



The DePue Brothers Band

photo provided

Band Of Brothers At BIG ARTS

When the city of Philadelphia jacked up property taxes in Wallace DePue Jr.'s neighborhood about five years ago, Southwest Florida gained a

valuable asset.

By 2014, the professional musician had moved south and was in residence in Fort Myers.

The eldest son of Wallace DePue Sr., renowned pianist, prolific composer and professor emeritus of Bowling Green

continued on page 21

Tribute To The King Comes To Broadway Palm

Back by popular demand and for one day only is Dwight Icenhower's Tribute to the King at Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre on Monday, January 7. The matinee concert begins with lunch at 11:30 a.m. and the concert at 1 p.m., while the evening concert begins with dinner at 5:30 p.m. and the concert at 7:30 p.m.

Icenhower is an award-winning Elvis Presley impersonator and considered one of the best Elvis tribute artists in the country. He has mastered the '50s, '60s and '70s eras of Elvis' career.

Icenhower has the look, the voice and the hip-swiveling dance moves of the King himself. Born four years after Presley passed away, he has studied every move that Elvis made and recently won the Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist award from Graceland and Elvis Presley Enterprises. Icenhower has performed all over the world, sharing the stage with some personal friends of Elvis including DJ Fontana, The Jordanares, The Sweet Inspirations,



Dwight Icenhower

photo provided

Cynthia Pepper, Julie Parrish, Charlie Hodge and Joe Esposito. He will sing Elvis favorites such as *Heartbreak Hotel*, *Love Me Tender*, *Hound Dog* and many more.

Concert tickets are \$75 including dinner or \$55 for the concert only and can be reserved by calling 278-4422, by visiting www.broadwaypalm.com or by stopping by the box office at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.*



Wolf with Hat by Catelyn Chauncey



Children and Tree by Jayda Bonilla-Mas



Red Ornament by Jasmine Hoffman



Cardinal by Jenny Tang



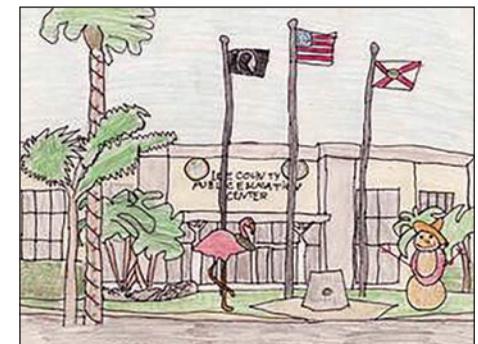
Alligator by Kailanee Reid images provided



Night-Deer-Pond by Anna Gibson



Pink Flamingo by Piper Kelleher



District Offices by Celia Lacorte

Holiday Greeting Cards On Display

The lobby of the Lee County Public Education Center is in the holiday spirit thanks to the work of some very artistic middle school students. The

eight winners of the 29th annual Holiday Greeting Card contest are currently on display.

The contest was open to just middle school students this year. Each school was allowed to submit up to two student designed cards. District staff then served as the judges.

This year's winners, in no particular order, are seventh grader Piper Kelleher of Cypress Lake Middle; seventh grader Celia Lacorte of Bonita Springs Middle; eighth grader Kailanee Reid of North Fort Myers Middle Academy for the Arts; eighth grader Anna Gibson of North Fort Myers Middle Academy for the Arts; eighth grader

Catelyn Chauncey of Lexington Middle; sixth grader Jayda Bonilla-Mas of Dunbar Middle; eighth grader Jenny Tang of Varsity Lakes Middle; and seventh grader Jasmine Hoffman of Gulf Middle.

The winners were recognized by school board members at their December 11 board meeting.*

Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

Corinne's Poignant End

by Gerri Reaves, PhD



In January 1921, the *Tampa Daily Times* broke the news that Fort Myers postmistress Corinne Towles Summerlin had been accused of misappropriation of government funds: "Daughter of Cattle Baron Forced to Resign," read the headline.

Who was this cattle baron's daughter? Was she guilty? And if not, how and why did she end up the focus of a federal probe?

The bare facts are these: she was the daughter of a powerful local businessman and politician, and married into an equally influential Bartow family.

By the time she was accused of misappropriation of public funds, the 43-year-old had been postmistress for seven years and

was the mother of two college-age daughters. Five months later, she suffered a heart-rending death.

Corinne Towles Summerlin had come to Fort Myers from Bartow in 1884 as a child of five or six with her father, the legendary Capt. William "Wild Bill" Towles, shortly after her mother died.

As any local history buff knows well, Wild Bill lost no time in building a reputation for getting things done, getting what he wanted and sometimes doing it in a big and controversial way.

In short, the cattle baron or cattle king, as he was called, was a powerhouse politician in Lee County and beyond.

What didn't he do? Town councilman, one of the first county commissioners, later head of the commission, merchant, owner of a steamboat line, cattle baron, and the list goes on. His vast business dealings extended well beyond Fort Myers and allied him with prominent families such as Lykes and Summerlin.

Corinne's marriage to Dexter W. Summerlin in February 1900 united two "cattle king" families. Dexter was a member of the famous Jake Summerlin (think Summerlin Road) family of Bartow.

In Florida history, he's known as the King of the Crackers and King of the Cracker Cow Hunters. He started shipping cattle out of Punta Rassa during the Civil War and ultimately made a fortune. He also donated 40 acres for what became the Summerlin Institute in Bartow.

Corinne and Dexter immediately had two daughters, Lela (or Leila) and Elizabeth. Evidence suggests that fairly early on in their marriage, Corinne and Dexter lived



Capt. Towles built this house for his daughter circa 1907 on the southwest corner at Fowler and Second. It still stands. His own house was on the opposite corner across Second.

photo courtesy Florida State Archives

apart, with Corinne and the girls in Fort Myers and Dexter based in Bartow.

Corinne and her daughters were active in the town's social and community life, and frequently mentioned in the "personals" and society pieces in the local press and in the Bartow report published in the Tampa newspapers.

Just after the turn of the century, Dexter worked as a manager of an electric plant owned by his father-in-law. Later, he traveled for business reasons, traveling widely both in and out of the U.S. and could be away nearly a year at a time. In 1913, he and a partner opened a meat market in Bartow.

In September 1913, William Towles recommended Corinne as postmistress when it seemed that there might be a resignation. Representative Sparkman in Washington D.C., agreed with Towles. A preferential primary in which Corinne was not on the ballot was held and, of course, someone else won – and by a landslide.

Nevertheless, Towles insisted that "my daughter gets the job." Sparkman reportedly stuck with Towles. Corinne started her commission as postmistress on February 1, 1914, succeeding Isaac E. Foxworthy.

The father's famously forceful way of imposing his will lives on in one of the most oft-told tales in local history: specifically, how in 1914, as head of the Lee County Commission, he ordered the Lee County Courthouse to be destroyed so that a desired modern one could replace it. The demolition continued through the night at his order, and the "new" 1915 courthouse stands on Main Street as evidence that he got his way.

Having Wild Bill as a father was probably often advantageous, but his brashness must have rubbed some people the wrong way over the decades. One is forced to wonder if resentments simmered over his authoritarian appointment of his daughter as postmistress.

Towles himself died in June 1921. Seven months later his daughter stood accused of stealing public funds.

Compared to the Tampa newspapers, the *Fort Myers Press* showed restraint in its sparse coverage, perhaps out of deference to a prominent local family.

When the news broke, the local press merely summarized the Tampa article and also printed a response from Corinne Summerlin in which she strongly denied the charges. She was forced to resign and was replaced by Boyd C. Foxworthy.

A Federal Grand jury of the district U.S. court convened in February 1922, to review the case, but no charges were filed. And then suddenly in June 1922, a year after her

continued on page 18



This slightly blurry photo pictures Corinne Towles Summerlin with her legendary father, Capt. William "Wild Bill" Towles, circa 1915

photo courtesy IMAG History & Science Center

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Thousands of cards are again ready to be shipped to soldiers overseas photo provided

Schools, Veterans Send Cards To Overseas Troops

City of Palms Inc., comprised of three charter high schools, has completed its 3rd annual Christmas Cards for the Troops campaign.

This year, Palm Acres Charter High School, Northern Palms Charter High

School and City of Palms Charter High School teamed up with the Veterans Club of America in Fort Myers, the VFW Post 10097 of Fort Myers Beach and Jamaica Bay Resort. The collaboration between the schools, service organizations and resort resulted in 3,070 cards collected and signed. These cards will be delivered to officials at Fox News Radio 92.5, who then will complete the process of getting them ready and then shipped overseas to soldiers abroad.

“Unfortunately, we often forget that there are people guarding our country so that we can have that cheer and joy during this Christmas season,” said City of Palms Charter High School Social Studies Instructor Robin Perkins Matthews. “As a veteran, I have experienced the feeling of not being with family during important times. And now, as a high school teacher, I feel that it is my duty to remind students that freedom is not free. People in the past have paid dearly, and many with their lives, to give us our freedom.”

Matthews said discussions are held with high school students on the importance of military and honoring the soldiers in many ways. She thanked Natalia Iglesias, Minerva Rosario, Amy and Rick Rohner, and Judy Kring for being her “elves” and helping coordinate the campaign.

“I wish every member of the military the sincerest wish for a joyous and free Christmas season,” Matthews said. “With the 2019 New Year, may the world have more peace and understanding amongst all countries.✱

Memorial Scholarship Fund Named

Cypress Cove at HealthPark Florida has received an endowed gift for establishment of the Betty Haskell Scholarship fund.

The scholarship fund, part of a flourishing staff scholarship program that began 18 months ago, has been established to honor former Cypress Cove resident Betty Haskell who, with her husband Frank and their family, have been highly active in Southwest Florida philanthropic efforts. Betty, married for 65 years to Frank, passed away in September.

In 1995, following their 36-year-old daughter’s death from breast cancer, the Haskell’s dedicated their lives to fighting cancer by creating The Barbara’s

Friends Golisano Children’s Hospital Cancer Fund. Betty and Frank’s philanthropy have included many other important and needy causes including gifting to Cypress Cove’s building of its assisted living memory care facility, The Cottage at Cypress Cove.

“The Betty Haskell Scholarship Fund,” said Cypress Cove Philanthropy Specialist Z. Allen Abbott, PhD, “is a continued extension of efforts by Cypress Cove to assist an employee’s pursuit for advanced educational studies. Scholarship awards to staff are a way of easing some of their financial burden. Betty Haskell’s influence on future generations (through educational assistance) will have ripple effects for good.”

Abbott said that individuals interested in donating to the Betty Haskell Endowed Scholarship Fund can do so by inquiring through the Life Plan community’s Office of Philanthropy at 415-5100.✱

Merry Christmas - Happy Holidays!



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Warm Wishes For A Merry Christmas And Happy New Year



Your friends at *Island Sun* and *The River Weekly News*, from left, Jim Brock, Justin Wilder, Jeff Lysiak, Sharon Terry, Gerri Reaves, Ann Ziehl, Bill Staples, Di Saggau, Bob Petcher, Tom Rasi, Lorin Arundel, Chris Arundel, Logan Hart and Mike Terry
photo by Rich Garcia

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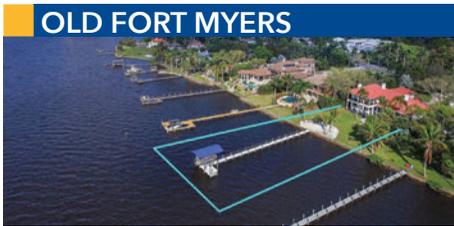
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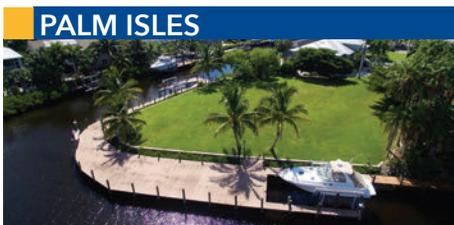
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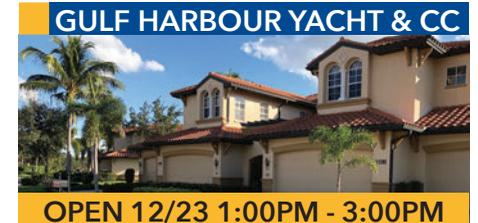
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Fort Myers Art:

Fifth Anniversary For Sculpture At Regional Library

by Tom Hall



The sculpture that stands outside the Fort Myers Regional Library in the downtown Fort Myers River District is celebrating its fifth anniversary. The piece is called *Stacked Brands* and was created by California metal sculptor Peter Mitten. The sculpture consists of historic branding irons utilized by Lee County's early cattle ranchers

to mark their cattle in the decades following the end of the Civil War. On loan from the City to Lee County, the artwork has been strategically placed within spitting distance of First Street, which once served as part of the cattle trail that connected grazing and pasture lands in Fort Ogden and Fort Thompson to cow pens, barracks and a deep water wharf down river in Punta Rassa.

The facilities in Punta Rassa were built in 1864 in order to ship some 4,500 cows and steers to Key West that the Union soldiers stationed in Fort Myers confiscated from area cattle ranchers between February 1864 and the fort's abandonment in March 1865. A couple of blockade runners operating out of Tampa Bay during that time saw the facilities as they eluded the Union frigates and gunboats that were blockading the coast. In June 1865, one of those blockade runners, Jacob Summerlin, took up residency in Southwest Florida, commandeered the facilities and went to work expanding and extending the makeshift



Stacked Brands sculpture outside Fort Myers Regional Library photo courtesy www.artswfl.com

cattle trail up river to Fort Ogden and Fort Thompson. As part of that effort, Summerlin built scrub pens and stopovers for his drovers to use while moving herds down the trail. One of those stopovers was the cracker-style shack at the Edison & Ford Winter Estates that Thomas Edison converted into his Caretaker's House.

Although Fort Myers ran a 15-foot-wide strip of shell down the center of Front Street in 1901, the road wasn't asphalted until 1913. Two years later, the weed-strewn sand road from Monroe to Punta Rassa was finally replaced with a paved thoroughfare thanks to legendary civic leader Tootie McGregor Terry, who offered in 1912 to cover the costs of paving the 20-mile stretch from Whiskey Creek to Punta Rassa if the city and county would pick up the cost of paving Riverside Avenue from Whiskey Creek to downtown Fort Myers. Spurred by those road improvements, Fort Myers subsequently asphalted the roads in the downtown business district, thus ending the use of First Street (originally called Front Street) and McGregor Boulevard (originally known as the Old Wire Road) as a cattle trail.

