Held at Twin Isles Country Club in Punta Gorda, Fashion to a Tea included an elegant high tea luncheon, silent auction and fashion show to raise money for Guardian ad Litem, which pairs volunteer advocates with abused, neglected and abandoned children.

The spirited fashion show featured models showcasing trendy women's wear provided by Anthony's Ladies Apparel, a Punta Gorda clothier. Many of the 145 fashionistas in attendance elected to wear ornamental, Kentucky Derby-style hats.

Fashion to a Tea was part of a series of fundraising events that will help Guardian ad Litem Foundation provide funds to recruit, train and support volunteer advocates who offer a voice on behalf of abused, neglected or abandoned children in the courts, schools and child welfare system. Only about 60 percent of Southwest Florida children in foster care currently have a volunteer advocate.

For sponsorship or ticket opportunities at upcoming events, visit www.voicesforkids.org or call 533-1435.✱

Wealth Advisor Joins Henderson Wealth Partners

Henderson Wealth Partners (HWP) recently announced that Alexandra "Allie" Chiklakis, daughter of HWP President Sam Henderson, has become a wealth advisor for the family wealth management firm. HWP is a second-generation, Fort Myers-based firm, founded by Henderson nearly three decades ago.

"We are excited to have Allie on board as a wealth advisor," said Henderson. "She is an important part of the future growth of HWP, providing our clients with the confidence in knowing that our firm has a legacy plan in place for them, their families and for generations to come."

Chiklakis has served as the firm's insurance specialist for the past three years, specializing in long-term care planning. Her previous background as a medical social worker has helped to strengthen this focus as well as transition her into the world of financial planning. Before joining HWP, Chiklakis's position with Lee Health's Memory Disorder Clinic involved educating and supporting dementia patients, their caregivers and families.

"Many individuals and families are uninformed when it comes to affording the costs of healthcare," says Chiklakis.



Alexandra M. Chiklakis photo provided

"Sadly, in my experience, I witnessed too many depleting their financial resources in helping to properly care for their loved ones." Chiklakis realized early on that she wanted to be in a role where she could help better educate and plan with families for what may lie ahead. "My passion has always been helping people, and I believe this most likely stems from having watched my dad do the same throughout the years," she said.✱

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From left, Darlene Grossman, Tami Cindrich and Jessica Walker
photos courtesy Jim Jett Photography



Terry and Greg Frith



Pastor Tim and Martha Halverson

Foundation Honors Heroes And Leaders

The Cape Coral Community Foundation honored philanthropic heroes and leaders during the Generous Cape Reception at Palmetto-Pine Country Club on Wednesday, November 14. The annual event brought together recipients of generosity – local nonprofit organizations – with those who give so generously – local business and community leaders.

Ten individuals known for their service in the community, having a record of exceptional generosity, showing civic and charitable responsibility and demonstrating leadership that inspires others to a life of generosity were recognized for their efforts. Those individuals were Donna Caruso, Donna Giannuzzi, David Gomer, Ivan Gorr, Rev. Dr. Tim Halverson, Bob Knight, Karen Mosteller, Joe Padgett, Steve Pohlman, and Elmer Tabor.*



Hope and Michelle Lewis



From left, Bryan and Laura Blackwell, Terry and Greg Frith



From left, David Erickson, Verena Schneider-Christian, Michael Schneider-Christian



From left, Michael Chatman, Elmer Tabor, Donna Giannuzzi, Donna Caruso, Bob Knight, David Gomer, Pastor Tim Halverson, Joseph Padgett, Ivan Gorr and Steve Pohlman

Bank Manager Earns Certification

Sanibel Captiva Community Bank's Debbie Norris, vice president and office manager at the McGregor branch, has earned the American Bankers Association Branch Manager certification. The certification is awarded to individuals who demonstrate the skills essential to successfully manage branch office operations, knowledge of deposit and loan products, as well as sales management and customer service.

"Earning the ABA Branch Manager certification validates Debbie's experience, discipline and depth of education in banking," said Lee Golden, Sanibel Captiva Community Bank senior vice president and director of retail operations. "It's a designation that is well deserved."

Norris has over three decades of banking experience. Prior to joining the bank, she worked in the corporate lockbox department at PNC Bank in



Debbie Norris photo provided

Pittsburgh. She joined the Sanibel Captiva Community Bank in February 2002 as a teller supervisor and has managed the McGregor branch since 2006.✱

Bank Official Honored At 40 Under 40 Awards

Kyle DeCicco of Sanibel Captiva Community Bank was recently honored at the *Business Observer's* annual 40 Under 40 Awards in Sarasota. The awards are designed to recognize the region's top young entrepreneurs and professionals from Tampa Bay to Naples who are committed to business growth, professional excellence and community service.

DeCicco joined Sanibel Captiva Community Bank in 2016 as its first commercial loan officer. In his current role as vice president and commercial loan officer, he focuses on commercial real estate lending and developing relationships with local businesses and investors. Working in the banking industry for over a decade, he has extensive experience in commercial real estate and lending, credit analysis, portfolio management of performing and nonperforming loans, and management of FDIC insured Loss-Share assets.

In addition to leading commercial lending activity for the bank, DeCicco is actively involved in upper management. As the bank underwent rapid growth in 2017, he worked alongside the bank's senior vice president/director of retail



Kyle DeCicco photo provided

operations to successfully launch two new Lee County branch locations within a month of each other.

DeCicco is a board member of The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools and a member of the foundation's Grant Selection Committee, and a Captain-level Keel Club member of the United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee Counties, among other volunteer efforts.

