



Estates Remains Open For Tours

Edison and Ford Winter Estates remains open during regular hours of 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. for guided and self-guided tours. Visitors can tour the 15,000-square-foot museum, botanic research laboratory and historic homes, all on more than 20 acres of botanical gardens.

In a statement released by the estates: "The safety and well-being of our staff, volunteers and visitors is our highest priority. We are following the recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) regarding coronavirus, and have implemented some precautionary measures:

1. Added hand sanitizer dispensers in common areas.
2. Increased sanitation products for staff and volunteers at work areas.
3. Extra sanitation of door handles, railings, counter tops and other common areas.

While we remain open, we are making a few necessary changes for everyone's



Edison and Ford Winter Estates

photo provided

safety. Following the guidelines of the CDC, we are canceling events with more than 50 people."

The following events and programs are

canceled:

- Antique Car Show (March 21)
- Vintage Base Ball Game at Terry Park (March 21)

Distaff Side of Vintage Base Ball and Women's History Presentations (March 21)

Silk Scarf Painting (March 21) -- the March 28 class is still scheduled at this time.

Gardening Class; Making an Herbarium (March 21)

Insider's Tour (March 23)

VIP Tour to Naples Botanical Garden (March 28)

Weekend Science Series: Hello World Code Creators (March 28) has been rescheduled to April 4

Etiquette Class (April 4) has been rescheduled to May 9

In addition, the Smithsonian Spark!Lab is closed. This decision is in keeping with the Smithsonian's decision to close the Spark!Lab in its District of Columbia location. The remainder of the museum will remain open.

Guided tours will be reduced from a maximum of 35 guests to a maximum of 25. This decision will ensure that additional personal space can be provided.

Guests are encouraged to visit www.edisonford.org or Facebook for updated information. Tickets may be purchased online at www.edisonford.org.✪

BIG ARTS Awards Aspiring Classical Musicians

BIG ARTS hosted 12 young aspiring classical musicians on the Christensen Performance Hall stage for the BIG ARTS Classical Scholarship Auditions on March 7. The scholarship program is meant to assist highly proficient and talented undergraduate students who plan to continue their education and training in the field of classical music. This scholarship may be awarded to up to three students annually, in the amounts of \$15,000 (first prize); \$10,000 (second prize); and \$5,000 (third prize), respectively. This year, three students – Aaron Rib (flute) from the University of Miami, Suhao Bai (piano) from Lynn University, and Jair Zacarias (piano) from Florida Gulf Coast University – were awarded scholarships.

"It's such a joy to have these incredibly talented young musicians on the BIG ARTS stage," said Lee Ellen Harder, executive director. "Supporting arts in the community is at the core of the BIG ARTS mission, and I can't think of a more rewarding way to give back than by helping young aspiring musicians pursue their dreams."

This year's first prize winner, flutist Aaron Rib, is earning a bachelor of music in instrumental performance at the University of Miami's Frost School



Aaron Rib

photos provided

of Music and aspires to be a versatile classical musician. He is a member of the Frost Symphony Orchestra, the Frost Wind Ensemble, Ensemble Ibis (a classical new music ensemble), the acclaimed Frost Flute Ensemble, and a piano sextet. He performed Claude-Paul Taffanel's *Fantasie on Themes from Der Freischütz*; Sergei Rachmaninoff's *Vocalise, arr. for flute and piano*; and Bela Bartok's *Romanian Folk Dances, arr. for flute and piano*.

Second place was awarded to pianist Suhao Bai from Lynn University. Bai is a bachelor of music candidate and plans



Suhao Bai

to pursue a career as a teacher and researcher in the field of piano literature. He hopes that in the future he will have the opportunity to gain knowledge and explore the boundaries of the research, passing it along to the next generation. He performed Bach's *Well Tempered Clavier Prelude, No.4*, and Liszt's *Réminiscences de Norma, S.394*.

The third place award went to pianist Jair Zacarias from Florida Gulf Coast University. Zacarias was born in Peru and began playing piano at age 6. When he was 13, his greatest desire was to study outside of Peru, a wish that was made



Jair Zacarias

possible due to a scholarship he received from the Bower School of Music at FGCU. He is seeking a bachelor of arts in music performance and is pursuing his dream of being a concert pianist. He performed Bach's *Prelude and Fugue in C-sharp Major*; Beethoven's *Sonata, op. 109 (First & Second Movement)*; Chopin's *Etude in A minor, Op. 25, No. 11 Winter Wind*; and Liszt's *Transcendental Etude No. 4 Mazeppa*.