But nearly 100 years later, few residents and virtually no visitors are aware that First and McGregor once served as a cattle trail or that had it not been for cattlemen like Summerlin, the Hendrys and William H. Towles, there would almost certainly be no Fort Myers today. To bring that part of the town's early history and cow town heritage to the forefront, Mitten not only incorporated the brands used by early cattle ranchers into his freestanding sculpture in the courtyard of the new library, he also cast four bronze panels containing imprints of cattle hooves to help mark the historic cattle trail which can be found at various locations along First Street.

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

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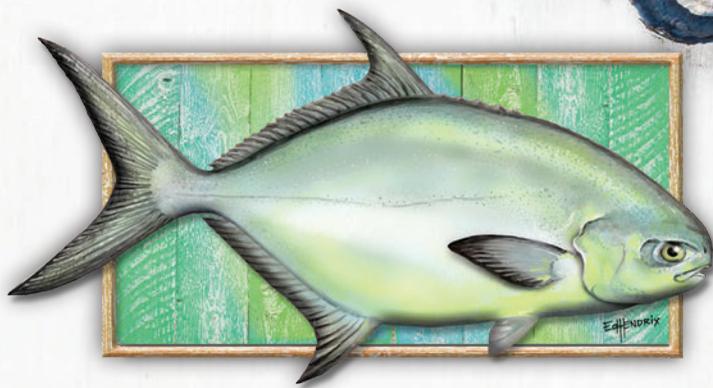


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CeCe Teneal & Soul Kamotion • 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Blues • Soul • Roots

JP Soars & The Red Hots • 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM

Blues

Bob Marley Tribute Band featuring Yvad • 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM

Reggae

Caribbean Chillers • 8:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Jimmy Buffet Tribute Band

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Rock • Soul

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Country Rock

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Along The River

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

Visit www.fortmyersriverdistrictalliance.com to learn more.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates is offering a free walk among the pines through December 30 as part of its annual Holiday Nights celebration.

The **Children's Tree Trail**, now in its 12th year, includes more than 60 trees that estates' officials provide for area school children to decorate with their handmade ornaments. Each year, a different theme is selected. This year, the theme is Moonlight and Sunshine, and all of the trees are decorated accordingly.

Visitors can walk through the Children's Tree Trail for free, or tour the remainder of the site included with general admission. Guided Holiday Tradition Tours are offered at 6 and 7 p.m. every night. Inside-the-Homes Holiday Tours are offered on Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and this Friday through Sunday, December 21, 22 and 23 (reservations required for Inside-the-Homes Tours). The museum and the botanic research laboratory are open nightly until 9 p.m. Live music performances include Victorian carolers



Waltzing Waters is again part of Holiday Nights at Edison and Ford Winter Estates

photo provided

and a pianist on select nights.

Holiday Nights tickets for adults are \$20, teens (ages 13 to 19) \$10, children (ages 6 to 12) are \$2 and Edison Ford members get in free. Guided Holiday Tradition Tours are \$30 for adults, \$25 for teens, \$18 for children and \$10 for Edison Ford members. Inside-the-Homes Holiday Tours are \$50. Lee County residents with identification will receive \$5 off Holiday Nights admission every Sunday and Monday.

Edison and Ford Winter Estates is located at 2350 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. To purchase tickets or view the nightly schedule, visit www.edisonfordwinterestates.org.

The Lee County Black History

Society will hold a **Holiday in the Park Motown Christmas** at **Roberto Clemente Park** this Saturday from 3 to 8 p.m. The concert will feature Motown R&B All-Star Band with members Verceal Whittaker, Al Holland and Lonza Bartlett as well as The Collaboration Band and Karribean Groove.

The concert is free to attend, but no coolers, pets or tents will be allowed.

Roberto Clemente Park is located at 1936 Henderson Avenue in Fort Myers. For more information, call 332-8788 or visit www.leecountyblackhistorysociety.org.

There will be a **Car Cruise-In in Downtown Fort Myers** on Sunday, December 23 from noon to 4 p.m.

The downtown streets are lined with the sight of these show cars from classic to cool. There will also be music, food and more. It is a family-friendly event and free to the public.*

Storage For Open-Air Trams To Change

Lee County plans to temporarily store its three open-air trams that serve Fort Myers Beach on a county-owned lot commonly called the Seafarer's Property on Estero Island. Tram service and other seasonal services offered by Lee County Transit (LeeTran) will commence January 3, 2019.

The plan to temporarily store the seasonal trams at the Seafarer's lot on Fifth Street means the county no longer will reconfigure its Park & Ride lot on San Carlos Island at Main Street and San Carlos Boulevard. It also means the trams will not be stored at Bowditch Regional Park, which is where they were kept last season.

In recent weeks, San Carlos Island residents expressed concern about county plans to temporarily use the San Carlos Island Park & Ride lot. "I appreciate the Beach residents and business owners bringing this issue to our attention," said Lee County Commissioner Larry Kiker, who represents District 3 and is the board chairman. "County staff has been very attentive and has worked diligently to address the concerns of the

Pet Safety Program

Lee County Domestic Animal Services will host a Pet Safety Program for children of all ages on Friday, December 28 from 10 a.m. to noon. The program will be held in the conference room at 5600 Banner Drive in Fort Myers.

This is an opportunity for parents to learn along with their children how to safely interact with a dog and read its body language. The program will teach things such as socialization, responsible pet ownership and avoiding risky situations. It will be interactive for the entire family, so parents are asked to stay with their child.

There will be games that will allow for fun-learning over the holiday break. Seating is limited to 35 people on first-come basis.

For more information call 533-7387 (LEE-PETS) or visit www.leelostpets.com.*

Yappy Hour To Ring In New Year

The Cape Coral Animal Shelter (CCAS) and Fathom's Restaurant will hold their monthly Yappy Hour on Friday, December 28 from 5 to 7 p.m. This is an opportunity for pets and their owners to enjoy an evening of outdoor entertainment. Come celebrate the end of the best year ever, the Year of the Dog. Let's have a barking fun pawty and ring in 2019 with a howl.

Fathom's Restaurant and Bar will be providing beer and wine as a fundraiser for the nonprofit organization to receive all proceeds. CCAS merchandise will be available for sale and a 50/50 raffle will be held during the evening. There will also be live music.*

Beach community. From an operational standpoint, I think the new storage site will provide greater efficiency in our transportation services for our upcoming tourist season."

In preparation to use the Seafarer's lot, staff will work to provide decorative canvases to hang on the fence surrounding the lot to make the area more visually appealing. In the coming months, the county plans to involve the community by asking elementary-school students to paint murals to hang on the fence.

The county will replant the three trees that it removed last week from its Park & Ride lot on San Carlos Island at Main Street. Parking will remain free, and the configuration of the lot will remain the same with its 61 spaces.

This year, the county will run three open-air trams. Last tourist season, only two trams were used. The county will also again use its seasonal LeeTran trolleys to service the Beach and alleviate seasonal traffic congestion. Both trams and trolleys are popular with visitors, residents and business owners.

Last season, from January through May, the Beach Park & Ride trolley (Route 490) had a ridership of 101,133. Last season, from February through May, the Beach trams had a ridership of 118,604.*

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Representing the donation of more than 600 gifts were, from left, Allen Abbott, Lucinda Henry, Melissa Barlow, Dr. Deb Mathinos, Chuck Gagnier, Michele Wasserlauf, Kathryn Kelly, Melanie Holaway and Mary Franklin. photo provided

Cypress Cove Donates Toys To Heights Center

Residents and staff of Cypress Cove at HealthPark Florida recently gifted to the Heights Center and Gladiolus Learning and Development Center more than 600 toys for the organization's upcoming annual Operation Christmas Care celebration.

The toy drive and gifting program by Cypress Cove marks the seventh consecutive year that the South Fort Myers Life Plan Community has participated in The Heights Center/Gladiolus Learning and Development Center annual toy drive. During that time, Cypress Cove's residents and staff have contributed more than 3,000 gifts towards the annual event.

"No matter how many times I witness the big-hearted generosity of our residents and staff," said Cypress Cove Executive Director Michele Wasserlauf, "I am still bowled over every year when I get to see it in such a tangible way. Not only do our residents love where they live, they obviously love to give."

Kathryn Kelly, founder and president/CEO of The Heights Foundation, received the toys for more than 800 children, ranging in ages 3 to 15 years, and thanked Cypress Cove and its residents for their generous support and giving. "This holiday season will again be challenging for many families in the Harlem Heights neighborhood," she said. "This is a great opportunity to bring joy to the children of our community."

Toys being gifted to Operation Christmas Care covered the entire front portion of Cypress Cove's Edison Hall stage.*

Foundation Scholarship Applications

The Southwest Florida Community Foundation's scholarship application process for the 2019-20 school year will begin nearly a month earlier than in the past. Applications may now be made, and all scholarships require the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form available at www.fafsa.gov.

Approximately \$500,000 in scholarship money is available through more than 100 scholarships for local high-school students, undergraduate and graduate students from Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties. Last year, one in five students who applied received a scholarship from the foundation.

Students can apply for scholarships through the foundation's online portal at www.floridacommunity.com/scholarships. The scholarship application process will close February 24, 2018. Students may review the scholarships available online as well as a tutorial about how to create and submit the online application. Students may apply for multiple scholarships and have the ability to upload transcripts, SAT/ACT scores, letters of recommendation and the FAFSA Student Aid Report.

Educators, mentors, parents and students can find resources to complete the FAFSA through the local FAFSA first website recently launched by the FutureMakers Coalition at www.fafsafirst.org. The goal of the FutureMakers Coalition is to transform the workforce by increasing the number of Southwest Florida residents with degrees, certificates and other high-quality credentials by the year 2025.*

College Athlete Of The Week

A Fort Myers native was chosen as an Elmira College Athlete of the Week for the week ending November 18.

Matthew Cuce, a junior forward of the men's ice hockey team, scored twice with one assist during a 5-3 victory over previously unbeaten Nazareth College to help his team remained in first place in the United Collegiate Hockey Conference standings with 12 points and a 4-2 conference record.

With his three-point performance, Cucu moved into first place on the team and in the UCHC with 15 points (6 goals, 9 assists). He is locked in a three-way tie for first in assists and is tied for second in goals and power-play points (7).*

University Staff Donates Toys



Hodges University faculty and staff donated over 500 toys for Toys for Tots photo provided

Each year, Hodges University employees celebrate the holidays by giving to children. This year, they opened their hearts wide and donated more than 500 toys for Toys for Tots.

"The generosity of all of our faculty and staff is heartwarming," said Dr. John

Meyer, president of Hodges University. "It's rewarding to know that these toys will help brighten the holidays for children in Southwest Florida."

Hodges University has campuses in Naples and Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.hodges.edu.*

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County Adjusts Schedules For The Holidays

Most Lee County administrative operations will be closed Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25, in observance of the Christmas holiday, as well as on December 31 and January 1 for the New Year's holiday.

Schedule adjustments are as follows:

Solid Waste – The offices and the Topaz Court Solid Waste Annex will be closed on December 24 and 25. The Resource Recovery Facility in Buckingham will be closed on December 25, but open regular hours on Monday, December 24.

Solid Waste offices and the Topaz Court Solid Waste Annex will be closed on December 31, and January 1. The Resource Recovery Facility in Buckingham will be closed on January 1, but open regular hours on December 31.

All garbage, recycling and yard waste collections in unincorporated Lee County, the City of Bonita Springs, the Village of Estero and the Town of Fort Myers Beach will take place one day after the regularly scheduled collection day beginning December 26. This means that if the regular collection day is Tuesday, the collection truck will pick up that material on Wednesday through Saturday, December 29. There will not be any regular collection on January 1; if

the regular collection day is Tuesday, the collection truck will pick up that material on Wednesday through Saturday, January 5. Regular collection schedules resumes on Monday, January 7.

Christmas trees that have had the stand and all lights and decorations removed, including tinsel, can be set out with regular yard waste and will be ground into mulch. All wrapping paper, except metallic, is recyclable – along with cardboard boxes. Plastic ribbons and bows are not recyclable.

Lee County Utilities – The Customer Service Center will be closed December 24 and 25 as well as December 31 and January 1.

LeeTran – LeeTran services will end at about 7 p.m. on December 24 and resume on December 26. Visit www.rideletran.com for specific route information.

There will be limited trolley services for downtown Fort Myers and Fort Myers Beach on New Year's Eve. Service to downtown Fort Myers ends at 1 a.m. January 1. Service to Fort Myers Beach ends at 2 a.m. Tuesday, January 1.

There will be no daily service for LeeTran routes on January 1. Service will resume January 2.

Parks & Recreation – Beaches, boat ramps, parks and preserves will be open December 24, and 25. The administration office and Six Mile Cypress Slough Interpretive Center will be closed December 24 and 25, resuming normal operating hours December 26.

Pools are closed Sunday, December 23, through Wednesday, December

26, resuming normal operating hours Thursday, December 27.

Beaches, boat ramps, parks and preserves will be open December 31 and January 1. The administration office and Six Mile Cypress Slough Interpretive Center will be closed December 31 and January 1, resuming normal operating hours Wednesday, January 2.

Pools are closed Sunday, December 30 through Wednesday, January 2, resuming normal operating hours Thursday, January 3.

The county's four recreation centers – North Fort Myers, Wa-Ke Hatchee, Veterans and Estero – will be closed through the holidays due to scheduled annual maintenance. Veterans will be closed from Saturday, December 15, through Sunday, January 6. North Fort Myers, Wa-Ke Hatchee and Estero will be closed from Sunday, December 23, through Sunday, January 6. For alternative parks sites, visit www.leeparks.org. All centers will re-open Monday, January 7.

Library System – All branches and library administration will be closed December 24 and 25 as well as December 31 and January 1.

Lee County Domestic Animal Services – The Lost & Found Pet Center and the Pet Adoption Center will be closed December 24 and 25. Normal hours resume December 26.

The Lost & Found Pet Center and the Pet Adoption Center will be closed December 31 and January 1. Normal hours resume January 2.*

Cape Coral To Gain Gigabit Internet Speeds

CenturyLink, Inc. is completing a fiber construction project in Cape Coral to enable 55,000 homes and businesses in the area with Internet speeds up to 1 gigabit per second. The project is expected to be completed in early 2019.

Fiber gigabit speeds up to 1,000 Mbps are possible by connecting fiber-optic cable directly to homes and businesses using Fiber to the Home (FTTH) technology. FTTH technology benefits every type of user, from the serious gamer to the self-employed business owner. For more information about fiber service and availability, visit www.centurylink.com/powerup or call 215-7400.*

Lee County Clerk Of Courts Holiday Schedule

All Lee County Clerk of Court locations will be closed Monday, December 24 and Tuesday, December 25, in observance of the Christmas holiday, as well as on December 31 and January 1 for the New Year's holiday.*

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, chabadswf.org, 433-7708.