To learn more, visit www.sancapbank.com.✱

Mental And Behavioral Health Leader Hired

Paul Simeone, PhD has joined Lee Health as vice president of Mental and Behavioral Health. In his new role, Simeone will lead Lee Health's behavioral and mental health initiatives while working with community partners to improve behavioral health care in Southwest Florida.

Simeone has more than 30 years of experience in mental and behavioral health as an educator, administrator and practicing clinical psychologist.

"We're thrilled to bring Paul on board. He brings extensive mental and behavioral health experience with highly regarded organizations around the country," said John Chomeau, Lee Health's chief population health officer. "Paul's unique combination of leadership, teaching, operations and clinical practice will help Lee Health drive improvements to behavioral and mental health care in Southwest Florida."

Simeone most recently served as the program coordinator for the cultural/linguistic and fee-for-service teams in adult outpatient psychiatry at Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) in Somerville, Massachusetts.

Simeone has also held several faculty positions at universities in the Boston area and most recently served as a clinical instructor at Harvard Medical School. His clinical experience is extensive and varied,



Paul Simeone photo provided

organized around an integrative approach that combines psychodynamic, narrative and trauma-focused treatments. He has seen a wide spectrum of patients typical of large outpatient practices. His areas of specialty include treating major mental illness, trauma, personality disorders, substance abuse/compulsive disorders and relational problems.

Simeone has a PhD in clinical psychology and master's degree in school psychology from Adelphi University in Garden City, New York as well as a master's degree in psychology from Mount Holyoke College near Springfield, Massachusetts.✱

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From page 1

Beatles Tribute

began November 27 and end December 2. The Southwest Florida Goodwill Foundation is the beneficiary of the Festival of Trees, a showcase of pine trees designed and decorated by local businesses, individuals and organizations that are auctioned and raffled off.

Santa's Block Party and Children's Holiday Workshop will be held on Saturday, December 1 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost is \$6 for children, \$2 for adults and free to children younger than age 12.

For more information, a complete list of activities during Festival of Trees and tickets, visit www.goodwilltrees.com. The Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center is located at 2301 First Street in downtown Fort Myers.✱



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dearRPharmacist

Why Your Thyroid Still Bothers You



by Suzy Cohen, RPh

Dear Readers:

If there's one thing I'm sensitive to, it's an incorrect diagnosis. You probably are too. I bet many of you reading this today have spent lots of money over the years, trying to address all

the incorrect diagnoses that well-meaning physicians arbitrarily assigned to you.

Today's article is about thyroid because it gets misdiagnosed probably 1,000 times a day or more. Perhaps you've been told you have depression, bipolar, heart disease, anxiety, Irritable Bowel Syndrome, fibromyalgia, chronic UTIs or Raynaud's phenomenon. What if I told you all these problems could stem from undiagnosed hypothyroidism. And your labs will show up as normal.

Take "Beth" for example. She told her physician about her sudden irrational fears, and mild anxiety about things that never used to bother her before. It was weird for her to suddenly feel this mentally unsettled and, at times, shaky.

Her physician in Connecticut talked to her for 10 minutes then ordered Alprazolam to be taken throughout the day. This medication is in the category of "benzodiazepines," and it is a popular anti-anxiety and sleep medication. The problem I have with this is two-fold:

1. Why would any doctor prescribe an addictive drug as the first line agent? These drugs have the capacity to change your brain in scary ways over time by down-regulating GABA receptors. Why bring the big guns out right away when something more benign could be tried first?

2. Why didn't he test her for Hashimoto's or hypothyroidism, when anxiety is often one of the first symptoms? Other symptoms include constipation, dry skin, hair loss, brain fog and feeling constantly cold. Sudden unexplained anxiety, bipolar or odd mood swings could be a tell-tale sign of Hashimoto's thyroiditis, which is exactly what Beth had. It was uncovered two years later.

Missing the diagnosis of hypothyroidism, Graves' disease or Hashimoto's could mean that you continue to feel awful. Not getting the right treatment will cause the crumbling of your job, relationships, financial security (conventional medical labs and treatments are not cheap) and, while hard to measure, your personal self-esteem.

Doctors shouldn't shoot in the dark. I am worried you're getting heavily medicated with mind-bending drugs, like Beth is, instead of getting simple thyroid hormone to replace what's missing. Did you know that thyroid hormone declines naturally with age, just like our estrogen and testosterone? Your lab results cannot be trusted.

There are many reasons that your thyroid might be bothering you, and your doctor won't catch it. The number one reason is that thyroid hormone may be locked outside the cell. It has to get inside your cell to help you. Also, conversion rates to activated T3 go down with stress, pregnancy and grief. Would you like to know all of the reasons? If so, I'll share a free copy of my ebook: *Thyroid - 5 Reasons You Don't Get Well*. I also wrote a food guide for people with Hashimoto's called *Hashi No No's*. Just email me at scriptessentials@suzycohen.com and specify which ebook(s) you would like.

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. ✨

\$500 to \$2,500.

Proposals will be accepted beginning in December through January 18, 2019. A student committee will then review submitted grant applications and select projects to be the recipients of the funding. Selected projects will be required to match the funding with money or in-kind donations.

The United Way and the Unitarian Universalist Church believe in promoting positive youth experiences that can help prevent youth violence. YVPP will foster strategies that work in combination to prevent youth violence in a long-term way such as:

- Promoting family environments that support healthy development
- Providing quality education early in life
- Strengthening youth's skills
- Connecting youth to caring adults and activities
- Creating protective community environments
- Intervening to lessen harms and prevent future risk.