BIG ARTS Classical Music Scholarship is offered annually in the spring. To learn more about the program, visit www.bigarts.org.✪

Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

Towles Home Site To Be Hotel



by Gerri Reaves, PhD

If you've driven by the Caloosahatchee Bridge overpass lately, you know that a big redevelopment project is getting underway on a large roughly triangular piece of land.



When this undated photo was taken, probably in the 1950s, the Leo W. Engelhardt funeral home was located in the former Towles house

photo courtesy SWFL Historical Society

The ground is being prepared for an 111-room Hampton Inn where legendary pioneer Capt. William H. "Wild Bill" Towles built a two-story, big-porched home in the 1880s.

The house pictured in the undated historic photo faced Riverside Avenue, today's McGregor Boulevard. It was located at Five Points, the intersection where the boulevard converges with Main and Carson streets, Cleveland Avenue and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

Towles, who had settled in Fort Myers in 1884, possessed a forceful personality and working style deserving of a book-length study, but suffice it to say, he was one of Lee County's most influential businessmen and controversial politicians.

He became one of Lee County's first commissioners after the county was formed in 1887. He also made a fortune as a cattle baron and general store merchant. And, he famously served several terms in city and county government.

He figures most dramatically in local history as the headstrong chair of the county

commission who ordered the destruction of the first county courthouse in 1914 – over the legal actions of leading citizens, including Harvie E Heitman – so the modern and current one could be constructed.

Towles didn't live in the house on Riverside for long – he soon built another grand one at Fowler and Second – but several other notable early residents did, including Dr. Benjamin P. Matheson and Dr. Edwin L. Rasmussen, a naturopath.

In 1933, the house became the Leo W. Engelhardt Funeral Home, and the business occupied the former private residence for more than a half century.

The historic photo was taken during that period, as indicated by the sign over the front entrance. The business was soon renamed Spooner & Engelhardt and much later Harvey-Engelhardt.

It later became a bank.

In the early 2000s, Fifth Third Bank planned to demolish the Towles house, which was believed by some people to be the oldest building in Fort Myers.

The bank planned to build a complex that would house the bank as well as rental offices. The Mediterranean Revivalist style architectural plans were meant to complement the predominant style in the historic district, as well as the 1926 Miles Building a block or so west on McGregor.

However, the outcry against the house's destruction fortunately resulted in a win-win agreement.

The bank sold the house for \$1 to an attorney, provided it was moved, and on Valentine's Day 2004, 189 tons of house were elevated, rotated and placed on a new foundation across McGregor.

Today, the restored house is the office of Boyle, Leonard & Anderson, PA.

In 2008, the historic structure was added to the National Register of Historic Places.

Meanwhile, the bank complex was never built, but the bank continued to do business in a modular structure on the property's south end until a couple of years ago.

Most of the land remained vacant open space until the recent construction preparation.

While this hotel is good news on the redevelopment front, it's also good news for anyone worried that downtown's irreplaceable old canopy trees are fast disappearing.

History will be preserved in the form of the property's large live oaks.

Plans are to save at least five old trees on the south side of the property by

continued on page 16



A Hampton Inn hotel will be built on McGregor Boulevard, where "Wild Bill" Towles built his first Fort Myers home in the 1880s

photo by Gerri Reaves



These old live oaks are among those being saved and incorporated into the landscape of the hotel parking lot

photo by Gerri Reaves

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A recent Kids Art Tag winner

photo provided

Kids Tag Art Winners Recognized

The fifth annual Kids Tag Art (KTA) recognition event held at the School District of Lee County headquarters recently recognized fifth graders from around Lee County as Award of Distinction winners for their license plate designs. Art teachers received much-needed funding as well.

More than 300 people, including teachers and families, attended the event, where two students from each of the 49 participating Lee County public elementary schools were recognized for their artwork. In all, 3,600 children submitted license plate designs.

Lee County Tax Collector Larry Hart and Foundation for Lee County Public Schools Executive Director Marshall

Bower presented the awards. KTA is a collaboration between the organizations.

Since the KTA program started in Lee County in 2016, more than \$150,000 has been raised to help teachers purchase supplies for art programs at each of the elementary schools. Statewide, KTA has raised \$1.7 million. This year, each participating Lee County art teacher was presented with a check for \$800.