CHAPEL OF CYPRESS COVE

Sunday 10 a.m. 10200 Cypress Cove Circle, revtedalhouse@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

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

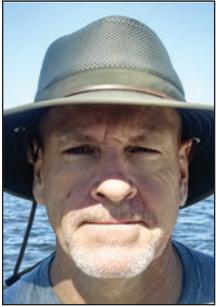
Sunday 10 a.m., Wednesday 7 p.m. 2120 Collier Avenue, 274-8881.

ZION LUTHERAN

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

CROW Case Of The Week:

Red-shouldered Hawk



by Bob Petcher

The red-shouldered hawk (*Buteo lineatus*) preys on mostly small mammals, amphibians, lizards and snakes or even birds such as sparrows, doves and starlings. These forest raptors hunt from perches by remaining silent until they descend swiftly, effortlessly and snatch up their target.

At CROW, a red-shouldered hawk was admitted from Captiva Island near Blind Pass. The hawk was found down on the ground in the bushes. During its intake exam, veterinarians did not find any overt signs of trauma, but noted the hawk to have a depressed mentation and that it was severely dehydrated. A sample of its blood was tested and revealed that the bird was also very anemic.

"This red-shouldered hawk was found down, cold and dull. The bird had severe anemia, meaning very low red blood cell levels, and this explains the patient's condition on presentation. When a bird or any animal has a severe anemia, the causes can be broken down into a few broad categories, including blood loss, blood destruction and poor blood production," said Dr. Kyle Abbott, CROW veterinary intern. "In this hawk's case, the most likely causes would be reasons for blood loss. Blood destruction is unlikely as we do not often see diseases that cause that in wild animals. Poor blood production is a possibility in any animal affected by chronic or body-wide disease, but this was unlikely in this hawk's case as he had a good body condition. Causes of blood loss that we are considering are anticoagulant rodenticides and trauma causing bleeding. For this hawk, an anticoagulant rodenticide seems like the most likely cause after it had



Patient #18-4536 has rebounded from an anemic state photo by Brian Bohman

prolonged blood clotting times after blood draws."

Dr. Abbott further explained the pesticide thought to be the factor in this case.

"Anticoagulant rodenticides are used to kill rodents by preventing normal blood clotting. The anticoagulant affects enzymes that allow the body to recycle vitamin K, which is used to make blood clotting agents in the body, and ultimately results in inappropriate bleeding even without trauma," he said. "This can affect raptors as they can absorb these rodenticides from prey that

they would normally be eating. When we see patients, like this hawk, it is a reminder that rodenticides inevitably become problems for wildlife beyond the intended rodent targets."

After the hawk was placed in an oxygen chamber and given fluid therapy to maintain hydration, it was given a blood transfusion with blood donated from Talon, a red-tailed hawk Animal Ambassador at CROW.

"We often perform blood transfusions on our patients who are severely anemic. When we can, we use our animal ambassadors as blood donors. However, when performing blood transfusions we try and use animals as closely related to the recipient as possible," said Dr. Abbott. "For the past few months, many of our blood transfusions have been on sea birds, many of them affected by red tide. We do not have any sea bird animal ambassadors and, therefore, we will use other sea bird patients close to release as blood donors. When we have raptors, as in the case of this hawk, then we will use our raptor ambassadors."

After a few days of recovery the hawk has shown signs of improvement and has been moved from the oxygen chamber to a normal ICU enclosure.

"The hawk is doing very well after the therapies given to correct the anemia as well as continued therapies to treat for the suspected rodenticide toxicosis," added Dr. Abbott. "To treat the rodenticide toxicosis, this hawk is on vitamin K supplementation. The hawk continues to have difficulties with blood clotting, and the plan is to continue with the vitamin K treatment for a few weeks until the rodenticide has been cleared from the body and the hawk can produce normal vitamin K function for itself."

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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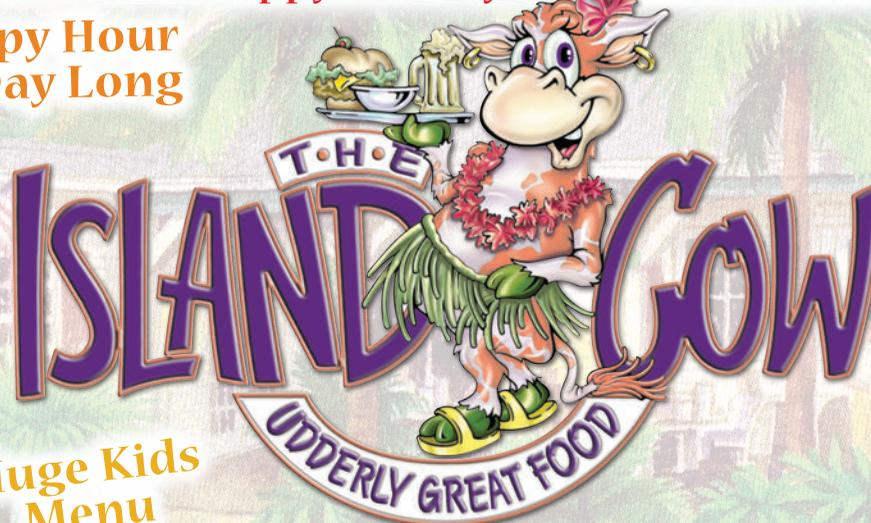
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Change Your Mindset



by Capt. Matt Mitchell

Cold fronts have continued to roll through, keeping conditions cooler than normal and making it feel like winter though the official start of winter is just

now here. Fishing during the cooler periods requires both a change of bait, technique and mind set. Sheepshead, black drum and redfish have become the daily targeted species until the water temperature rises. No matter how badly you want to catch snook, it can be pretty futile during the coldest periods.

We are certainly used to fishing between the passing of cold fronts, though this year the timing on these has been much closer together than usual thus not allowing water temperatures to rebound. The winter standby of fishing chunks of fresh shrimp on a jighead low and slow has become my daily technique to catch lots of fish along with some larger pleasant surprises.

Sheepshead fishing is going really well with lots of these fish being caught all over the region including structures on the beaches, in through all our local passes and back into the mangrove creeks. Each passing cold front brings another wave of these fish in from the

gulf. With redfish closed to harvest and sea trout being close to gone from the southern sound, these sheepshead are plentiful and make clients who are looking for a fresh fish dinner happy.

Some of the places I have been catching sheepshead have also been producing both redfish and black drum. This week, while fishing docks around the passes, we also caught a few 30-inch redfish along with black drum of all sizes with the largest measuring 24 inches. These bigger-than-expected fish are a real battle on the light 2500 series spinning gear. Many of the mangrove shorelines and points that hold sheepshead have also had lots of rat redfish between 16 to 20 inches. Its great to see so many juvenile redfish around.

A drawback of sheepshead fishing around the passes is how aggressive some dolphins have become. At times, it's impossible to land or release a fish without a dolphin charging in and getting a free meal. Do your best to release your fish so the dolphins don't get them. Often this means throwing the released fish up to the shoreline or dock so it has a chance of survival. Some times, the only option is to move no matter how good the fishing is. Although people think it's cute to feed these dolphins, it is not only illegal but dolphins quickly learn this behavior and become a nuisance.

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.



Scott Faircloth from Lake Placid with a 30-inch redfish caught while sheepshead fishing in the passes with Capt. Matt Mitchell this week photo provided

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Dave Doane

Volunteer Retires After 21 Years At SHINE Program

For 21 years, Southwest Florida's seniors have counted on Jo Marshall to help them with their Medicare and health insurance issues. Marshall served two-plus decades as a volunteer with the SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) program through both the State of Florida's Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) and the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida (AAASWFL).

In October, SHINE volunteers past and present, along with current and former employees of the Area Agency on Aging and Cape Coral Hospital, gathered to wish Marshall the best at a retirement reception at AAASWFL's North Fort Myers headquarters.

SHINE counselors like Marshall provide free and unbiased information to help clients understand their Medicare health care options so they can make the best decisions for their individual needs. SHINE counselors also help beneficiaries understand benefits available through Medicare, such as preventive healthcare services.

Volunteering from her counseling site at the SHARE Club in Cape Coral Hospital, Marshall assisted thousands of clients over the past two decades. Marshall's SHINE duties included helping seniors evaluate insurance plans and apply for financial assistance. However, her true passion came from filing appeals on behalf of clients who were wronged by insurance companies or health care providers.

"My very first client was an appeal," Marshall smiles. "It was for \$20, which was a lot more money 21 years ago. And I won it."

Marshall filed hundreds, if not thousands, of appeals during her two-plus decades with SHINE, winning nearly all of them. She once won an appeal on behalf of a client for more than \$500,000.



Jo Marshall photo provided

The SHINE Program has grown significantly since Marshall joined the team. She recalls that in 1997, there were only about three or four SHINE volunteers serving AAASWFL's seven counties. Marshall would sometimes need to travel to Sarasota and Clewiston to provide counseling and information to Medicare beneficiaries. Today, 60 volunteers provide Medicare counseling services for the agency.

Marshall provided one-on-one counseling to 450 clients last year. Available reporting data shows that Marshall has counseled 3,541 clients since 2010 and has spent an incredible 2,229 hours assisting those clients.

Marshall will tell you that she loves helping people, but that passion isn't the secret to her success. Ask her to reveal why she was such an effective counselor for more than two decades, and Marshall will answer with a laugh.

"I'll do anything I can for you," she replied. "But I don't take any nonsense from anyone." ❄️

according to the Lee County Tourist Development Council and the Lee County Visitors and Convention Bureau. Attracting more than 100,000 visitors, this annual festival brings together the works of more than 300 juried artists and artisans from across the country. Exhibitors will showcase their fine art, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, photography, metal works, mixed media, and much more. Food will be available for purchase from a variety of vendors via Little Joe's Special Events.

The Rotary Club of Cape Coral is also offering the opportunity for local businesses to expose their brands to the more than 100,000 visitors expected at the festival via business booths. These booths were added as an extension to the existing festival vendors. For more information on getting a business booth, visit www.capecoralfestival.com/business-booth.html.

Volunteers are needed, and sponsorship opportunities are still available. For more information about or to participate in the Cape Coral Arts & Music Festival, call Jim Perry at 699-7942 or visit www.capecoralfestival.com. ❄️

Cape Coral Arts And Music Festival Nears

The Cape Coral Arts & Music Festival, hosted annually by the Rotary Club of Cape Coral, will return to South Cape Coral for its 34th year on Saturday, January 12, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m., and Sunday, January 13, 2019 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The festival will take place on Cape Coral Parkway between Del Prado Boulevard and SE 10th Place, and north to SE 47th Terrace.

The festival will also showcase live music talent on Saturday, January 12 from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m. Admission and parking are free for festival attendees. Musicians from across the nation will be playing everything from rock and roll to gospel. Entertainment will be provided at several bars and restaurants located throughout the South Cape for attendees to enjoy.

The Cape Coral Arts & Music Festival is Lee County's largest special event,

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AT SUNDIAL

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31st 7:00PM-12:30AM

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Hot Dog Bar	Champagne Toast
Gruyère Macaroni & Cheese	Cash Bar

GAMES & ENTERTAINMENT:

Stilt Walker	Pie Eating Contest
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For more information and to purchase tickets, visit sundialresort.com.



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turning from white to yellow.

Fragrant and five-petaled, the flowers are less than a half-inch long with protruding styles.

The clusters of white round fruit appear mostly in summer and fall. Each berry measures one-fourth to one-half an inch in diameter.

The contrast of the showy berries against the bright-green leaves is an outstanding ornamental feature.

The Latin name perfectly describes the plant's most distinctive feature: *Chiococca* means snowberry in Greek, and *alba* means white.

However, the reference to snow also applies to the fruit's fleshy pulp, which sparkles in the sun like snow crystals.

Snowberry is a moderate to fast grower and recommended for a natural garden or trellis plant.

It will grow in a variety of soils, even nutrient-poor soil, but must have organic content to thrive. The soil should be moist but well-drained.

It prefers full sun and is very drought and salt tolerant.

Birds and other wildlife consume the fruit, and the scrambling foliage provides cover.

It is a larval host for the snowberry clearwing butterflies, possibly an alternate host for the endangered Miami blue butterfly, and is a nectar source for Julia butterflies.

Propagate it with the seeds.

It is used medicinally as a treatment for edema and for tuberculosis.

Sources: *Coastal Hammock & Mangrove Guide* by Danial Austin et al.; *Everglades Wildflowers* by Roger L. Hamner; *500 Plants of South Florida* by Julia F. Morton; *Florida, My Eden* by Frederic B. Stresau; *Growing Native* by Richard W. Workman; *Native Florida Plants* by Robert G. Haehle and Joan Brookwell; *The Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida* by Gil Nelson; *Trees of Everglades National Park* by George B. Stevenson; www.fnps.org; www.plantbook.org; www.regionalconservation.org; and www.wildflower.org.

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

Native snowberry is a vine-like shrub that provides food, cover and nectar for wildlife
photo by Gerri Reaves

Plant Smart

Snow For Christmas

by Gerri Reaves

Native snowberry (*Chiococca alba*) is a multi-trunked evergreen shrub that usually grows to about 10 feet tall but, with support, can be as high as 25 feet.

A member of the madder family, it is also called West Indian milkberry, snakeroot, and Tears of St. Peter.

In the wild, it is found in pinelands, woodlands and coastal hammocks.

It sometimes takes an upright form but might be sprawling and vine-like, often crawling on other plants to reach sunlight.

The bark is yellowish gray and has cork deposits.

The opposite leaves are leathery in texture, smooth and shiny. Oval and one to four inches long, they bend into a slight V-shape at the mid-vein and taper to a point.

Six to eight downward-drooping, bell-shaped flowers appear on one-sided panicles. They bloom throughout the year,



A Sea Tow captain removes a derelict boat

photo provided

Sea Tow Captains Continue Irma Cleanup

More than a year after Hurricane Irma left a path of destruction along Florida's Gulf Coast, work still needs to be done within the local marine industry.

Four area Sea Tow franchises in Fort Myers, Sarasota, Venice and Charlotte Harbor have played a key role in this cleanup and continue to do so to this day. Over the past several weeks, captains from each of the four franchises have removed a number of derelict and abandoned boats that have caused several environmental hazards and other unsightly obstacles.

Shortly after Irma's wrath subsided, Florida's West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) requested bids to remove countless boats that had been displaced by the historic storm. However, many of the winning bids came from contractors who had underestimated the difficulty of a number of jobs.

One job, in particular, came in the form of an abandoned shrimp boat that has sat in the mangroves near Charlotte Harbor for more than a year. In his day-to-day duties, Sea Tow Charlotte Harbor owner and head captain Mike DeGenaro, noticed the boat had been sitting with very little movement.

After checking in regularly with WCIND, DeGenaro learned that the job had become more than the original contractor could handle; and after bidding re-opened on the job, DeGenaro and his crew sprang into action after being awarded the work.