For more information, visit www.unitedwaylee.org/yvp. ✨

Doctor and Dietician

Sweet Cravings



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

During the holiday season, the availability and temptation to eat sweets is higher than ever. Sugar stimulates the brain's dopamine or pleasure-sensing pathway, which causes us to desire more and more. So, if you try to moderate your sugar intake during the holidays, it may help New Year's health resolutions easier to achieve. The American Heart Association recommends no more than 6 teaspoons (25 grams) for women and 9 teaspoons (36 grams) for men. Keep in mind that just one 12-ounce can of regular soda has 10 teaspoons of sugar, and provides no nutritional benefit. Our bodies simply do not need added sugars. We get enough in foods like fruit and grains that have natural sugars which digest more slowly, allowing cells

to get a steady source of energy.

What can we do to help with these cravings? The first step is to consistently consume meals that you make from scratch. Most processed/packaged meals and snacks add sugar, including many foods we think of as "savory," like crackers. This keeps your brain wanting more sugar. Instead, by cooking with different herbs and spices, a variety of tastes can be experienced. In fact, once people begin to experience tastes other than sweetness, they can retrain their brains to enjoy a variety of tastes: salty, sour, bitter, savory, spicy and sweet.

Try marinating chicken in garlic, lemon juice, olive oil and herbs de Provence. Vegetables can be simply roasted in olive oil and kosher salt, or try adding curry powder or fajita seasoning. There are a thousand delicious and satisfying flavor combinations! If you want a little something sweet, keep some dark chocolate on hand and have a small piece after a healthy dinner. But do not stock foods like ice cream, cake, and other sweets at home during the holidays to avoid unnecessary temptation.

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

Give To American Red Cross This Holiday Season

In a year when disasters upended the lives of thousands of people, the American Red Cross is asking everyone to Give Something that Means Something for families in need through its 2018 Holiday Giving Campaign.

"Every day, home fires and other everyday crises turn people's lives upside down," said Jill Palmer, executive director for Florida's Southern Gulf Chapter. "The Red Cross is able to assist in times of need because of the generosity of our donors and volunteers. This holiday season, please consider the families counting on your support."

Visit #GiveWithMeaning at www.redcross.org/gift to support people in need with a symbolic gift, which you can make in honor of the special people in your life:

Your gift of \$250 can deliver hot meals for 25 people who need nourishment after a disaster. A donation of \$100 can provide a family of two with a full day's worth of emergency shelter with meals, snacks, blankets, a cot and hygiene supplies. Help provide warmth with a gift of \$50, which can provide blankets for 10 people.

A donation of \$125 can help veterans transition back to civilian life by connecting them and their families to critical services such as food, housing, counseling and rehabilitation.

Your gift of \$100 can help provide lifesaving vaccinations for 100 children who face an increased risk of measles and rubella around the world.

To learn more about becoming a Red Cross volunteer, visit redcross.org/sflvolunteer.

Every 8 minutes, someone affected by disaster is helped by donations to the Red Cross. The generosity of Red Cross donors helps provide people with necessities like shelter, food, relief supplies, emotional support, recovery planning and other assistance.

The need is constant – and this year was no different. Nearly every day, local Red Cross volunteers are assisting families impacted by disasters. Home fires – the nation's most frequent disaster – account for the vast majority of our responses.

In addition to helping families recover from these events, we also help save lives by installing free smoke alarms and helping residents create escape plans through our Home Fire Campaign, which has reached more than 32,600 people throughout the south Florida region since it began in 2014.

In 2018, because of the generous support of the community, the South Florida Red Cross also:

- Provided more than 6,000 items to VA standowns and military events;
- Educated more than 300,000 people on lifesaving CPR and AED skills; and
- Installed over 7,000 free smoke alarms

"Your support can give hope and relief to disaster victims at home and around the world," Palmer said. ✨

Youth Violence Prevention Partnership

The United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades, and Okeechobee and the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Myers (UUCFM) have begun a partnership designed to reduce youth violence. This initiative is a United Way collaborative entitled the Youth Violence Prevention Partnership (YVPP). The YVPP is a community funding initiative to encourage the development of programs that will reduce youth violence and the risk factors that contribute to it.

YVPP focuses on giving grants to local youth-centered organizations or communities who propose youth violence prevention programs with clear and measurable objectives. The project will offer a total of \$25,000 in grants to fund student-driven programs that address youth violence prevention and awareness. Grants will be awarded in increments of

PETS OF THE WEEK

photos provided

Lee County Domestic Animal Services

Ashton And Lizzy

Hello, my name is Ashton. I am a 4-year-old male hound mix who is a tall, handsome fellow that loves to watch the birds fly by – quite literally. I love being outside with the team of volunteers watching the birds, squirrels, geckos – whatever moves, including tennis balls. I will also be quite content sitting next to you for a good old-fashioned back scratch. My one blue eye and one brown make me a one-of-a-kind guy that you can show off to your friends.



Ashton ID# A756921

My adoption fee is \$40.

Hi, I'm Lizzy. I am a 2-year-old female domestic shorthair who is a curious little girl that loves checking out my surroundings. I will dart from one thing to the next lickety-split. Dust certainly does not have time to build up on this gal! I am energetic and full of life. I love to play with my feline friends and would like to have one at my new home to keep me company.

My adoption fee is free through November 30.