Each of the plates from the Award of Distinction winners are available for purchase as specialty front-end license plates at www.leetc.com. All proceeds go back to the participating schools' art programs. The Tax Collector's Office also offers sponsorships for the program, raising even more money.

Sponsorship information is available by calling the Lee County Tax Collector's Administration Office at 533-6060. For program information, contact Pleshette Mims-Roberts at 533-6068 or Beverly Burke of The Foundation for Lee County Public Schools Inc. at 337-0433.*

History And Science Center Closes

Based on the most current information from public health officials and in support of community efforts to limit the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19), the IMAG History & Science Center has temporarily closed to the public. IMAG officials have suspended all on-site camps, meetings, events and programs until further notice. This includes postponing their signature fundraising event An Evening in Old Havana. They offer thanks to their event sponsors for their continued and ongoing support as they work to reschedule the event.

There have been no known incidents of COVID-19 at the IMAG, and this action is to support local efforts and CDC recommendations.

As leaders in STEM and local history education and in order to continue its mission and provide educational programming, IMAG is introducing IMAG @ Home, daily doses of science and history in a new digital way. Visit www.theimag.org to view daily program schedules. Educational programming will be available for all ages and will include live interactive

demos, do-at-home activities, pre-recorded shows and live animal encounters.

As a non-profit organization, IMAG relies on the support and generosity of its members and community. Consider supporting its effort to provide educational opportunities to the community in new ways. Membership and donation information can be found at www.theimag.org.

"The Board of Directors and IMAG staff join me in sharing our ongoing support to our SWFL community during this difficult time," Matt Johnson, executive director said. "We thank you for your understanding and continued support and look forward to seeing you soon at the IMAG."*

Craft And White Elephant Sale

Palmetto Palms RV Resort will host a Craft and White Elephant Sale on Saturday, March 21 from 8 a.m. to noon. Donuts and coffee will be available.

Palmetto Palms RV Resort is located at 19681 Summerlin Road in Fort Myers. For more information, call Marge Gregg 466-5331.*

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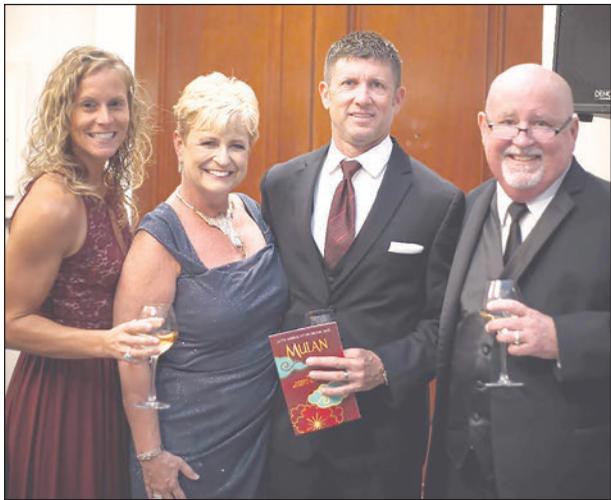
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From left, Stacy Fuscardo, Beverly Fewster, Jeff Fuscardo and Tom Fewster Jr. photos provided



From left, Laura Ragain, Armando Llechu and Tamara Llechu



From left, Deana Homs, Carey Randall and Heidi Colgate-Tamblyn

Storybook Ball Raises \$200K For Ronald McDonald House

Nearly 400 guests attended the 26th annual Storybook Ball benefiting Ronald McDonald House Charities Southwest Florida, held recently at the Hyatt Regency Coconut Point Resort and Spa. The event was a celebration of perseverance, family and Chinese culture, all themed to the Disney movie *Mulan*.

After a successful raffle, silent and live auction, generous donations for Lots of Love and sponsorships, the event netted \$200,000. All proceeds support Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwest Florida in its mission to create, fund and support programs that directly impact the health and

well-being of children and their families.

NBC-2 News anchor Kellie Burns emceed the evening, along with auctioneer Rick Gallo, honoring Barbara and Tom Fewster and Beverly and Tom Fewster Jr. The Fewsters are retired McDonald's owner/operators and longtime friends and supporters of Ronald McDonald House Charities. The family welcomed several friends and family members from out of town to join in the celebration.