Utilizing a shared pool of equipment and resources, as well as the decades' worth of knowledge, teamwork and extensive experience Sea Tow's wide-ranging network of captains pride themselves on, the crew at Sea Tow Charlotte Harbor recovered the shrimp boat in less than three days.

"The support we have as Sea Tow captains is unrivaled," DeGenaro said. "We've all been doing this for years, so having that knowledge and being able to pair it up with the ability to lean on other captains at franchises nearby for advice, man-power and equipment can make

even the toughest jobs seem like a piece of cake."

Similar stories can be shared by the captains at Sea Tow Venice, Sea Tow Sarasota and Sea Tow Fort Myers, as all four franchises continue their work with WCIND.

Recently, Venice's Capt. Craig Marcum recovered a 27-foot sailboat that had sunk right in front of a local marina and restaurant. After the boat sat for nearly six months, the restaurant owners began to get impatient. Another local company had been tasked with the boat's removal but, during the job, the vessel's keel was accidentally ripped from the bottom of the boat, causing it to sink. Much like the job in Charlotte Harbor, once Sea Tow Venice was called in, Marcum and his crew had the boat out of the water within days.

"An abandoned, run-afloat boat is never fun to look at, so, as you can imagine, the restaurant owners weren't very happy that the sailboat had been sitting for so long," Marcum said. "They were very pleased once we were able to get it out of the water and away from their patrons. We just love seeing those kinds of happy faces when we're able to help out like this. It makes it all worthwhile."

While the Charlotte Harbor, Venice and Sarasota Sea Tow locations have finished all of their work with the WCIND, one job remains on the horizon for Sea Tow Fort Myers as owner and head captain Pat O'Brien awaits the go-ahead to remove the area's final abandoned boat. O'Brien said that it was Sea Tow's unique expertise and extensive network of captains that led to his crew getting this final job as the area looks to put the finishing touches on a cleanup that has lasted well over a year.

"We're all about constantly building relationships, whether that's with our members, nearby Sea Tow captains or others within the local marine industry," O'Brien said. "Over the past 10-plus years, we've been working with Lee County and other government officials on a number of salvage jobs, so as soon as WCIND re-opened this latest job, they knew that we were the ones to call."

"We're very much looking forward to putting the final touches on the cleanup around the area and getting these beautiful waters back to their previously unmatched glory."

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

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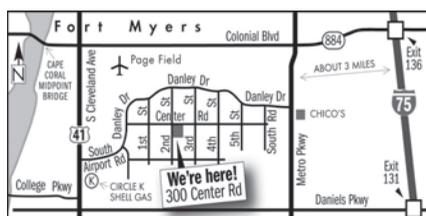


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Will Power

Estate Planning Fails



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

Rather than write about the many public figures and celebrities who fail to put a solid estate into place (Stan Lee, Aretha Franklin, Michael Jackson, Prince, John Denver, Thurgood Marshall, Heath Ledger, Sonny Bono and Howard Hughes among them), I'm going to write about some of the top estate planning fails that you haven't heard about, pointing out the main reason for the fail. The names, dates, genders and other associated facts have been changed, but the idea behind each of the fails remains as a pertinent example.

Family Business Economics

Consider Stan, who is in a second marriage to Brenda, but she is not the mother of his two sons. His main income is from a family business where one son serves as the CEO. The other son is not in the business, as he is a doctor. Stan's will (not a trust) puts everything into a testamentary trust after Stan's death that sprinkles the income among the three beneficiaries; wife, CEO and doctor. While Brenda needs the income from the business to pay her monthly bills, and she had been told that the income would be there for her, the will didn't specify that her priorities came first.

Further, there were no shareholder agreements governing how the business would be run going forward. The CEO son choked off the income the business generated, and consequently how much income would be distributed by the trust, by taking a high salary and reinvesting profits for business growth. Doctor son wasn't too happy with the arrangement either, as the trust didn't distribute anything to him. The parties ended up in court arguing over how the business should be run, as well as how the trust should distribute any business profits.

Probate Here And Probate There

April owned a residence in Florida as well as one in Boston, Massachusetts. Massachusetts has a high state-level estate tax. When the attorney advised April to create a revocable living trust that contained state-level estate tax planning and probate avoidance, April scoffed at the idea. She thought a simple will would do her just fine. Her estate was not above the federal estate tax exemption level, after all.

When April died, her family was shocked that two probate estates would have to be opened: the domiciliary estate here in Florida as well as an ancillary administration because she owned real property in Massachusetts. Further, Massachusetts imposed an estate tax on her residence there because its value was above the Massachusetts state-level estate tax exemption. Proper planning could have avoided both probates and the Massachusetts estate tax altogether.

IRA Fail

Grandfather wanted to leave part of his IRA account to his grandchildren, who were minors. His estate planning attorney counseled that a special Retirement Plan Trust could be used to benefit the grandchildren and stretch out the IRA distributions over the course of their lifetimes or, at a minimum, be used for higher education, like college and graduate school.

Rather than create this special trust and prepare proper beneficiary designations (that must comply with the five federal income tax "identifiable beneficiary" rules, or else suffer adverse income tax consequences), Grandfather named his minor grandchildren directly on the beneficiary forms. Then Grandfather died. To get the custodian to make distribution to the minors, a court-ordered guardianship was required, including annual accountings filed to the court by the guardians (the grandchildren's parents). The Retirement Plan Trust would have avoided these unnecessary expenses.

Another IRA Fail

Similar to the situation above, but this Grandpa named his Revocable Living Trust as the beneficiary to his IRA and named his grandchildren as beneficiaries to the Revocable Living Trust. Grandma, however, was also a beneficiary. Grandpa did not want to create a separate Retirement Plan Trust. He thought it was "too complicated and costly."

Because Grandma was the oldest beneficiary to the Revocable Trust, and because the trust and the IRA beneficiary designations otherwise did not comply with the five identifiable beneficiary tax laws, the IRA had to be distributed under Grandma's life expectancy table. This resulted in much higher Required Minimum Distributions than the family otherwise would have wanted to take, also resulting in the application of higher marginal income tax rates.

Attorney Fail

In yet another classic IRA example, an attorney advised his client to name the client's estate as the beneficiary to his IRA. The client's will divided his estate among several beneficiaries, including client's wife.

When one names one's estate as the beneficiary to a qualified plan, such as an IRA, all of the untaxed income is realized in the year following the client's death. The wife could not roll over the IRA and defer her share of it and the income taxes.

Very bad result.

Estate planning is more complicated than what many people realize, and although many attorneys say they practice estate planning, very few are actually board certified. In some of my examples above, the clients created the problem by not following sound advice. In my last example, the attorney failed the client. In every case, I'm sure the clients believed their situation to be "simple." I hope these examples provided some insight into what can go wrong in even "simple" situations.

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Book Review

The Perfect Couple



by Di Saggau

Elin Hilderbrand's fans get a twist with her new book *The Perfect Couple*. Known for her Nantucket-based novels, this one dives into a new genre, murder. On *CBS This Morning*,

Hilderbrand said "It is my 21st book, and I was looking for some new material and I thought to myself, 'I'm going to try to write a murder.'" She succeeds with a clever whodunit that begins with a wedding on Nantucket that is canceled when the bride finds her maid of honor floating facedown in the Atlantic on the morning of the big day. Up to this point, the perfect couple expected to have the perfect wedding.

The Otis-Winbury wedding was planned to be an event to remember. The groom's wealthy parents spared no expense to host a lavish affair at their oceanfront estate. Imagine finding La Prairie White Caviar Illuminating Moisturizing Cream in every guest room. It retails at over \$300 for a 1.7 oz jar. Their Island Fare clambake has three kinds of butter for the lobster and a sophisticated twist for every item. The sliced hothouse tomatoes drizzled with a thick, tangy blue cheese dressing and sprinkled with chopped green onions and crispy bacon, is something I plan to try.

Unfortunately the whole affair is memorable for all the wrong reasons after a body is discovered and everyone in the wedding party is suddenly a suspect. There are many memorable characters.

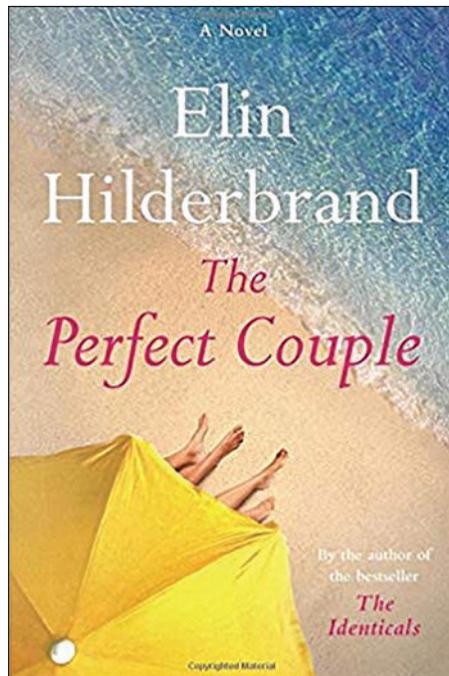


image provided

Greer Garrison, mother of the groom is a well-known novelist who can't find her muse. Her latest manuscript is about to be rejected. Hilderbrand also honors the community of cancer survivors by creating a mother of the bride with Stage 4 cancer who lives an active and full life.

The Perfect Couple delivers everything we expect, terrific clothes and food, smart humor and a great plot. The victim, Merritt Monaco, was an Instagram influencer and publicist for the Wildlife Conservation Society. The bride-to-be, Celeste Otis, would rather be anywhere but on the beautiful isle of Nantucket, marrying the handsome, kind and utterly smitten Benji Winbury. You'll love the relationships in this novel, including that between the chief of police and his wife. *The Perfect Couple* made the best seller list for good reason. I suggest you pick up a copy.✧

time and too much stress.

Dr. Willard says that, "It's neurologically impossible to be both stressed out and really loving and kind at the same time." The hormone oxytocin, responsible for connecting and bonding us to our kids, giving us that warm, fuzzy feeling during caregiving, works on the same receptors in the brain as cortisol, the stress hormone. And therein lies the tension: It's neurologically impossible to be both stressed out and really loving and kind at the same time."

Given that, he advocates for teaching kids mindful, kind practices that help to increase one's capacity for compassion and empathy. Below is a simple practice that you can use with your children, either individually or as a family.

"This is an informal mindfulness practice; the kind wishes practice that you can do with your family. It's the basis of most compassion and empathy training. You can do this practice on birthdays, or when other opportunities to make wishes come around. You can also use this practice to wind down before bed.

"To begin, find a comfortable sitting position. You can even place a hand on

the heart. Allow your eyes to close or lower your gaze toward the floor.

"Bring to mind someone who you really respect and look up to, and who really loves you in return. Notice how you feel as you bring this person to mind.

"Make a kind wish and send it their way. What would make them happy?"

"Next, bring to mind someone else you love and care about: A family member, a friend, a beloved colleague. Just bring this person to mind, sending this person a kind wish.

"We'll move from here to a more neutral person – perhaps someone you don't know very well – (like) a parent you see occasionally in the pick-up line, a person who delivers your mail, or makes your coffee in the morning. Just bring this person to mind and imagine yourself sending them some kind of kind wish.

"Lastly, bring to mind someone who has frustrated you lately, someone who is a little difficult. Send this last person a kind wish – something nice for them in their life.

"Check in with your mind and body as you conclude this practice. Allow your eyes to open if they've been closed. Notice if there's any shift".

Dr. Willard has this salient message for parents: "We don't have to be perfectly loving beings at all times. We don't have the psychological, financial, or genetic resources to literally treat everyone as we treat our own child – let alone treat our own child as we'd always like to. Instead, we strive to do our best and aim for that middle path: loving, caring and acts of kindness because compassion, and

even self-compassion, runs in families. I encourage you to find ways to practice compassion. What you do now will make a difference for future generations"

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.✧

Continental Women's Club

The Continental Women's Club will hold a luncheon meeting entitled Seniors Versus Crime at The Hideaway Country Club on Thursday, January 3 at 11:30 a.m. Cost is \$22 and includes lunch.

Come and learn about this State of Florida project, whose primary goal is to reduce victimization of senior citizens who are often targeted for specific crimes based on their age.

Club members will also hold their annual fundraising Fashion Show at Heritage Palms Golf & Country Club on March 18.

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

School Smart



by Shelley M. Greggs, NCSP

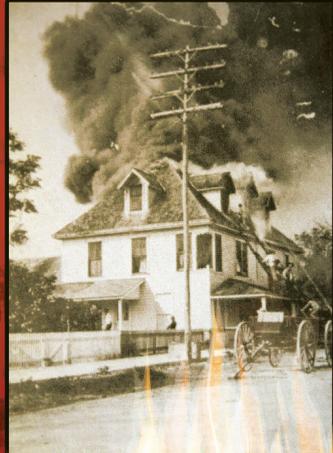
Dear Readers, As you know, our children from kindergarten to college are experiencing stress at record levels that are often destructive for them. This is a

problem that we as parents must help our kids handle, and it can be difficult to do. I'm passing along a kindness practice for families developed by a psychologist, Dr. Christopher Willard, who helps kids and their families deal with stress.

Dr. Willard reported that recent research indicated that of 10,000 middle and high school students surveyed, 80 percent reported personal achievement was more important to them than caring for other people and that empathy in young people had declined. Two causes emerged for this decline of empathy and compassion for others: too much screen

EPIC FIRES OF FORT MYERS

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

THOMAS P. HALL

ROBIN C. TUTHILL, EDITOR

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Financial Focus

Consider Factors When Making Charitable Gifts



by Jennifer Basey

The holiday season is here, which means gift-giving is probably on your mind. In addition to making gifts to your family and friends, you also may be interested in contributing to

charitable organizations. But before you donate financial assets, such as stocks, you will need to consider several factors, including taxes, your portfolio balance and the reputation of the charity. Let's look at these areas:

Taxes – Your donations to qualified charities (those that are considered 501(c)(3) organizations by the Internal Revenue Service) can give you tax deductions – if you itemize deductions on your tax return. However, due to recent tax law changes, the standard deduction for 2018 has almost doubled, to \$24,000 for married couples, and to \$12,000 for single filers. As a result, you may be less likely to itemize deductions, so you could have less incentive, at least for tax reasons, to make charitable gifts. However, if you give appreciated stocks, you may be allowed

a charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the gift on the date of the transfer, even if your original cost was only a fraction of today's value. Plus, you may not be subject to the capital gains tax you might have to pay if you eventually sold the stocks.