Say farewell to summer and "Fall in Love" with your new best friend. Lee County Domestic Animal Services is offering potential adopters the chance to adopt a dog 5 months or older for just \$40, and cats for free throughout the month of November. Although fees are reduced, the adoption package still includes spay or neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, flea treatment, feline AIDS and leukemia test for cats, heartworm test for dogs six months and older, Lee County license for pets three months or older, microchip ID and a 10-day health guarantee. The adoption package is valued at more than \$500.



Lizzy ID# A755965

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

Haven on Earth Animal League

Trixie And Dylan

Hello, my name is Trixie. I'm a beautiful 2-year-old female calico with a very sweet personality. I am very mellow and loving and would like a home to call my own. I have been fully vetted and brought up to date on all vaccines. My adoption fee is \$55.

Hi, I'm Dylan. Aren't I just adorable? I'm only 8 months old, so I'm quite the playful kitten. I like other cats and hope I can find a home with another young kitty to play with. I'm neutered and up to date on all vaccines. My adoption fee is \$100.

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



Trixie



Dylan

PAWS Of Sanibel

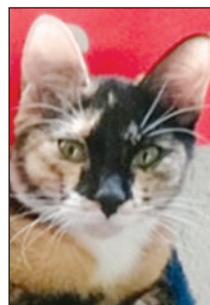
Brava And Lucy

Two very unusual and beautiful sisters are up for adoption. One is tortoiseshell cat with white or calico features, while the other is a dilute tortoiseshell.

These photos do not do them justice, as they are much more adorable in person. Adopt one, or keep them together and adopt both. They are four and five months old. They come with complete vet check-up, all shots, tests, wormed, treated with flea preventative and spayed. Call Pam at PAWS at 472-4823 to adopt one or both.*



Brava



Lucy

Sonny And Cher

This is Sonny and Cher. Some of you may remember them. Three years ago, four kitties, the momma and three kittens were trapped between the Sunset Beach Resort and Lantana condominium on West Gulf Drive. All were adopted (Lana, Tanner, Sonny and Cher) to lovely people. However, Sonny and Cher's mom has reached a time in her life when she feels she must move in with family over on Pine Island. Unfortunately, in addition to her granddaughter being allergic, her son operates a business out of his home that is directly on Pine Island Road and the doors are always opening and closing, so it's not safe for kitties. These are very special kitties, and need to be together forever. Call Pam at 472-4823 if you can give these sweethearts a new home.*



Sonny



Cher



Emergency	911
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Florida Marine Patrol	332-6966
Florida Highway Patrol	278-7100
Poison Control	1-800-282-3171
HealthPark Medical Center	1-800-936-5321
Ft. Myers Chamber of Commerce	332-3624
Foundation for Quality Childcare	425-2685
Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce	454-7500
Fort Myers Beach Library	463-9691
Lakes Regional Library	533-4000
Lee County Chamber of Commerce	931-0931
Post Office	1-800-275-8777
Visitor & Convention Bureau	338-3500

ARTS

Alliance for the Arts	939-2787
Arts For ACT Gallery & Studio	337-5050
Art League Of Fort Myers	275-3970
Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall	481-4849
BIG ARTS	395-0900
Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre	278-4422
Cultural Park Theatre	772-5862
Edison Festival of Light	334-2999
Florida Repertory Theatre at the Arcade	332-4488
Florida West Arts	948-4427
Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers	288-2535
Gulf Coast Symphony	489-1800
Harmony Chorus, Charles Sutter, Pres	481-8059
Naples Philharmonic	239-597-1111
The Schoolhouse Theater	472-6862
SW Florida Symphony	418-0996
Theatre Conspiracy	936-3239
Young Artists Awards	574-9321

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS

American Legion Post #38	239-332-1853
Angel Flight	1-877-4AN-ANGEL
Animal Refuge Center	731-3535
American Business Women Association	357-6755
Audubon of SWFL	339-8046
Audubon Society	472-3156
Caloosahatchee Chapter DAR	482-1366
Caloosahatchee Folk Society	321-4620
Cape 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 - United Daughters of the Confederacy	728-3743
Friendship Force Of SW FL	561-9164
Garden Club of Cape Coral	239-257-2654
Horticulture and Tea Society	472-8334
Horticultural Society	472-6940
Lee County Genealogical Society	549-9625
Lee Trust for Historic Preservation	939-7278
NARFE (National Active & Retired Federal Employees	482-6713
Navy Seabees Veterans of America	731-1901
Paradise Iowa Club of SWFL	667-1354
Sons of Confederate Veterans	332-2408
Southwest Florida Fencing Academy	939-1338
Southwest Florida Music Association	561-2118
Kiwanis Fort Myers Beach	765-4254 or 454-8090
Kiwanis Fort Myers Edison	694-1056
Kiwanis Fort Myers South	691-1405
Iona-McGregor	482-0869
Lions Club Fort Myers Beach	463-9738
Lions Club Fort Myers High Noon	466-4228
Lions Club Estero/South Fort Myers	898-1921
Notre Dame Club of Lee County	768-0417
Organ Transplant Recipients of SW Florida	247-3073
POLO Club of Lee County	477-4906
Rotary Club of Fort Myers	332-8158
Sanibel-Captiva Orchid Society	472-6940
United Way of Lee County	433-2000
United Way 211 Helpline (24 hour)	211 or 433-3900

AREA ATTRACTIONS

Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum	395-2233
Burrough's Home	337-9505
Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium	275-3435
Edison & Ford Winter Estates	334-7419
Fort Myers Skate Park	321-7558
Imaginarium Hands-On Museum & Aquarium	321-7420
JN "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge	472-1100
Koreshan State Historic Site	239-992-0311
Langford Kingston Home	239-334-2550
Ostego Bay Foundation Marine Science Center	765-8101
Skatium	321-7510
Southwest Florida Historical Society	939-4044
Southwest Florida Museum of History	321-7430
True Tours	945-0405