Colorful dragons suspended in air provided a wow-factor for guests as they entered the ballroom. Steven Bowles Creative of Naples worked with Marketing Director Amy Velez to create an authentic atmosphere that transported guests right to China. Students from White Dragon Martial Arts entertained the crowd in a three-part routine featuring a dancing dragon, an authentic Lion Dance and a sword and fan performance.

Guests perused the auction area, indulging in

appetizers and cold vodka from the *Mulan* ice luge, created by Paradise Sculptures. In the photo area, guests stood under a red pagoda, donned with a Chinese cherry blossom and wooden bridge.

The Robert Williamson Band provided dance music for the evening. During the program, a video was played, showing a father staying at Ronald McDonald House. He spoke of his daughter's fight and perseverance to get better, which hit the hearts of all attendees that evening, and reminded everyone why they were there.

Since its founding in 1996, Ronald McDonald House Charities has helped thousands of children and their families in Southwest Florida through the Ronald McDonald House, Ronald McDonald Care Mobile Program and the Ronald McDonald Family Room at Golisano Children's Hospital.

For information on sponsorship opportunities for 2021, contact Amy Velez at 437-0202. ✨

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SCCF 472-2329 • www.SCCF.org

Flip This Kennel Competition At Animal Shelter

Lee County Domestic Animal Services, along with various county agencies and area rescues, will decorate kennels and catteries as part of the Flip This Kennel competition to showcase shelter pets in the adoption center.

Visitors to the shelter from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, March 28, can vote for their favorite flip. Voting

also will take place that day on Animal Services' Facebook page based on likes of the picture of the favorite kennel or cattery. Winners will be posted on the Facebook page on Monday, March 30.

This year's Flip This Kennel is themed around board games. Each kennel or cattery will be decorated with a pet-related spin on everyone's favorite childhood games.

Play one of the games to reduce your adoption fee by \$5, \$10 or even \$20. Lee County Domestic Animal Services is located at 5600 Banner Drive in Fort Myers. Available pets can be viewed at www.leelostpets.com. ✨

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 Thom Mueller & Tina Tusack 239.322.9364



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\$357,500 MLS 219080133
 Corye Reiter, The Lummis Team 239.273.3722



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\$229,900 MLS 220011297
 Sally Davies 239.691.3319



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Fort Myers Art:

Coronavirus Closures Affect Theaters/Festivals



by Tom Hall

The following are some closures due to the threat of coronavirus:
Naples Players Suspending *Bye Bye Birdie* And Future Productions