Also, depending on your age, you might be able to use your traditional IRA as a charitable-funding vehicle. Once you turn age 70 ½, you generally must begin taking withdrawals – called required minimum distributions or RMDs – from your traditional IRA. (Roth IRAs are not subject to RMDs during your lifetime.) These RMDs from your traditional IRA are taxable, but you may be able to exclude up to \$100,000 of RMDs per year from your taxable income if you transfer the funds directly to qualified charitable organizations.

In any case, consult with your tax advisor before donating appreciated assets to a charity.

Portfolio balance – When you donate financial assets to a charity, you are also taking them away from your portfolio. This could be an issue, especially if you repeatedly donate the same types of assets. For example, if you're donating some growth-oriented stocks, will you lower the overall growth potential of your portfolio?

You may want to consult with a financial professional to ensure your charitable gifts will still allow you to maintain a portfolio balance appropriate for your goals and risk tolerance.

Reputation of the charity – You may want to do some homework to make

sure you are giving to a reputable charity. Many experts on charitable giving say that a worthwhile charity should spend at least 75 percent of its income on programs, rather than administrative costs. You may be able to find this type of information on a charitable group's annual report and its website. You can also browse the web for the names of agencies that evaluate charitable groups.

By considering the aspects of

charitable giving described above, you can get more satisfaction from your generosity – because you'll know that your gift not only supports a good cause, but also fits well into your overall financial picture.

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

Blue: The Go-To



by Barb Cacchione

The home fashion industry often suggests what the new hot color statement is. Some come and go, and some seem here to stay. One constant that has appeared yet again at High

Point Home Furnishings Market is blue. Blue seems to hang on and be a color that can always be infused into comfortable home interiors or eye-catching accents.

Classic but current, that is always a good combination. These days, this dynamic-duo can be represented by blue and white. Blue seems to have remained a constant throughout time (see the timeless combo of a navy blazer and white shirt or denim jeans and a white shirt). Are either

ever wrong?

Blue can be used as both a blast of contrast or as a neutral in soft saturation to theme a room or entire home around. Hues of navy, cobalt and sea glass in every shade, tint and tone can be woven into existing designs or be introduced as the common thread throughout many rooms within a home.

Accessorizing is an easy way to incorporate this color, but the use of blue in draperies or upholstery can bring a new element to a room. Manufacturers are not holding back in branching out from the safe grey or tan sofa, as there are many new releases using blue in an edgier application with abstract prints. Blue can even be seen in the wood tones of cabinetry and other case goods, creating beautiful statement pieces.

It is a welcome element in coastal environments. Consider popping blue in here and there for an easy spruce up and fresh, yet classic appearance.

Barb Cacchione is an interior designer on Sanibel/Captiva Islands. She can be reached at barb@coindecaden.com.✱



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From page 2

Historic Downtown

father's passing, Corinne Summerlin died in Bartow while visiting family.

The *Fort Myers Press* described the news as spreading "like wildfire" on the streets and in the shops.

"Acute indigestion" was the announced cause of death, but there were rumors of suicide by poison, which were discredited by examining physicians.

The rumors might have been prompted by the recent forced resignation from the postal service and by the news that she had taken a dose of strychnine before going to bed. (Strychnine is a bitter alkaloid drug once used medicinally, especially in the Victorian era. It has caused accidental poisoning in humans because it's easy to take an overdose.)

Corinne had awakened her family with screams in the night and died within minutes before a doctor could reach her. Details of her last few days only added to the questions, for the trip had seemed to be a pleasurable one. She had arrived in Bartow after attending her daughters' commencement exercises at the Florida State College for Women in Tallahassee, and she had enjoyed social invitations while in Bartow.

On the other hand, she had complained of ill health and depression, and was said to have been recovering from two recent (unspecified) accidents.

And, there was the recent death of her father to whom she was very close.

Perhaps most poignant was the discovery in a suitcase of letters addressed to relatives reiterating that she was innocent of stealing post office funds.

A few days later, Corinne was buried next to her father's grave in the Fort Myers Cemetery. The *Press* noted that "an unusually large number of friends of the family" attended.

Stroll down to Fowler and Second to see where Corinne Summerlin lived with her daughters. Then visit the following two research centers to learn more about an ill-fated Fort Myers postmistress.

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 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; the *Fort Myers Press*; www.leeclerk.org; and the *Tampa Tribune*.✱

Primary Care Welcomes Registered Nurse

Angela Frink has joined Physicians' Primary Care of Southwest Florida as an advanced practice registered nurse.

Frink is a graduate of Florida Gulf Coast University, where she received her bachelor of science degree in nursing and her master of science degree as a family nurse practitioner.

She has more than 12 years of nursing experience, including two years in management positions prior to earning her degree as an advanced practice registered nurse, which is the new title for what was formerly known as ARNP.

Most recently, Frink has worked as a pediatric gastroenterology nurse practitioner. She will assist pediatricians at the Cape Coral office at 1265 Viscaya Parkway.



Angela Frink photo provided

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

Cypress Cove Memory Care Manager Named

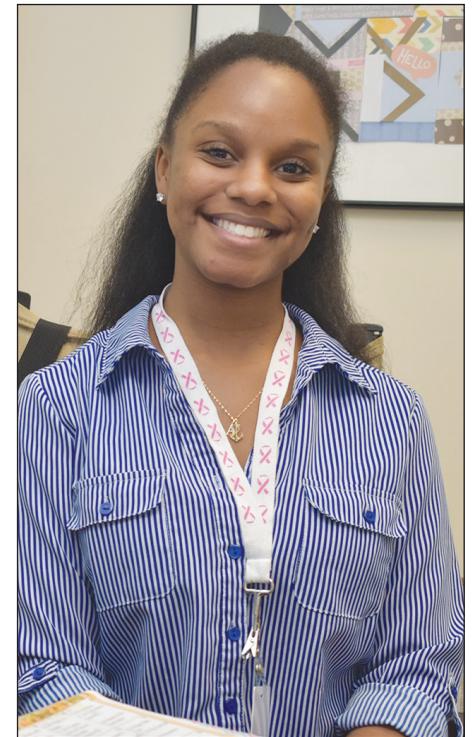
Ally Cummings has been appointed as Memory Care program manager of Cypress Cove at HealthPark Florida's nationally acclaimed assisted living memory care facility, The Cottage at Cypress Cove.

Cummings, a certified therapeutic recreation specialist who earned her degree from Florida International University of Miami, joins the Cypress Cove award-winning assisted living memory care team following her recent tenure as activities director of Brookdale Assisted Living in Fort Myers.

"We are extremely pleased to have Ms. Cummings as a member of our team," said Health Services Director David Gray. "Since opening, The Cottage has received outstanding reviews for unique and innovative program care within its home-like environment."

Cummings brings Cypress Cove valuable experience in geriatric care therapy and individual dementia related care experience. Among her experience, she completed pre-graduate work at Mount Sinai Medical Center in Miami Beach, CORA Rehabilitation Clinic in Miami, as well as a three-month internship study at The Cottage.

"The technology and household designs are amazing," said Cummings about the four 11-apartment



Ally Cummings photo provided

neighborhoods within The Cottage's two-story 40,000 square foot community. "It's a beautiful environment to care for with memory issues. I remember first walking into The Cottage and thinking it was like a big, beautiful cruise ship."

Cummings' duties include a responsibility for leading daily programming activities in all four households at The Cottage.✱

Foundation Advisor Award Winners For 2019



John Bobb



Brian Chapman



Joan DeMichael Henry



Don Koogler

Seven of Southwest Florida's leading professional advisors will be recognized for continuously providing guidance society can trust. The Cape Coral Community Foundation will announce the second annual Power Players Professional Advisor Awards at the Westin Cape Coral Resort at Marina Village on Monday, January 14 from 8 to 9:30 a.m.

Each of the distinguished Power Players strive to conduct business with integrity and make a substantial impact in the community. They have an established track record in their respective fields and have dedicated their time, talent and treasure to philanthropic endeavors to enrich Southwest Florida.

The award-winning advisors are: Accountant Joni Norton of Markham Norton Mosteller Wright & Company, PA; Attorney Kevin Kyle of Green Schoenfeld & Kyle LLP; Bank Executive William Lange of Regions Private Wealth Management; Estate Planner Joan Henry of Lusk, Drasites, & Tolisano



Kevin Kyle



William Lange



Joni Norton

PA; Financial Advisor John Bobb of FineMark National Bank & Trust; Insurance Broker Brian Chapman of Chapman Insurance Group; and Real Estate Broker Don Koogler of Koogler Homes

The event presents a golden opportunity for attendees to discuss the power of combining philanthropy and wealth management.

Limited seating is available for the event. Tickets cost \$40. Sponsorships begin at \$500 and include tickets to the event plus a variety of promotional opportunities.

The Westin Cape Coral Resort at Marina Village is located at 5951 Silver King Boulevard in Cape Coral. For tickets and more information, visit www.capecoralcf.org/events.✱

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Craig R. Hersch

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



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Big Money For The Four Teams In The College Football Championship

by Ed Frank



It's big, big business – a multimillion dollar business – when it comes to the four college football teams that will play for the National Championship.

And when you examine the payouts, it once again raises the question that while these schools pocket millions as a result of the gifted athletes on each team, the athletes themselves do not share in the rewards.

In recent weeks, there have been strong suggestions that the college playoffs should be expanded from four to eight teams. We reported two weeks ago that the legendary Lou Holtz spoke out in favor of an eight-team playoff, and just last week Brian Kelly, coach of undefeated Notre Dame, said the same thing.

However, it cannot occur until the present 10-year television contract expires, and it has another five years to run.

But let's look at the hefty sums the four teams in the upcoming playoffs – Notre Dame, Alabama, Clemson and Oklahoma – will receive. While it is a somewhat complicated formula, basically each school will receive \$6 million plus added expenses. However, there is a big difference how the money is dispensed.

Alabama, Clemson and Oklahoma will see their shares go to their conferences to be divided among their members, while Notre Dame, a football independent, will keep the entire \$6 million.

Here is the breakdown:

Alabama – As a member of the Southeast Conference, Alabama will keep about \$2 million for playing in the semifinals and another \$2 million plus should they reach the championship games.

Clemson – Atlantic Coast Conference does not award any additional money for reaching the playoffs with all 14 members sharing evenly in the bowl revenue. However, all four teams do receive additional funds for travel expenses, lodging, meals and other related costs.

Oklahoma – As a member of the Big 12, Oklahoma will keep \$2 million of the \$6 million payout plus travel expenses.

Notre Dame – The Irish will keep the entire \$6 million plus an estimated \$2.34 million in travel expenses.

There are other intricacies involved in the complex payoff schedules, but this will provide you the basics why the National Football Playoffs are a richly awarded business.

Everblades Surge To First In Division

After a slow season's start, the Florida Everblades hockey team has reversed course and began the week atop the ECHL South Division with a season record of 16-6-4.

The Everblades face the Orlando Solar Bears in three games this weekend – tonight, Thursday and Friday – in Orlando and a 7 p.m. game here Saturday at Hertz Arena in Estero.*



Red Sox players with Boys & Girls Club members in 2017

photo provided

Evening With The Red Sox Set For February 19

This year's 14th annual Evening with the Red Sox will take place Tuesday, February 19 at JetBlue Park in Fort Myers.

The evening will begin at 5:30 p.m. and include an extended cocktail

reception with complimentary heavy hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine, autograph signings from Red Sox players, and silent and live auctions that will include exciting trips to major cities, sports memorabilia packages, theme park passes, golf outings and more. A raffle for a Red Sox fan experience with a trip for four to Boston will also be available. The package includes a two-night hotel stay and tickets for four to two games at Fenway Park including seats on the famed Green Monster, a

private VIP tour of the ballpark and on-field access. Only 200 raffle tickets will be sold at \$75 each with all proceeds going to support the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lee County. Tickets are available at www.loveleekids.org.

"We are so excited to be bringing the event back to JetBlue Park, the Spring Training home of the Boston Red Sox, this year," said Rodney Ford, general manager for Coca-Cola Beverages Florida and this year's event co-chair. "This year's autograph session and Q&A will be extra special coming off the Red Sox 2018 World Series win."

Last year's autograph session included manager Alex Cora, catcher Blake Swihart and pitchers David Price, Robby Scott and Joe Kelly.

This year's presenting sponsor is Ted Todd Insurance.

Sponsorships are available from \$1,500. Individual tickets are \$150 per person. Donations for auction items are also being accepted.

For more information, raffle tickets, to register, sponsor or donate to the event, visit www.loveleekids.org or contact Shannon Lane at 334-1886 or slane@bgcl.net.*

SPORTS QUIZ

1. Who was the first African-American pitcher in the major leagues?
2. Name the last Texas Ranger before Neftali Feliz in 2010 to win the American League Rookie of the Year Award.
3. What was the last school outside a current Power Five conference to win a national championship in college football?
4. Who was the only person to win championships in his first two seasons as an NBA head coach?
5. Beginning in 1991, Pittsburgh and Washington have met 11 times in the NHL playoffs. How many times have the Penguins won the series?
6. In 2018, Italian speedskater Arianna Fontana became the second woman to win short-track medals in four Olympics. Who was the first?
7. How many consecutive men's golf majors were won by Americans before Francesco Molinari won the British Open in 2018?

ANSWERS

1. Dan Bankhead of the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1947. 2. Mike Hargrove, in 1974. 3. B.Y.U., in 1984. 4. John Kunda of the Minneapolis Lakers in 1949-50. 5. Nine times. 6. Canada's Tanya Vicent (1998-2010). 7. Five.

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Healthcare CEO Named To State Advisory Group

Hope Healthcare President and CEO Samira K. Beckwith has been named to the Transition Advisory Committee on Health and Wellness by Gov.-elect Ron DeSantis and Lt. Gov.-elect Jeanette Nuñez.

Beckwith will serve alongside 50 health care experts from a variety of medical fields on the committee that will be co-chaired by Nunez and Alan Levine, the former secretary of Florida's Agency for Health Care Administration.

"It's a privilege to work with Gov. DeSantis and this group of knowledgeable leaders to help set the course for Florida's future in health care," said Beckwith.

"The transition team's focus aligns with Hope's vision of transforming the experiences of illness, aging and dying for all Floridians."

Hope Healthcare, which includes Hope Hospice and Hope Kids Care programs, is a not-for-profit health care



Samira K. Beckwith photo provided organization dedicated to providing care and comfort to every individual and their loved ones as they fulfill life's journey. For more information, call 482-4673 or visit www.hopehcs.org.✪

From page 1

Band Of Brothers

State University in Ohio, Wallace Jr. is a freelance musician and a member of The DePue Brothers Band, playing at BIG ARTS on Saturday, January 12 in Schein Hall.

Being a homeowner in Southwest Florida means DePue frequently substitutes for local orchestras including the Naples Philharmonic, the Southwest Florida Symphony and the Charlotte Symphony, in addition to being the local draw for his brothers to come here and play.