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

PUZZLES

Answers on page 29

Super Crossword

MANY MEANINGS

- ACROSS**
- 1 Build up
6 Features of gymnasts' horses
13 With a single flat, musically
16 Tam or fez
19 Start a web session
20 "Seriously!"
21 Measure in Ohm's law
23 See
25 Metallic marble
26 German GM subsidiary
27 Ernie of the PGA Tour
29 Put forth, as effort
30 See
38 Lake vessel
39 "I Go —" (Peter Allen song)
40 Hindu masters
41 Spies, e.g.
43 Kind of violet
45 — kwon do
46 With 87-Down, collectively
49 TV's Amaz
- 50 See
55 Singer King of "Tapestry"
57 Barmaid on "Cheers"
58 Name of five Norse kings
59 Profs.' helpers
62 "Man" or "12" lead-in
63 Gulf War missiles
65 Mold, as clay
66 See
72 "The Wild Swans at —" (poem by Yeats)
73 Lawyer on "Ally McBeal"
74 H.S. math class
75 Blaster's stuff
76 Like much music of the '90s
77 "You — both!"
79 Many a Muslim
82 See
86 Debussy's "Clair de —"
90 Bundy and Unser
- 91 "Mazel —!"
92 "— is human ..."
93 Like a perfect place
95 School skipper
98 Like back-in-fashion
100 Buddy
101 See
106 Microsoft ad campaign
107 Ear-relevant prefix
108 Paula once on CNN
109 Sleep-inducing drug
112 Not sharp, as a picture on a screen (and what 23-, 30-, 50-, 66-, 82- and 101-Across are, literally)
120 Comic actress Wiig
121 Alcohol in liquor
122 Comaneci of gymnastics
123 DOS part: Abbr.
124 "Assuredly!"
125 Wet outside
- 126 Clearing in the woods
- DOWN**
- 1 Alien of TV
2 Stoooge of TV
3 Get ripper
4 Very wise
5 Brief excerpt in a text
6 Little oinker
7 "Holy cow!," in a text
8 Singer Tillis
9 — Zedong
10 Brian of electronica
11 Treated with calcium compounds
12 Fashion trends
13 ICU sights
14 "— fair!"
15 More woolly (delivery cry)
18 Calvin of golf
22 Dallas locale
24 "— Blu Dipinto di Blu"
28 Dallas-to-Austin dir.
30 Gerbil holder
31 Singles
32 "Fiddler on the Roof" star
33 Obliterate
34 Quick note
35 Ned who manages the Royals
36 Plate for the Eucharist
37 Picture
38 Blackguard
42 Scuffle
44 "Hey, bro"
46 Phrase after "café"
47 Fasten with a click
48 Onset
51 Nessie's waters
52 Lunar effect
53 Door fixture
54 Big-top cries
56 Church area
59 Port near Seattle
60 Musically keyless
61 Artists' wear
63 Tight-lipped
64 Quarter of M
65 USMC rank
67 Merrie — England
68 Inner: Prefix
69 Do, —, fa ...
70 Sprinkle, say
71 Skip over
77 Love, to Gigi
78 Kim of "Pal Joey"
79 Kinda maybe
80 Rush
81 Rudimentary
83 Horrible thing
84 Like slasher films
85 Look like
87 See
88 Nearly here
89 Prefix with law or chic
94 Debonair
95 Sorts
96 Cpl., for one
97 Epithets
99 How slimy stuff seeps
101 Tiny wounds
102 University in Atlanta
103 Seasonally dry ravines
104 Molar, e.g.
105 Tore
110 Born, to Gigi
111 Lt.'s inferior
113 "— is it?"
114 Crow relative
115 Phenyl ender
116 FWIW part
117 Ore- — (food brand)
118 Meteor tail?
119 Scots' "no"

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										
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	30	31							32	33	34	35			36	37						
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106										107									108			
109						110	111				112		113	114	115	116			117	118	119	
120											121										122	
123						124																126

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Troubadour's instrument
5 Brit. fliers
8 Legal document
12 Tiny bit
13 Right angle
14 Present
15 Poetic foot
16 By way of
17 App symbol
18 Stingy, slangily
20 Majorettes' props
22 One of the kin (Abbr.)
23 Yon maiden
24 Wait in hiding
27 Porches
32 Eisenhower
33 Before
34 Wapiti
35 Barack Obama, e.g.
38 Quarry
39 Altar affirmative
40 Blond shade
42 Baseball division
45 Weather-map line
49 Extinct bird
50 Web address
52 Author Morrison
53 Stead

54 "A pox upon thee!"
55 Not ignorant of
56 Blunders
57 Supporting (Abbr.)
58 Method (Abbr.)