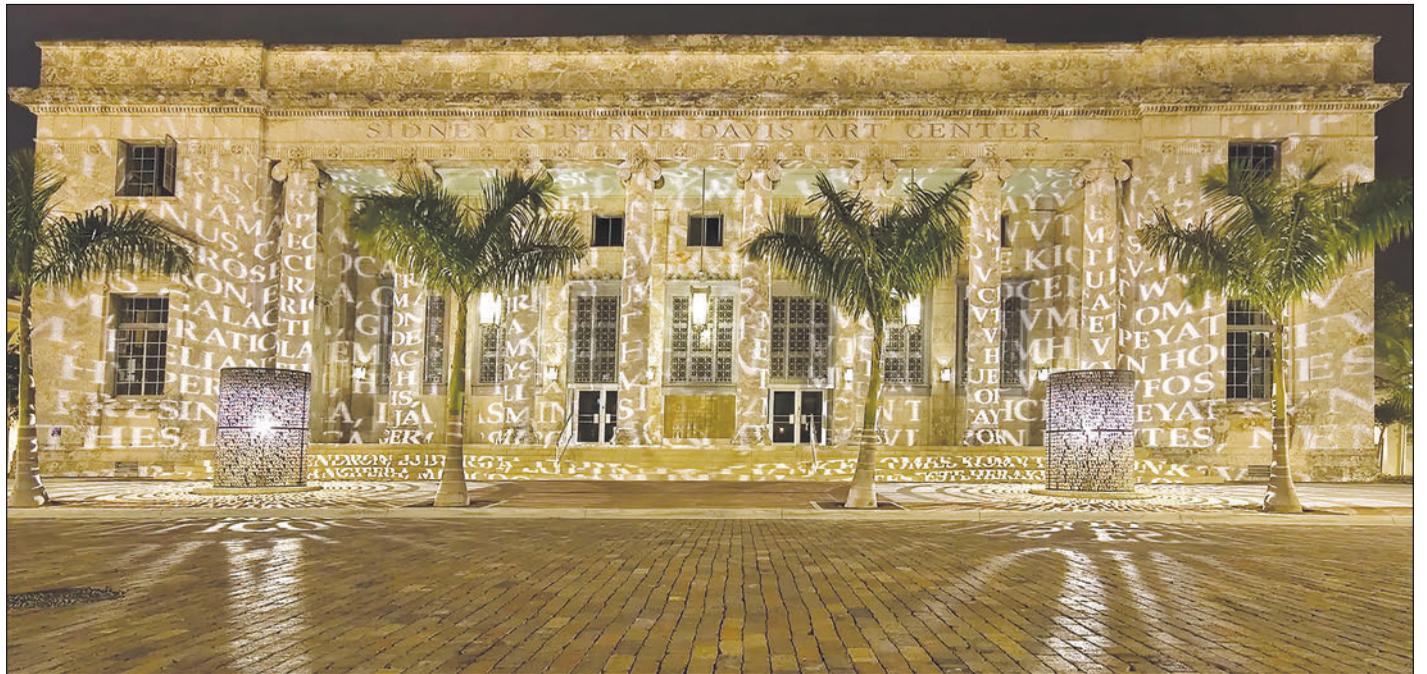
The Naples

Players (TNP) has announced the postponement of *Bye Bye Birdie* performances effective March 17.

“As you may know, The Naples Players relies on more than 650 local volunteers to run our performances; and we want to make sure that everyone in our community has the option to opt-out of crowds – including our volunteer performers, crew, ushers, etc.,” said TNP CEO and Executive Artistic Director Bryce Alexander, who notes that TNP could lose more than \$300,000 in the next few weeks from *Bye Bye Birdie* alone if every audience member requests a refund.

Patrons will have the opportunity to request a refund without any questions asked, but will also have the opportunity to donate their seats to the theater as a tax-deductible donation.

“To best serve you, we ask that you



Sydney Berne & Davis Art Center

photo courtesy www.artswfl.com

only call for a refund or a tax receipt in the week of your scheduled performance date,” said Alexander, who also requests patrons allow several weeks for refunds and donations to be processed.

The Naples Players will evaluate when performances can resume on a weekly basis.

“Thankfully, because of your generosity and support over the past few years, The Naples Players is capable of shutting its doors without the fear of never re-opening,” added Alexander, who acknowledges that others may not be so

fortunate.

“We know this decision will have an impact on the financial well-being of our friends and neighbors on Fifth Avenue, and could put pressure on the decisions of other organizations that can’t afford such an interruption. We ask you to be patient with them, with us and with each other.”

Nor will TNP be issuing advances or announcements about the status of future productions.

“Like all of you, we will take this one week at a time,” said Alexander. “(But cognizant) of the generous spirit of our small town, I have every confidence in knowing that we can all work together to help keep our families safe, our businesses sustainable and our integrity intact.”

FGCU’s Bower School Of Music & The Arts Canceling Public Events

The Bower School of Music & the Arts at Florida Gulf Coast University has canceled all public events through the end of March in an effort to control the spread of COVID-19/coronavirus. This includes the opening reception and awards ceremony for the 22nd annual Student Juried Exhibition that was scheduled to take place in the Wasmer Gallery at 5 p.m. on March 19. However, the gallery will remain open and the public can view the exhibition between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday from March 20 through April 2.

In related news, the board of governors directed FGCU recently to convert classes to a remote instruction format for a period of two weeks effective March 15, and students living on campus have been encouraged to go home during that time to continue their classes.

“This is a fluid situation, so please check our website at www.fgcu.edu/bsma for the latest information,” said FGCU Events Coordinator Joanna Hoch. “We will also be sending out email updates with new information as it becomes available.”

Hoch invites those with questions about cancellations, refunds and possible rescheduling to contact her at jhoch@fgcu.edu.

Cultural Park Theatre Suspends 2019-20 Season

After careful consideration, the Cultural Park Theater Board of Directors and

management have come to the difficult conclusion that a pause in its season is necessary. While the theater hopes to re-open in April, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is recommending an eight-week moratorium on gatherings of more than 50 people. But Cultural Park Theater will monitor developments and update its website regularly.

As a not-for-profit theater, the theater asks for your support and hope that you’ll consider one of the following options:

Exchanging your ticket(s) to a future performance (all exchange fees will be waived);

Accepting a credit for the value of the ticket(s) for future use at Cultural Park Theater;

Donating the value of your tickets back to the theater for a charitable tax-receipt.