The brothers include Jason, a member of the first violin section of the Philadelphia Orchestra, as is brother Zachary; and Alex, a champion fiddler who has toured with recording artist Chris Cagle, actor and singer Kevin Costner and, most recently, Mexican guitarist Miguel De Hoyos. Their combined credits include Grammy nominations, concertmaster positions, top teaching gigs and national touring with John Williams' *Star Wars* National Tour Concert Orchestra (Wallace Jr.).

The brothers' original Florida tie started with their paternal grandmother, who lived in Englewood from the late 1970s and throughout the '80s. "We'd come here at Christmas every year," said DePue. Further incentive to relocate from Philadelphia was a good friend from elementary school who moved to Fort Myers in 2006.

DePue played his first recital at a church bazaar in rural Bowling Green, Ohio, when he was 7. His father played piano. The DePue Family Band had its first gigs in 1979, and included Wallace's mom, pianist Linda Kallman DePue, until she died in a car accident in 1986. Wallace DePue Sr. is now retired but still composes every day, his son said.

The brothers all principally learned

to play violin. They were taught by university professors, but their father was the musical taskmaster. "Every day my dad would come home (from teaching at the university) and say, 'Did you get your time in?'" DePue said. They were expected to practice two hours a day and there was never any question that they'd obey dad's edict.

They all eventually played multiple instruments, Wallace, guitar; Alex, bass guitar; Jason, mandolin and bass vocals; and Zachary, mainly violin but also vocal harmonies.

Although the brothers are scattered throughout the country, they collaborate online and send MP3s back and forth. "We can't play simultaneous that way," DePue said, "but we'll take turns and play something and say, 'Hey, what do you think of this?'" And that suffices until they are together to rehearse.

What they play in concert is an assortment of genres, the set list being "what four neurotic musicians" can agree upon, DePue said, admitting that "It's sometimes hard to treat each other as adult professionals" and not slip into boyhood roles.

But they make it work, playing what DePue defines as "grassical" music – a combination of bluegrass and classical that on one stage can have them playing *Orange Blossom Special*, *The Devil Went Down to Georgia*, *Little Brown Jug Theme and Variations* and a composition based on *Owner of a Lonely Heart*, a song by the rock band Yes.

"Our concerts are not monotonous," DePue said. "We keep our audiences on the edge of their chairs."

The brothers will be joined at BIG ARTS by drummer Don Liuzzi, principal timpani with the Philadelphia Orchestra, and banjo player Mike Munford.

For tickets, call 472-0900 or go online to www.bigarts.org. BIG ARTS is located at 900 Dunlop Road on Sanibel.✪

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JANUARY 9**

2:00-4:00PM

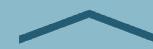


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**RSVP Rachell Vera at 239-303-4069
or VeraR@caringmedical.com**

Sponsored by Caring Medical Regenerative Medicine Clinics in Fort Myers. To learn more please visit CaringMedical.com

Uncommon Evening Sets New Records



The 2018 Uncommon Friends Foundation Scholarship Winners

photos provided

The Uncommon Friends Foundation recently reported that its 2018 Uncommon Evening held on November 8 was its most successful annual fundraiser gala in its history. Event Chair Caryn Smith, CEO of Driven by Design LLC and Driven to Eat LLC dba Moody River Grille, stated the sold-out event had a record attendance of 260 business and community leaders and grossed a record \$83,500. The evening was made possible by the support of title sponsor Storm Smart, *The News-Press*, and many other sponsors.

This year's event doubled as an

awards event and a celebration of the 25th anniversary of the organization's founding. It featured a 25-year photo retrospect of the Uncommon Friends Foundation and an original play written by Melanie Payne. It was presented by the Laboratory Theatre of Florida which highlighted the history of the original uncommon friends.

Student scholarships totaling \$20,000 were awarded to 17 deserving students, with former scholarship winner and long-time annual donor Jared Basco as the keynote speaker. The evening culminated with the Business

Ethics award being presented to PBS Contractors of Naples, Florida and the Character Education Teacher of the Year award to Rachel Mas, an educator at Cypress Lake Middle School. Gray Davis was awarded a special Lifetime Achievement Award for his many years of service on the board of directors, and Brenda Stewart and Jody Van Cooney were recognized for their generous volunteerism over the years.

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



Event Chair Caryn Smith



Farzaneh Kazemi and Saeed Kazemi



From left, Lynne Kimmich, Jennifer Nelson, Stephanie Ink-Edwards and Diana Willis



From left, Heidi Taulman, Joanne Hayden, Rob Churchill, Angela Melvin, John Albion and Helena Dabrowski



Mayor Randy Henderson



John Boland and Jennifer Nelson



From left, Alison Charney, Hussey Leon Goldsmith and Keri Goldsmith



Baby learning braille photos provided

Instructor teaching braille to baby

Lighthouse Of SWFL Program Receives Grant

Lighthouse of SWFL is pleased to announce it has received a \$5,000 grant from the Cape Coral Community Foundation, the Global Center for Generosity to support their Blind Babies Program. These funds will provide innovative toys and equipment for a creative play space, which will aid in developing skills for independence for babies and young children with major vision loss.

Lighthouse of SWFL's Blind Babies Program works collaboratively with families to develop a plan that maximizes their outcomes and provides services geared towards helping infants and preschool age children with blindness or visual impairment reach their fullest potential.

"This generous grant from the Cape Coral Community Foundation will make a significant impact on the lives of local children," said Dotty St. Amand, chief executive officer of Lighthouse of SWFL.

To benefit from the programs and services provided by Lighthouse of SWFL, visit www.lighthouseswfl.org or call 997-7797.*

Red Cross Gains Two Fleet Vehicles



Southern Gulf Chapter volunteers loading emergency supplies into new fleet vehicle

The American Red Cross Southern Gulf Chapter received two new fleet vehicles, thanks to the generosity of local donors who participated in the Centennial Celebration & Gala in March at the Ritz-Carlton Golf Resort to celebrate 100 years of service in the community. A third emergency response vehicle will be delivered early next year.

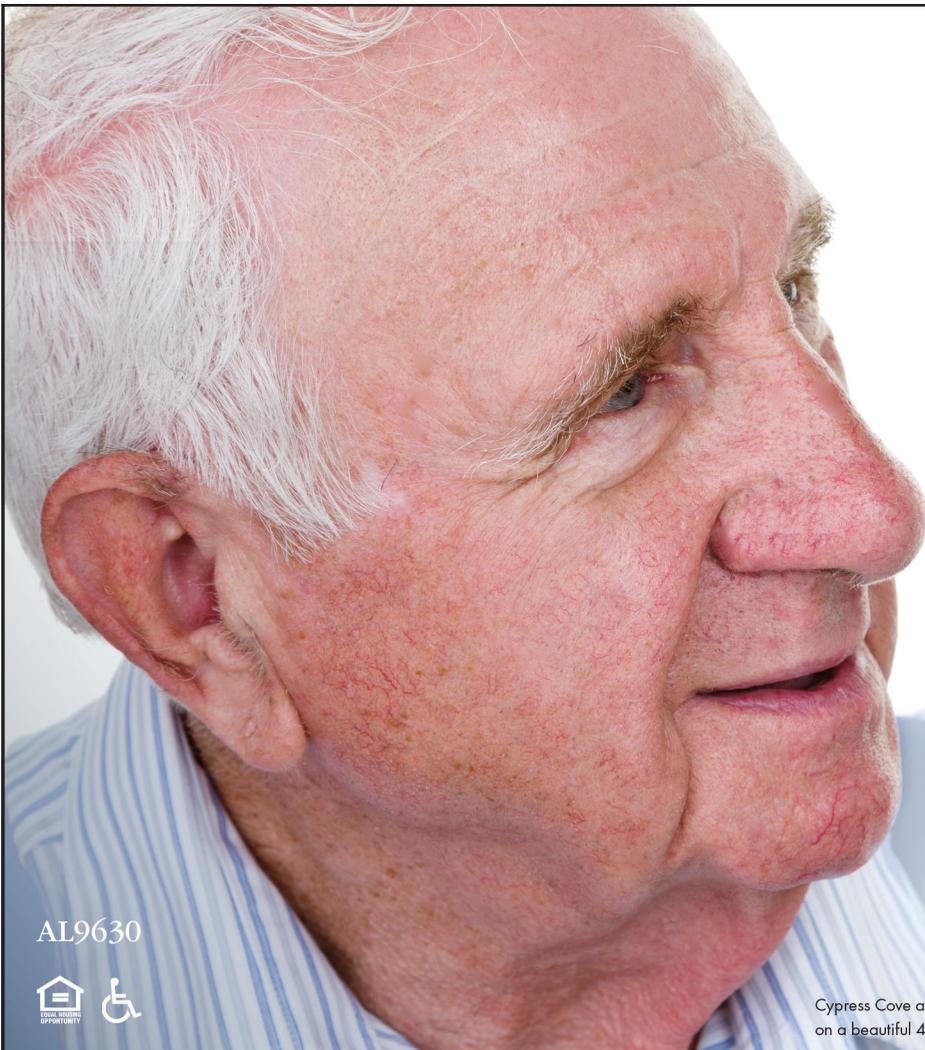
The Gala focused on fundraising for one disaster vehicle. Thanks to the support of donors, the event raised funds to purchase two local fleets and one emergency response vehicle for the chapter. The vehicles will be utilized by the Red Cross to respond to local disasters, ranging from home fires to

hurricanes as well as provide aid to families in need.

"We are so grateful for the generosity of our donors for their amazing support and contributions at this year's Centennial Celebration & Gala" said Jill Palmer, executive director of the Southern Gulf Chapter. "Their support will allow us to better serve the community in the face of emergencies."

The Southern Gulf Chapter currently serves nearly 1 million residents in Collier, Lee, Hendry and Glades counties.

To support the Red Cross locally and across the country, visit www.redcross.org/support or become a volunteer by visiting www.redcross.org/sflvolunteer.*



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Cypress Cove at HealthPark Florida is a non-profit organization sponsored by Lee Healthcare Resources, a support organization to Lee Health. Located on a beautiful 48-acre campus, Cypress Cove offers a full complement of quality living options committed to the health and well-being of its residents.

AL9630



deaRPharmacist

Gift Ideas For Comfort And Healing



by Suzy Cohen, RPh

Dear Readers: For those of us who still have our health and energy, it's hard to imagine how others feel with a chronic illness. They don't want the same gifts we might. So, if you know someone

who is uncomfortable, struggling, keep in mind they might experience the holidays with more discomfort and melancholy than at other times of the year.

They don't want the typical gift you might traditionally get. Maybe I can help you figure out what they really want, or at the very least give them more comfort. I have a much longer version of this article which I can email to you if you'd like. Just sign up for my newsletter at www.suzycohen.com, and you'll receive it on Tuesday via email.

Essential Oil and Diffuser – This is a nice gift, especially if you can find a pretty color-changing diffuser to keep by their bed and a bottle of lavender or neroli. These two oils impact the GABAergic system, to induce your tranquilizer hormone called GABA.

Physical Help – There's probably no greater gift than just asking a person who is not feeling well, "How can I help?" These four words will probably bring tears to their eyes as they are likely feeling disorganized, overwhelmed and tired. You can do the simplest things for a few hours, or arrange their needs. You could stop by and take their

packages to the post office, or help clean up around the house, or teach them how to use Skype so they can see their grandchildren.

Weighted Blanket – It's calming. This gift is a good idea for someone who feels anxious, or can't sleep very well at night.

Bed Wedge Pillow – This is usually made of memory foam and it's a wedge to elevate the top of your bed where your head is. Fantastic for people who need to sleep a little more upright, as in the case of acid reflux.

White noise machine – I think this type of gift would make a great gift for someone with tinnitus, or someone who needs a little background noise to feel calm and secure.

Blue-blocking Glasses – A pair of these removes blue from the device/screen so it's great for gamers, computer workaholics and anyone prone to insomnia, tension headaches or migraines.

ieGeek Tablet Phone Stand For Bed – This locks a device into position so you can watch it, or read it while in bed, hands-free. Full disclosure, I have this and we love watching Hallmark movies in bed sometimes.

Sound Amplifier To Help With Hearing – Some people are stubborn, or they refuse (or can't afford) a real hearing aid. So a sound amplifier goes a long way to improve someone's interpersonal relationships.

Electric Kettle – This is a convenient. If you know a tea lover, who is a little forgetful (and might leave the oven on), buy them one of these.

I hope my ideas have given you a jumpstart to think of thoughtful healing gifts. Happy shopping!

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.

Doctor and Dietician

Holiday Season Weight Gain



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

With all the wonderful holiday party dishes, Christmas cookies, treats people bring into work and the plentiful in-store samples that often make a meal on their own, these delicious indulgences often bring an unwelcomed surprise the next time we step on the scale.

To avoid spending early 2019 fighting off the weight gain from late 2018, try to be aware of how much food and drink you consume during these festive gatherings. Yes, we can enjoy ourselves, but we should be aware of what we're consuming because it doesn't take long for those calories to add up. Choose foods that you think are "worth" the calories and kindly decline the rest.

What's the plan if we've already overeaten? Cut back on your next meal and exercise. Did you know, in order to lose one pound, we must burn 3,500 more calories than food we consume? In other words, to lose one pound per week, we must reduce our caloric intake by 500 calories per day. Is this easy to accomplish? Well, a 500-calorie reduction might mean cutting out soda and sweets; or drastically reducing added fat; or cutting back on wine/beer; or even cutting

portions by one-third. On weeknights, cook lighter vegetable-based dinners if you find yourself snacking more during the weekdays.

The best way to speed up metabolism and burn off what we consume is sticking to a regular exercise program. The benefits of exercise are huge during the holidays. Exercise may be the top "holiday survival tip." It keeps mental and physical energy levels up and helps burn off all the delicious, high-calorie holiday feasts. Try working out for one hour, 5 days per week. It is a reasonable goal for many people, even with busy holiday schedules. Your waistline will thank you in January.

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@caringsmedical.com.

Diabetes Program

Lee Health will offer a free diabetes prevention program at Cape Coral Hospital on Tuesday, January 8 from 6 to 7 p.m.

The year-long program has weekly meetings for the first six months, then once or twice a month for the second six months. It is part of the National Diabetes Prevention Program, led by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Information presented in the workshop can help you become empowered to prevent Type 2 Diabetes. Learn about the benefits of physical activity; manage symptoms of stress, make smarter decisions related to healthy eating, and tips to stay motivated. Participants will receive a participant guide to use as an ongoing reference tool once the classes are completed.

Seating is limited and registration is required. Call 424-3127 for more information.