DOWN

1 Secular
2 Western state
3 Heavy reading
4 Set off on a journey
5 Six-gun, e.g.
6 "The
7 Cellulite, e.g.
8 Bleach
9 Flute's cousin
10 Press
11 Sawbucks
19 Gym class (Abbr.)
21 "Eureka!"
24 Cover
25 Luau music-maker
26 String around your finger
28 Geological period
29 Merchant
30 Hearty quaff
31 Firmament
36 Hatful
37 Inmate
38 Snapshots
41 Baseball position (Abbr.)
42 Not working
43 Bleak, in Hollywood
44 Verbal abuse
46 Skeletal
47 Picnic invaders
48 Laugh-a-minute
51 Carnival city

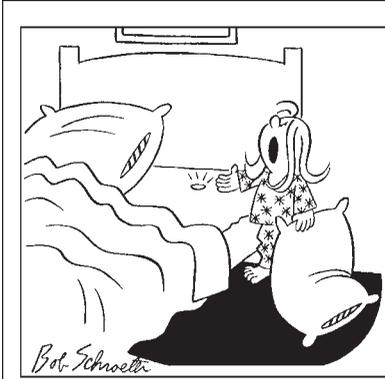
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35				36	37					38		
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42	43				44		45			46	47	48
49					50	51				52		
53					54					55		
56					57					58		

MAGIC MAZE ● LAW ENFORCEMENT

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

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

- | | | | |
|-----------|----------|-----------|---------|
| Bluecoat | Flatfoot | Marshal | RCMP |
| Bobby | Garda | Officer | Sheriff |
| Constable | Gumshoe | Patrolman | Trooper |
| Deputy | Lawman | Policeman | |



"Only a nickel, Mom! You'd think by now the tooth fairy would have heard about _____!"

answer on page 131

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the CAPITAL letters below to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word to complete the gag!

Edge

ARMING

Obsess

TEAFIX

Ignite

LINKED

Gentle

COLIDE

TODAY'S WORD

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

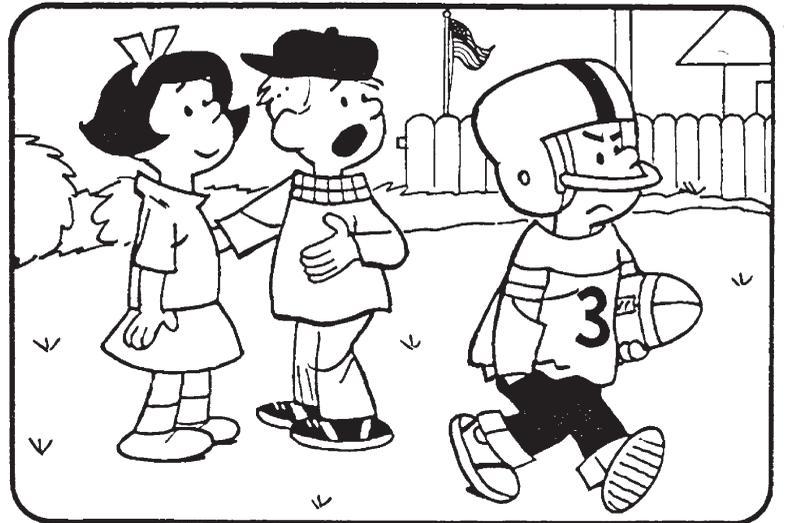
SUDOKU

To play Sudoku: Complete the grid so that every row, column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (the same number cannot appear more than once in a row, column or 3x3 box.) There is no guessing and no math involved, just logic.

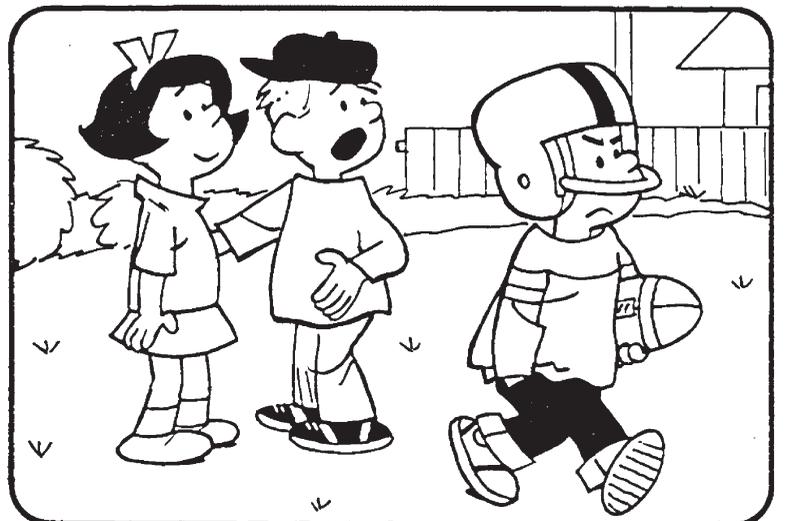
answer on page 29

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



FIND AT LEAST SIX DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS



Differences: 1. Skirt is smaller. 2. Shirt neckline is different. 3. Arm is moved. 4. Flag is missing. 5. Fence is missing. 6. Number is missing.



Strawberry Cupcakes

12 fresh strawberries, whole
1 1/2 cups strawberries, diced fine (reserve 1/2 cup for sauce)

1 teaspoon natural sugar
1 cup dark or milk chocolate chips
1/2 teaspoon cornstarch
1 tablespoon freshly squeezed lemon juice
1 cake mix, store bought or homemade
12 ounces cream cheese frosting, store bought or homemade

Preheat oven to 375 degrees if using the homemade recipe (if using store bought, follow package instructions). Prepare cupcake batter using box mix or homemade recipe provided, then fold in the diced strawberries. Line a cupcake pan with liners and set aside. Evenly divide the batter in the liners (about 2/3 full) do not overfill. Bake for about 16-18 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean when inserted. Set aside to cool completely.

Line a baking sheet with waxed paper. Melt the dark chocolate over a double boiler on low heat, stirring often. Dip each strawberry in the melted chocolate, 2/3 the way up, allow excess to drip off. Place berries on the baking sheet and refrigerate until chocolate is set.