If none of those options are possible, the theater will offer a full refund for your purchase.

Cultural Park box office will be open with reduced hours from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday during the suspension.

New Phoenix Theatre Cancels Final Performances Of Season

New Phoenix Theatre has canceled the final four performances of *The Full Monty* (scheduled for March 19 to 22) due to COVID-19 and has also canceled its next production, *Lips Together, Teeth Apart*. Like other area theater companies, New Phoenix is monitoring the outbreak and will announce when it will resume productions.

Florida Repertory Theatre Going Dark Due As Of March 20

After much consideration, Florida Repertory Theatre has made the difficult but necessary decision to suspend performances. The theater’s two performance spaces will go dark as of Friday, March 20 and will remain closed until April 2 as the theater continues to monitor the situation regarding COVID-19.

Those holding tickets for Florida Rep productions can:

Exchange their seats for a later performance;

Request a high definition video of the

continued on page 8

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Celebrities Donate Auction Items For Benefit

Country music stars Carrie Underwood and Billy Dean are among the celebrities who are donating items for the return of Handbag Happy Hour at The Standard Restaurant on Wednesday, March 25. The event is a fundraiser for two entities.

Underwood has donated two personally autographed handbags for the event, while Dean has donated an autographed bottle of Schramsberg Sparkling Wine and Amici Wine along with a collection of his famous songs.

Also participating is rocker-artist-designer Steve Luongo who has donated two of his high-end designer shirts for the men's accessories portion of the event.

Local NBC-2 Anchor Kellie Burns has donated one of her gently-loved handbags and NBC-2 Anchor Nate Foy and NBC-2 Morning Meteorologist Jason Dunning have donated men's ties for the men's accessories portion of the event.

They are among more than 100 handbags and men's accessories to be offered for silent and live auction to benefit Valerie's House and The Nature Park Environmental Education Foundation at The Shell Factory.

"We are so happy with the community's response to the return



Carrie Underwood handbag

photos provided

of this fabulous event after a 13-year hiatus. We have gently-loved designer handbags by Gucci, Prada, Louis Vuitton and others," said Pam Cronin, event chair and owner of The Shell Factory and Nature Park. "We are still collecting handbags and men's accessories from celebrities and loyal supporters."

Cronin emphasized that Handbag Happy Hour is a fund-raising event for both men and women.

Donated items can be delivered to The Standard Restaurant, 1520 Broadway in downtown Fort Myers and at The Shell Factory, 16554 North Cleveland Avenue in North Fort Myers. Pick up of items also can be arranged by calling 410-1929.

Havana Nights is the theme for this year's event with Flamenco dancers, bongo drummers and Cuban cigars setting the mood for the evening. Mojitos and Cuban appetizers are included in the ticket price of \$50 per



Steve Luongo shirts

person or \$800 for a reserved table of eight. Sponsorships also are available at \$1,000 to \$3,000.

Tickets may be purchased online at www.shellfactory.com

Downtown Diva Stephanie Davis and Wine Aficionado Gina Birch will share emcee duties for the live auction of a few select celebrity handbags. The majority of items will be offered in a silent auction.

Event sponsors are Storm Smart, The Standard Restaurant, Seed & Bean Market, The Shell Factory and Nature Park, *Florida Weekly* and Susan Bennett Marketing & Media, L.C.

All proceeds will benefit Valerie's House, which helps grieving children heal after the loss of a parent or loved one, and The Nature Park Environmental Education Foundation, which provides transportation funding for Lee County school children to visit the park.✱

Mermaid Fest To Raise Funds At Lovers Key Park

Blue Ribbon Events will host a variety of free activities for all ages at the Fort Myers Beach Mermaid Festival at Lover's Key State Park from Saturday, April 18 through Monday, April 20.

A mermaid contest, morning yoga, food trucks, information booths and speakers and a 4/20 bake-off will all take place. A mermaid marketplace featuring art, crafts and nature-related products will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Kids and families are welcome to express their creative energies in a fun and safe outdoor setting.

The 2020 Mermaid Festival schedule of events and artist biographies can be found at www.daniellesblueribbonevents.com. Proceeds from this event will help support Friends of a Lover's Key.