Beautifulife:

Tradition



by Kay Casperson

Some of the memories that made the most impact on my life growing up in Minnesota were the traditions that my parents put in place or even carried on from the generations

before them. We had simple everyday traditions like eating dinner together every night at around the same time, blessing our food and discussing the highlights of everyone's day, as well as special meals we looked forward to on specific days of the week. We had weekend traditions like going to church as a family on Sundays followed by out to eat for brunch. Our summer weekends were always spent going up to the lake to our cabin and seeing our

cousins and friends.

There were always holiday traditions, from summer holiday picnics to winter holiday dinners, and celebrations that all family members near and far would look forward to and try to attend if at all possible. Decorating for Christmas was always so much fun, from the way the stockings were hung to the specific places my Dad would put certain ornaments on the tree, since he was very particular about that. Traditions like these kept our family and relatives connected from past years and into new generations as the memories continued to be engraved into all of our hearts.

Now as an adult with children of my own, I have even a more profound sense of appreciation for tradition. Not only have I kept some of the traditions that I knew so well growing up, but I also continue to create new and lasting traditions of my own for my family and hopefully for theirs to come. My daughters already look forward to our evening meals together, our time at church and our weekend getaways. I have also built tradition into my business, and at the end of

the year, my staff looks forward to our annual Christmas Karaoke celebration, Bootcamp and Christmas party, where we have fun gift exchanges and lots of laughs.

At Christmas time and as I enter a new season of winter holidays, I once again reflect on the traditions that made a lasting impression on me and realize how they have woven their way into my family. Of course, things are different since I live in Florida with my immediate family and do not have relatives close by. We don't have the big family celebrations and dinners, and of course, there is no snow on the ground. We do, however, love to decorate for Christmas and when my Dad comes to visit, he will move the ornaments to where he thinks they should be. We open a present from each family member on Christmas Eve, and then we look forward to the red tissue-wrapped gifts for each of us from Santa under the tree on Christmas morning – just like when I was a little girl growing up.

Whether you are starting a new family, have a blended family, or your

kids are now adults with their own children and families, I encourage you to keep your traditions alive and well and take the time to create new ones that may be a better fit for your lifestyle and surroundings. I know that sometimes it can be hard when your spouse has different ideas about tradition, or you lose a loved one, and they were instrumental in helping to keep those traditions going. I do, however, firmly believe that maintaining tradition will make a positive, lasting impact on you and your loved ones now and in generations to come, and can only help to enhance the beautiful life you are creating.

Merry Christmas and may your hearts and life be filled with love, joy, peace and everything beautiful!

Kay Casperson is a beauty and lifestyle expert, founder and CEO of Beautifulife by Kay Casperson. She owns resort spas on Sanibel and Captiva islands and manufactures beauty and lifestyle products sold across the country. To stay inspired, visit www.kaycasperson.com or follow on social media @kaycasperson.

PETS OF THE WEEK

photos provided

Lee County Domestic Animal Services

Joe And Prancer

Hello, my name is Joe. I am a 3-year-old male domestic shorthair who is no joke in the snuggle department. I am the epitome of a lap cat. It is hard to get any work done with me around – all everyone wants to do is hang out with this handsome guy. We need someone to adopt me so the productivity level of the staff can resume. I am not just looks either, as I have personality for days. I will charm my way into your heart in no time.

My adoption fee is between \$15 and \$50 for me and another cat. Pick an ornament.

Hi, I'm Prancer. I am a 1-year-old male hound mix who has only had a year's practice of being a best friend, but I am an expert. A few of my favorite things are playtime, people and cuddling. I am learning sit and shake and would love to find my home before the holidays. The staff and volunteers are waiting to show off my wonderful personality to you.

My adoption fee is between \$15 and \$50. Pick an ornament.

LCDAS is reducing pet adoption fees for the lucky families that find their perfect match this month. Just pick a door on the Countdown to the Holidays calendar to reveal a reduced adoption fee ranging from \$50 to as low as \$15.

The adoption fee for all pets includes: spay/



Joe ID# A762541



Prancer ID# A762812

neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, flea treatment, deworming, heartworm test for dogs six months or older, feline aids and leukemia test for cats, a Lee County license for pets three months or older, microchip pet ID, and a 10-day health guarantee. The total adoption package is valued at more than \$500.

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

Lily And Sylvia

Hi, I'm Lily! I'm a beautiful 2-year-old female tabby with a white bib. I have been fully vetted and brought up to date on all vaccines. My adoption fee is \$100. Come see me at Petco in Gulf Coast Town Center.

Hello, I'm Sylvia. Aren't I just adorable? I'm only 6 months old and a very sweet little girl. I'm currently staying with a foster family and would really like a home to call my own! My adoption fee is \$100 which includes vaccines and spaying.

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.



Lily



Sylvia

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

THE RIVER WEEKLY NEWS

FROM THE BEACHES TO DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS

Emergency	911
Lee County Sheriff's Office	477-1200
Florida Marine Patrol	332-6966
Florida Highway Patrol	278-7100
Poison Control	1-800-282-3171
HealthPark Medical Center	1-800-936-5321
Ft. Myers Chamber of Commerce	332-3624
Foundation for Quality Childcare	425-2685
Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce	454-7500
Fort Myers Beach Library	463-9691
Lakes Regional Library	533-4000
Lee County Chamber of Commerce	931-0931
Post Office	1-800-275-8777
Visitor & Convention Bureau	338-3500

ARTS

Alliance for the Arts	939-2787
Arts For ACT Gallery & Studio	337-5050
Art League Of Fort Myers	275-3970
Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall	481-4849
BIG ARTS	395-0900
Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre	278-4422
Cultural Park Theatre	772-5862
Edison Festival of Light	334-2999
Florida Repertory Theatre at the Arcade	332-4488
Florida West Arts	948-4427
Fort Myers 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 Coral 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

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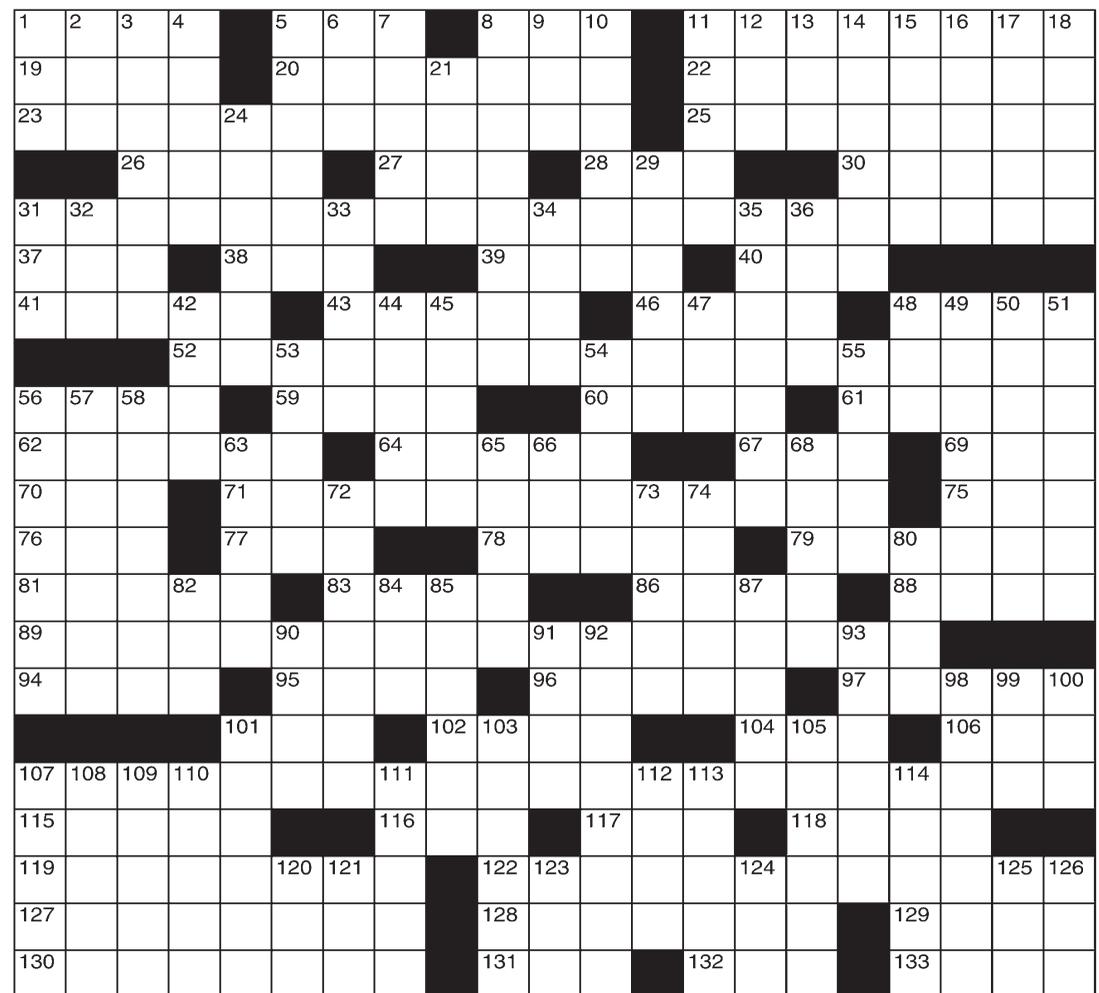
PUZZLES

Answers on page 29

Super Crossword

BEFORE THE BRITISH INVASION

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Glinda of Oz" author
 - 5 — de deux
 - 8 Finking sort
 - 11 Award for excellence
 - 19 "Give that — cigar!"
 - 20 Milky and iridescent
 - 22 Orchestral introduction
 - 23 Start of a riddle
 - 25 Fishel of "Boy Meets World"
 - 26 Dice, e.g.
 - 27 "Yoo- —!"
 - 28 Zodiac sign before Virgo
 - 30 Relaxed
 - 31 Riddle, part 2
 - 37 Boating tool
 - 38 Suffix with butyl
 - 39 Jewish round dance
 - 40 Slalom curve
 - 41 Old Dodge models
 - 43 Foreigner
 - 46 Glove worn at first base
 - 48 Logging tools
 - 52 Riddle, part 3
 - 56 Facet
 - 59 Preminger of cinema
 - 60 Thereabouts
 - 61 With
 - 62-Across, student's grade booster
 - 62 See
 - 61-Across
 - 64 Siberian dog
 - 67 Catering hall receptacle
 - 69 Feeling sick
 - 70 Infomercial host Popeil
 - 71 Riddle, part 4
 - 75 The Great Lakes' —
 - 78 Zodiad sign before Virgo
 - 76 Start for cycle
 - 77 Big NYSE event
 - 78 Name of Amazon Echo's personal assistant
 - 79 Buzzing (with)
 - 81 — nova
 - 83 Feedbox fill
 - 86 Gel in a lab
 - 88 Extra details
 - 89 Riddle, part 5
 - 94 Has an itch
 - 95 Towed-away car, maybe
 - 96 Wren dens?
 - 97 Actress Pfeiffer
 - 101 Hosp. zones
 - 102 Bar brew, in Berlin
 - 104 "— already said ..."
 - 106 Vain sort's problem
 - 107 End of the riddle
 - 115 Uphear
 - 116 "— a go"
 - 117 Tart's cousin
 - 118 Golf's
 - 119 Journeyed
 - 122 Riddle's answer
 - 127 Nephew, e.g.
 - 128 Non-piercing bit of jewelry
 - 129 Nephew of Abel
 - 130 Appraises
 - 131 Big insurance company, for short
 - 132 Bro's counterpart
 - 133 Look at leeringly
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Audi rival
 - 2 "Yeah, that's the spot!"
 - 3 Mythical beast
 - 4 — Picchu (Inca site)
 - 5 Woolen ball on a hat
 - 6 Kwik-E-Mart proprietor
 - 7 Younger Obama girl
 - 8 Glancing rebound
 - 9 Actress Ortiz
 - 10 Part of ATM
 - 11 Beckett's "Waiting for —"
 - 12 Some gametes
 - 13 Football's Dawson
 - 14 Moisture-removing additives
 - 15 Geyser stuff
 - 16 City on the Arkansas
 - 17 "Stormy Weather" composer Harold
 - 18 Like some marshes
 - 21 Maned beast
 - 24 "Fingers crossed!"
 - 29 Beguile
 - 31 Yucky stuff
 - 32 Slam into
 - 33 Large meal
 - 34 Skye of the screen
 - 35 Is leaked
 - 36 Villa d'—
 - 42 Covered with frosting
 - 44 Thin and graceful
 - 45 "A Mighty Fortress — God"
 - 47 They're uncertain
 - 48 Female, e.g.
 - 49 Craftsperson
 - 50 Military commander
 - 51 "Giant" skiing events
 - 53 Still sleeping
 - 54 Arthur Conan —
 - 55 Sells from a cart, say
 - 56 Covered with brushwood
 - 57 Smelted stuff
 - 58 University in Granville, Ohio
 - 63 Basketball's — Thomas
 - 65 Stockpile
 - 66 — Kan (old brand of dog food)
 - 68 Raises
 - 72 Most needy
 - 73 Tests
 - 74 Bedevil
 - 80 Walk across a creek
 - 82 Rte. parts
 - 84 Nile biter
 - 85 Second-rate
 - 87 Very, to Verdi
 - 90 Screws up
 - 91 Rare blood type, for short
 - 92 Lima-based flag carrier of 1973-99
 - 93 Tesla rival
 - 98 Rejecting
 - 99 Custard ingredient
 - 100 Greek dawn goddess
 - 101 Swamp birds
 - 103 Foot or shoe part
 - 105 Sharpening belts
 - 107 SAG- — (labor union)
 - 108 Angler's aids
 - 109 Spoken tests
 - 110 Star bursts
 - 111 Pokes fun at
 - 112 Of financial matters: Abbr.
 - 113 Gets better
 - 114 "— ed Euridice" (Gluck opera)
 - 120 Fleur-de- — (royal emblem)
 - 121 Eden dweller
 - 123 Laugh syllable
 - 124 12, to Nero
 - 125 Loudness: Abbr.
 - 126 WNW's reverse