In a small pot over medium-low heat combine

the reserved 1/2 cup diced strawberries, cornstarch, lemon juice and sugar. Cook, while stirring, until a sauce has formed, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat and cool. Once cool, use a blender to create a puree. In a medium-sized bowl add the frosting and the puree. Gently swirl together and do not over mix. Fill a pastry or sandwich bag with the frosting and frost the cupcakes. Top with a chocolate dipped strawberry.

Homemade Cupcake Batter

1 1/2 cups strawberries, diced fine (reserve 1/2 cup for sauce)

1 1/2 cups unbleached all-purpose flour
1 cup cane sugar
1 teaspoon baking powder
6 tablespoons unsalted butter, softened
2 large eggs
1/2 cup milk
2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract
1/4 teaspoon salt

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Place the cupcake liners in the cupcake pan and set aside. To prepare the batter sift all the dry ingredients in a medium-size bowl. Mix in the softened butter until it looks crumbly (the butter does not have to be fully incorporated). In a separate bowl, whisk the wet ingredients together and add this mixture to the dry ingredients, stirring to combine. Next, fold in one cup of the diced strawberries. Using an ice cream scoop, evenly divide the batter into the liners (about 2/3 full) do not overfill. Bake for about 16-18 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean when inserted. Cool completely before frosting. ✨



Strawberry Cupcakes

photo courtesy Fresh From Florida

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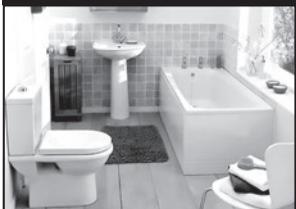
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THE RIVER
WEEKLY NEWS
FROM THE BEACHES TO DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

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 11/30 ★ 12/14

ANNUAL RENTAL

ANNUAL RENTAL SANIBEL

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SANIBEL ISLAND ANNUAL RENTALS

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 2/2 on Sandpebble \$2,000
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STORE MANAGER/SALES ASSOCIATE/STOCK HELP

Beach Daisy Boutique Now Hiring Store Manager/Sales Associate/Stock Help Smiling Faces Needed!
 Stock Help Will Train - Steam/Stock/Ticket - Can Accommodate Schedule
 4 Yr Exp For Management In Retail Sales Sales Associates-3rd Key Needed
 239-472-2224
 11/30 ★ 12/7

SANIBEL PUBLIC LIBRARY LIBRARY TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANT

Pt, 20-24 hrs/wk. Eve. & Sat. hrs. required. Qualifications: commitment to excellent public service, knowledge of personal computers, PC & Mac, ability to troubleshoot hardware and software, high school diploma, computer equipment and software experience; some college preferred.
 \$10-15/hr. dependent on exp. Tolls pd. JD avail at sanlib.org/employment.
 Send resume to secretary@sanlib.org
 11/9 ★ 11/30

PART TIME DATA/CONFIRMATION PROCESSOR

Part Time Data/confirmation processor for Sanibel Vacation Rental company. Good working knowledge of Excel spreadsheets; MS Word.
 Strong command of spoken and written English.
 30+ Hours per week Mon-Fri.
 Compensation based on experience.
 Please fax resume to 239 437-7543 or email to DLS@Schuldenfrei.com.
 11/9 ★ TFN

AUTO FOR SALE

2014 JEEP WRANGLER SAHARA

2 Dr, 4WD, 22,000 miles, excellent condition, low mileage, one owner, gently used, fully loaded with extras. \$26,000.
 Gary at 239-312-4181.
 11/30 ★ 12/7

Babcock Ranch Holiday Event December 1

Come celebrate the start of the season at Babcock Ranch's second annual Holiday Event on Saturday, December 1 from 6 to 9 p.m. Check out Southwest Florida's unique eco-centric, solar-powered town just northeast of Fort Myers at 42850 Crescent Loop in Babcock Ranch.

NBC2 News anchor Rachel Pierce will emcee the festivities, including the Babcock Ranch tree lighting ceremony at Founder's Square. The evening will feature performances by the Southwest Florida Hand Bell Ensemble, The Alva School and Babcock Neighborhood School choirs, Oak Hammock Middle School Junior Leadership Program and the Babcock Neighborhood School cheerleaders.

Santa Claus and the Whispering Pines Clydesdales will be making a stop at Babcock Ranch for the family-friendly evening. Festive food and drink specials will be available.

Attendance and parking are free. Families with children age 10 and under who would like to receive a photo with Santa, a Santa hat and popcorn must purchase wristbands for \$5 per family. Proceeds support Babcock Neighborhood School and The Alva School. Visit www.babcockranch.com/events for more information and to purchase a wristband in advance.

Babcock Ranch was created by Kitson & Partners with respect for the natural environment and the philosophy that smart growth and sustainability work hand in hand. Half of the town's 18,000-acre footprint is set aside as greenways, parks and expansive lakes, providing recreation

and scenic backdrops for Babcock Ranch's homes and the Founder's Square downtown district.

For more information about Southwest Florida's new hometown, located just northeast of Fort Myers off Babcock Ranch Road/State Road 31, visit the Discovery Center at 42850 Crescent Loop in Babcock Ranch, call 877-709-6620 or visit www.BabcockRanch.com.✱

Unicorn Christmas

The Calendar Girls kicked off the holiday season with their Magical Unicorn Christmas at Fleamasters Flea Market on November 24.