Lover's Key State Park is located at 8700 Estero Boulevard on Fort Myers Beach. For more information or questions, contact Blue Ribbon Events at blueribboneventsllc@gmail.com or 231-350-8277.✱

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Meal Pick-up Sites For School District Begin Monday

The School District of Lee County's Food and Nutrition Services department will be serving a Grab & Go breakfast and lunch at 23 schools between Monday, March 23 and Friday, March 27. The USDA has granted the district the flexibility to provide these meals during a time of unanticipated closure.

Breakfast and lunch will be served together in a single bag. The meals are free for anyone younger than age 18. Each child must be present at the pick-up location to receive a Grab & Go bag. It is expected the meals will be eaten at home, and not the schools where they are picked up.

The meals will be available for pick-up between 9 and 11 a.m. at the following schools: Cape Coral Elementary; Patriot Elementary; Hector Cafferata Elementary; Tropic Isles Elementary; North Fort Myers Academy for the Arts; Allen Park Elementary; James Stephens Int'l Academy; Ray V Pottorf Elementary; San Carlos Park Elementary; Pinewoods Elementary; Bonita Springs Elementary; Heights Elementary; Villas Elementary; Colonial Elementary; Fort Myers Middle Academy; The Alva School; Orange River Elementary; Manatee Elementary; Mirror Lakes Elementary; Lehigh

Acres Elementary; Tortuga Preserve Elementary; Riverhall Elementary; and Gateway Elementary.

Food and Nutrition Services will be using the bus ramp of each of the schools to create an orderly process to drive or walk up, collect the Grab & Go meals, and then safely return home. School resource officers will be on site to help with security.

Several school district community partners are also opening to provide Grab & Go Meals during the same times. These include:

- Stars Complex – 2980 Edison Avenue, Fort Myers
 - Boys & Girls Club of Pueblo Bonita – 26095 Milagro Lane, Bonita Springs
 - Pine Manor Improvement – 5546 Ninth Avenue, Fort Myers
 - Wesley Super Kids Club – 4141 Deleon Street, Fort Myers
 - Boys and Girls Renaissance – 1623 Joust Street, Fort Myers
 - YMCA of Lee County (Royal Palm) – 1360 Royal Palm Square Boulevard, Fort Myers
 - Super Kids Club Cypress Lake – 8260 Cypress Lake Drive, Fort Myers
- The location of Grab & Go pick-up sites is flexible and could change depending on the demand. A current list will be posted on the Food and Nutrition Services section of www.leechools.net.

Breakfast and lunch will continue to be available as long as the district is operating under an unanticipated closure.*

From page 6

Fort Myers Art

plays (currently in process) to be viewed at home;

Request a gift certificate credit for a future production; or

Give their ticket to the theater as a tax-deductible contribution.

"At present our paramount concern is for your health, the health of your loved ones, and all those who make Florida Rep the great regional theater that it is today," said Artistic Director Greg Longenhagen. "As you may know, Florida Rep is a not-for-profit theater that subsists on ticket sales and the generosity of its patrons. Sadly, this national emergency has already caused us serious financial consequences. If you are in a position to donate the price of your ticket to Florida Rep we would be very grateful. Just contact our box office or better yet email us at boxoffice@floridarep.org. Thank you in advance for your patience when trying to get through. If you can find it in your heart to help us at this time with a contribution, in any amount, we would all be very grateful."

Center for the Arts Postpones Stage It! 10-Minute Play Festival And More

While the Center for the Arts Bonita Springs (CFABS) will remain open for the time being, it has announced a number of cancellations and operational changes. In addition to various concerts, one-night events, workshops and mini-workshops, CFABS has postponed its Stage It! 10-Minute Play Festival (scheduled for March 20 to 22). In addition, CFABS is restricting admission to its galleries to 20 people or less at any time.

CFABS will exchange tickets to canceled events for a future performance or program, issuing a credit to your account to use toward any performance, concert, event or program of your choice through 2021.

Tickets may also be returned for a tax-deductible donation.

"Our incredible staff is responding to our patrons as quickly and efficiently as humanly possible," said CFABS President Susan Bridges. In this regard, contact CFABS at 495-8989 or email at cfabs@artsbonita.org.

"We continue to keep a close eye on recommendations from and speak regularly with Lee Department of Health, the Centers for Disease Control and other field experts," Bridges said in announcing the cancellations, postponements and changes, "and are taking all steps necessary

to insure the health and safety of our members, patrons, faculty, artists, students and staff as new developments evolve."