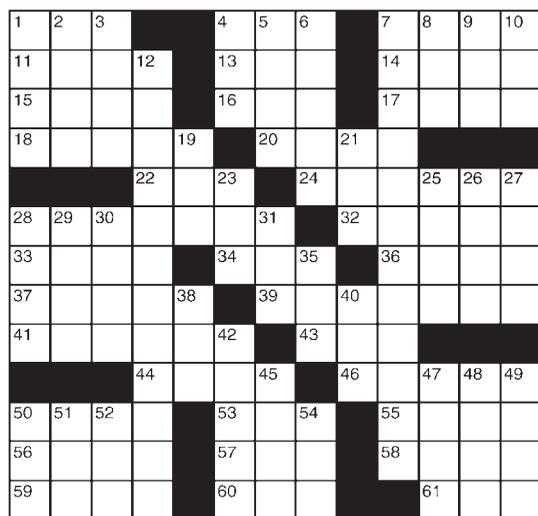
King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Leno's network
- 4 Plant bristle
- 7 Outdoor garment
- 11 Cupid's alias
- 13 Luau dish
- 14 "Do — others ..."
- 15 Hindu wrap
- 16 Type measures
- 17 Adolescent
- 18 Gear parts
- 20 Tempo
- 22 Gratuity
- 24 In the same place (Lat.)
- 28 Swiss Guards' site
- 32 Japanese cartoon art
- 33 Verve
- 34 Fix the soundtrack
- 36 Smile
- 37 Harsh
- 39 Pavlova performances
- 41 Improved
- 43 Sticky stuff
- 44 Aware of
- 46 16 ounces
- 50 Overly proper person
- 53 Witty one
- 55 — gin fizz
- 56 Apiece
- 57 Ostrich's cousin
- 58 Tackles' teammates
- 59 Sharpen
- 60 Actress Susan
- 61 Request
- 7 Acting without restraint
- 8 Individual
- 9 Devoured
- 10 Heavy weight
- 12 Not budding
- 19 Toper's interruption
- 21 "The — Daba Honeymoon"
- 23 Cushion
- 25 Tragic
- 26 Send out
- 27 Clothing store section
- 28 Part of speech
- 29 Lotion additive
- 30 Without slack
- 31 Gist
- 35 Satchel
- 38 Coop dweller
- 40 Prune
- 42 Plied the oars
- 45 Appellation
- 47 Arm bone
- 48 Agrees silently
- 49 Dilbert's furniture
- 50 Church seat
- 51 Cheery remark?
- 52 "Rocks"
- 54 Fellow

DOWN

- 1 Bird's home
- 2 Scottish hillside
- 3 Heart of an apple
- 4 Gorilla
- 5 Sonogram area
- 6 Some Japan-



MAGIC MAZE ● WORDS OF A CERTAIN TYPE

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

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

- Autotype
- Linotype
- Stereotype
- Typeface
- Ectype
- Logotype
- Subtype
- Typeset
- Genotype
- Mistype
- Tintype
- Typewrite
- Holotype
- Retype
- Typed



"Can we trade him in for a cat?"

They're self- _____."

answer on page 31

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!

Blend
LEMING

Blunt
TRICED

Invent
TRACEE

Sniff
HEALIN

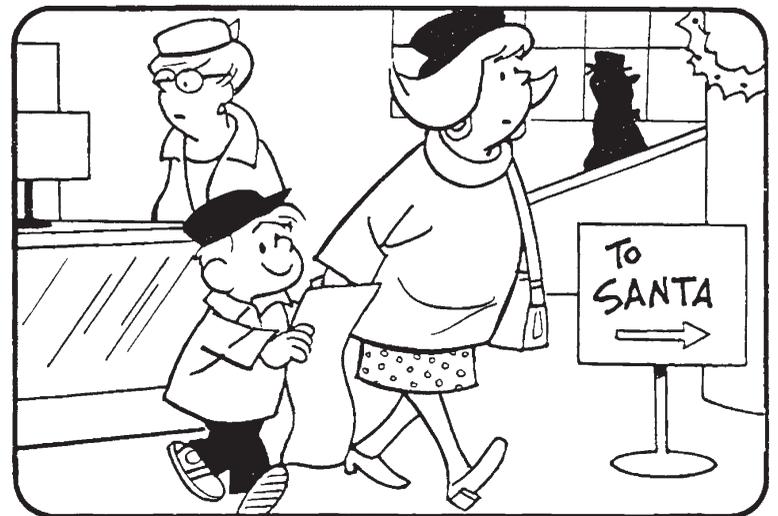
TODAY'S WORD

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
 HENRY BOLTINOFF



FIND AT LEAST SIX DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS



Differences: 1. Jewelry rack is missing. 2. List is shorter. 3. Feathers are missing. 4. Pendant is missing. 5. Skirt is missing. 6. Sign is different.

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

SUDOKU

To play Sudoku:

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

answer on page 29



Citrus and Yogurt Cake

- 2 oranges, 1 zested and 1 sliced thin
- 2 grapefruit, 1 zested and 1 sliced thin
- 4 Key limes, 2 zested and 2 sliced thin
- 2½ cups sugar
- 1 cup plain (whole fat) Greek yogurt
- 1 stick unsalted butter, softened
- 6 eggs, room temperature
- 1 tablespoon pure vanilla extract
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- Pinch of sea salt

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Zest 1 orange, 1 grapefruit and 2 Key limes into a small bowl and set aside. Slice the other half of the citrus into thin rounds and set aside. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugar until light, fluffy, and pale yellow in color. Add vanilla and eggs one at a time, blending thoroughly after each egg. In a separate bowl combine the flour, baking soda, and salt. Add the dry ingredients to the creamed mixture, alternating with the yogurt. Mix until combined, being careful not to over-work the batter. Gently fold in the citrus zest. Pour into a well-oiled bundt pan or two loaf pans. Bake for 1 hour and 15 minutes or until a toothpick comes out clean. Cool for 30 minutes. Using a plate or cake stand, place the sliced citrus around the outer edges, overlapping as you go. Gently unmold the cake and place on top of the sliced citrus. Serve warm or room temperature.*



Citrus and Yogurt Cake

photo courtesy Fresh From Florida

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The Island Sun and The River Weekly News are community newspapers, covering Sanibel and Captiva Islands, Fort Myers and Fort Myers Beach. Free copies are available at newsstands. For more information, call 239-395-1213.

December 14, 2018

Place Classified



The New Math:
\$1 = \$8

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Call (239) 334-7007 or donate online at:
harrychapinfoodbank.org

THE RIVER
WEEKLY NEWS



Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

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ANNUAL RENTAL

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Cycling Safety Notes

- Ride to the right
- Warn to pass
- Wear a helmet
- Use lights at night
- Always be courteous



SANIBEL BICYCLE CLUB

Shore Fishing: Don't Harm The Fish



by Capt. Matt Mitchell

Landing a big fish from the beach can be hard on the fish. Dragging a fish up onto the sand if you're going to release it is not an option as it usually damages or kills the fish.

Hold the fish in the water while you unhook it if you're going to release it.

The less you can touch a fish before release the better for the fish.

If you want a picture with the fish, support it as

you lift it out of the water – and do it quickly.

Before releasing, revive the fish while holding it in the water; moving it slowly back and forth so water goes over its gills. The fish will let you know when it's ready to swim off.

Florida just recently changed the regulations on fishing from shore. Florida residents as well as out of state visitors need a fishing license to fish from shore.



School District Again On AP District Honor Roll

The School District of Lee County is being recognized by the College Board with placement on the 9th annual AP District Honor Roll. Just 373 districts around the U.S. and Canada have earned this distinction, and only one other district in Florida is on the list.

"I am extremely proud of our students, teachers and administrators for earning the district a spot on the College Board Honor Roll," said Superintendent Dr. Greg Adkins. "It is a testament to their hard work that our scores have gone up as our participation rate has gone up. We believe in making programs available that help every student reach their highest potential."

To be included on the honor roll, the district had to, since 2016, increase the number of students participating in Advanced Placement (AP) classes while also increasing or maintaining the percentage of students earning AP Exam scores of 3 or higher.

In 2016, 5,783 Lee County students took the AP tests and 41.4 percent passed. In 2018, 6,371 students took the AP exams and 42.4 percent passed. Reaching these honor roll standards shows that Lee County is successfully identifying motivated, academically prepared students who are ready for AP.

"Success in Advanced Placement is a combination of students' own motivation and the opportunities educators provide for them," said Trevor Packer, senior vice president of AP and Instruction at the College Board. "I'm inspired by the teachers and administrators in this district who have worked to clear a path for more students of all backgrounds to earn college credit during high school."

Inclusion in the 9th annual AP District Honor Roll is based on a review of three years of AP data, from 2016 to 2018, looking across 38 AP Exams, including world language and culture. Districts must:

Increase participation/access to AP by at least 4 percent in large districts, at least 6 percent in medium districts, and at least 11 percent in small districts;

Increase or maintain the percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students taking exams and increased or maintained the percentage of American Indian/Alaska Native, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students scoring 3-plus on at least one AP Exam; and

Improve or maintain performance levels when comparing the 2018 percentage of students scoring a 3 or higher to the 2016

percentage, unless the district has already attained a performance level at which more than 70 percent of its AP students earn a 3 or higher.

This is the second time the district has made the AP District Honor Roll. Lee County was honored as part of the 6th annual AP District Honor Roll in 2015.

The complete 9th annual AP District Honor Roll can be found at <http://apcentral.collegeboard.org/about-ap/awards/district-honor-roll>.

Gifts Donation

Students, teachers, staff and administrators of the School District of Lee County proudly donated more than 1,500 gifts for 500 children as part of the Salvation Army's Angel Tree program recently. The donation is the largest for an Angel Tree host in Lee County.

Individual schools started collecting gifts several weeks ago. An Angel Tree was also set up in the Lee County Public Education

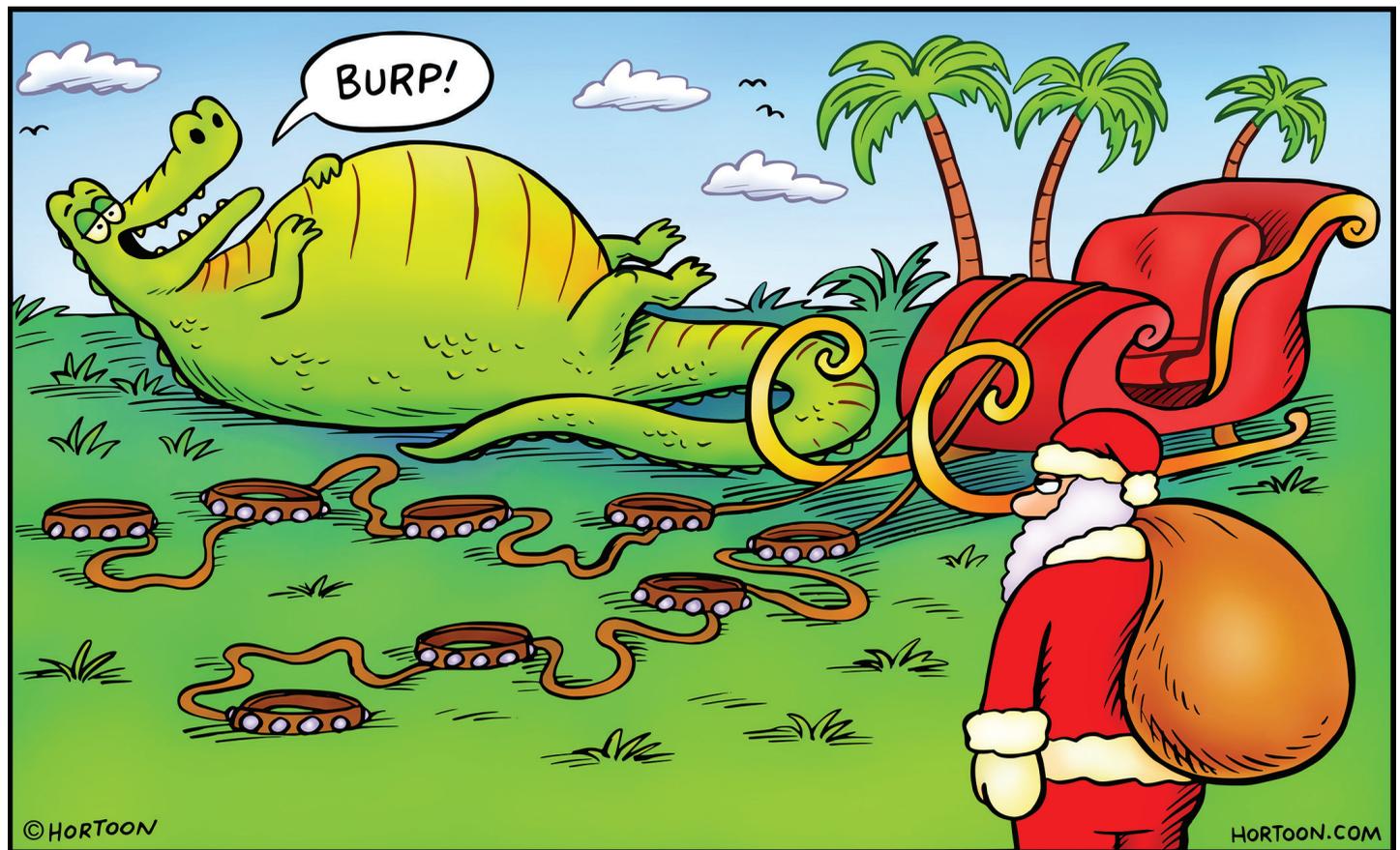
Center. Over the last couple of weeks, the schools brought what was collected to the district offices and added to the administrative staff's donations for delivery to the Salvation Army.

"It was truly inspiring to fill two box trucks full of bikes, toys & clothing for our students," says Resource Development Coordinator Kaleigh Rodden. "We have such a generous community, and this was a great reminder of the true meaning of Christmas."

The gifts will be distributed to families this weekend. Each child will receive a full set of clothing and four toys.

The Angel Tree is a partnership with local businesses, clubs, churches and individuals who want to make Christmas bright for disadvantaged children. Thousands of children in Lee County receive new toys, clothing and gifts for Christmas through the Salvation Army.✪

HORTOONS



SCRAMBLERS

1. Mingle; 2. Direct;
3. Create; 4. Inhale

Today's Word

CLEANING

Top 10 Real Estate Sales

Subdivision	City	Year Built	Square Footage	Listing Price	Selling Price	Days On Market
Iona Shores	Fort Myers	2006	8,009	\$2,995,000	\$1,410,000	66
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	2002	4,445	\$1,795,000	\$1,700,000	136
Gores A M Subd	Captiva	1980	2,080	\$1,499,000	\$1,400,000	20
Lake Forest At Shadow Wood	Estero	2001	3,554	\$1,295,000	\$1,225,000	160
Shell Harbor	Sanibel	1970	2,354	\$1,295,000	\$1,255,000	27
Sea Oats	Sanibel	2001	2,453	\$1,250,000	\$1,150,000	145
Chartwell	Estero	2002	3,289	\$1,189,000	\$1,085,000	29
Beachview Country Club Estates	Sanibel	2018	2,483	\$1,100,000	\$1,025,000	86
Whiskey Creek	Fort Myers	2005	3,068	\$1,000,000	\$963,000	77
Bonita Beach	Bonita Springs	1997	2,016	\$995,000	\$970,000	238



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