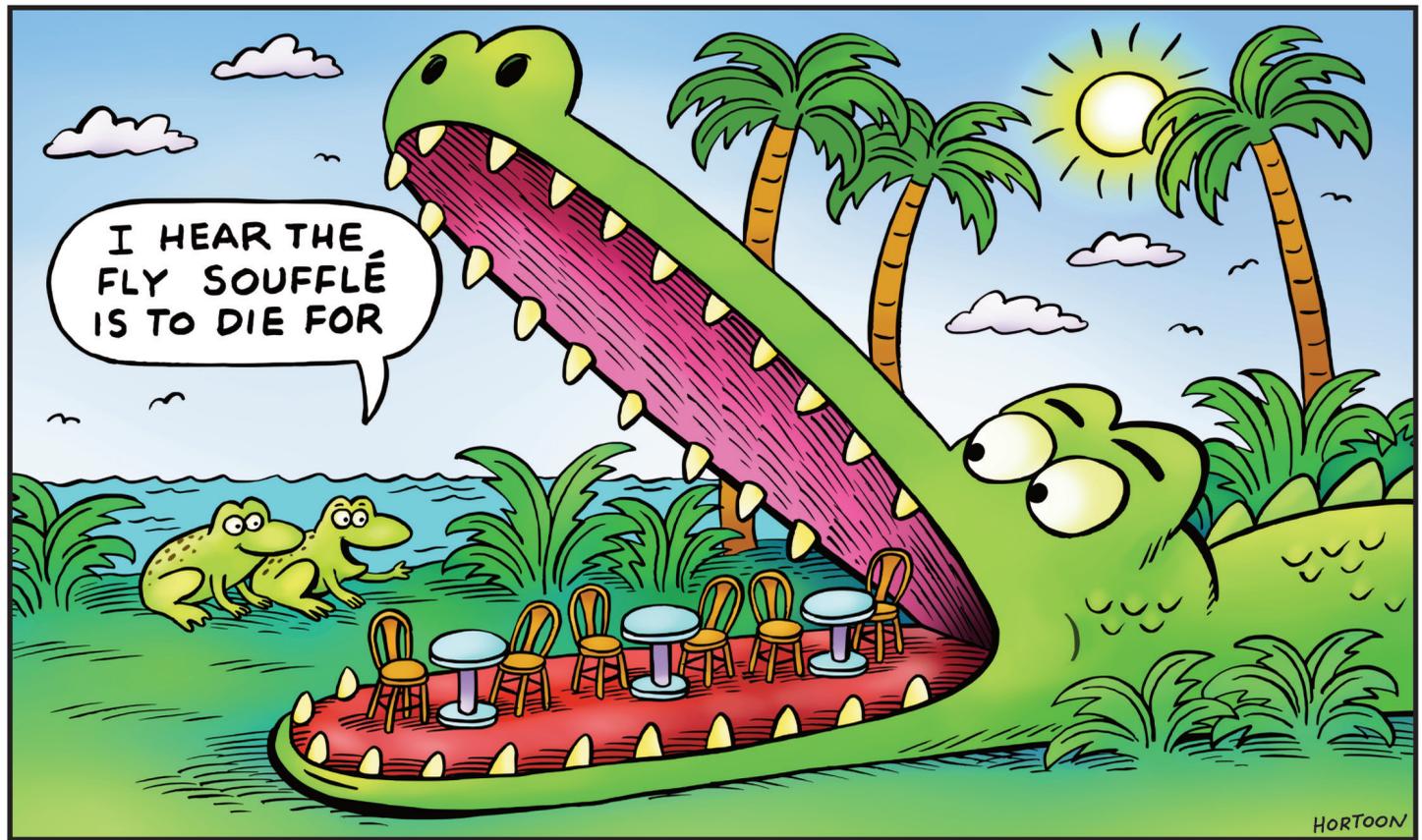
Calendar Girls Florida have been sponsoring guide dogs for veterans since 2006. For more information on how the Calendar Girls can spice up your holiday soiree, at www.calendargirlsflorida.com.✱



The Calendar Girls performing at Fleamasters Flea Market

photo provided

HORTOONS



SCRAMBLERS

1. Margin; 2. Fixate;
3. Kindle; 4. Docile

Today's Word

INFLATION

Top 10 Real Estate Sales

Subdivision	City	Year Built	Square Footage	Listing Price	Selling Price	Days On Market
Cases	Fort Myers Beach	2018	5,825	\$4,795,000	\$4,750,000	0
Banyan Cove	Estero	2003	3,670	\$899,000	\$885,000	7
Renaissance	Fort Myers	2018	2,909	\$803,075	\$785,000	158
Hidden Harbor	Fort Myers	2018	2,585	\$614,475	\$590,000	93
Corkscrew Shores	Estero	2017	2,488	\$589,000	\$582,500	197
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	2006	3,263	\$499,900	\$485,000	70
Bay Cedar	Bonita Springs	1995	1,505	\$494,500	\$424,500	35
The Place At Corkscrew	Estero	2018	2,361	\$476,998	\$437,000	17
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	1966	1,410	\$475,000	\$435,000	2
Palmetto Grove	Fort Myers	2014	2,450	\$459,999	\$440,000	225

Courtesy of Royal Shell Real Estate

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Sunday to Wednesday
Early Dining from 4-6pm

Pasta for Two \$39
1 Appetizer to Share, 2 Pasta Selections
1 Dessert to Share
(limited selection)



Every Thursdays
Wine Bottles from Italy
are 1/2 Off
(limited selection)

Purchase of Two Entrées Required

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BY THE CACCIATORE FAMILY!**

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SMALL PLATES ALL \$9



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Sat. & Sun. 4pm - 10pm

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