CFABS staff is disinfecting all surfaces using CPA and CDC-certified disinfecting products, from auditoriums, galleries, public spaces, studios, washrooms and auditoriums to doorknobs, handles, handrails, doors, counters, tables and chairs throughout its buildings.

Hot Works Announces Postponement Of 3rd Annual Naples Art Show

Hot Works LLC has announced the postponement of the 3rd Naples Fine Art Show, originally scheduled for March 28 and 29 at the Naples Italian-American Club. "I'm very sorry for any inconvenience," wrote festival director Patty Narozny in making the announcement. "We did our best to keep the show, but this is beyond everyone's control."

There exists the possibility that the show could be rescheduled for the weekend of April 11 and 12 (which is Easter weekend) if it is safe to resume for public events by that date. "Otherwise, the show will be rescheduled at another time and will let you know at that time."

*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.**

Car Show Canceled

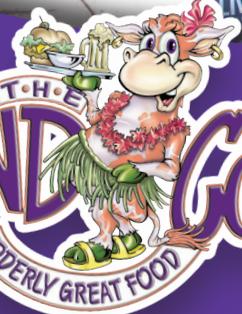
Due to the recent spreading of the Coronavirus, Roadhouse Promotions has cancelled the SWFL Fall Nationals Car Show, which was scheduled at Lee County Fairgrounds on Saturday, March 21 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. For more information, visit www.rpcharities.com.*

Fashion Show Canceled

The annual fashion show of the Fort Myers Republican Women's Club, which was scheduled to be held in the Helm Club at The Landings Yacht, Golf and Tennis Club on Tuesday, March 31, has been cancelled. For more information, call Marilyn Stout at 549-5629.*

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“Ding” Darling’s award-winning best restrooms walkway

photo provided

Refuge Receives National Public Lands Award

At a recent Public Lands Alliance (PLA) conference in Arlington, Virginia, “Ding” Darling Wildlife Society-Friends of the Refuge and JN “Ding” Darling National Wildlife Refuge received a Public Lands Alliance (PLA) Partnership Award for their joint effort in creating America’s Best Restroom, as awarded by Cintas Corporation in 2018.

DDWS Office Manager Joann Hinman was attending the conference and was surprised when the recipient of the award for Outstanding Public Engagement for Product or Display was announced.

“I had no idea we were even in the running for any awards, so what a pleasant surprise that was,” said Hinman. “I was proud to accept the award on behalf of the refuge and society.”

The PLA Partnership Awards celebrate the best in public lands partnerships – recognizing individuals, organizations, publications, products, programs and services that embody leading-edge achievements in the preservation of public lands and the enrichment of visitors. This year, the PLA received more than 60

submissions and presented a total of 16 awards, 10 honorable mentions and a Partners Choice Award.

“What an incredible idea,” wrote one of the competition’s judges. “Very catchy exhibit with excellent photos and illustrations. Interpretive info is ‘short but sweet’ to take best advantage of the opportunity in this closed environment. This organization has really reached out in innovative ways to reach the public.”

“To receive two national awards for our restroom exhibits reaffirms the validity of our original vision to take advantage of a ‘captured audience’ to begin the ‘Ding’ Darling education journey for visitors,” said DDWS Executive Director Birgie Miller. “Even more rewarding is the hundreds of positive remarks and smiles we hear and see from visitors.”

Funded by a \$125,000 grant from the West Coast Inland Navigation District (WCIND) and contributions from private donors, Project Learning Lavatories has become a must-see for visitors and students arriving by bus, who are immediately beginning their refuge experience with their first stop at the restrooms. They feature educational imagery inside the restrooms and on the hallway leading to them. The outdoor wall and ceiling murals immerse visitors in a virtual underwater experience, where they come eye-to-eye with 3D manatees and look up to see an alligator and other wildlife sculptures “swimming” overhead.✱

Calusa Palooza Postponed

In an effort to contain the spread of COVID-19, Calusa Palooza 2020 has been postponed.

Calusa Palooza, a day-long, family-friendly, water-themed festival culminating with a double-header rock show, was scheduled for Sunday, March 22 from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. in Centennial Park in downtown Fort Myers.

Once a new date has been confirmed, officials say they will share it with the community, ticket holders, vendors and

sponsors. They are following the lead of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and event organizers across the country who are doing their very best to stop the spread of the virus.

Calusa Waterkeeper sends thanks for the continued support and donations that back its mission of drinkable, fishable and swimmable water for all.

Otherwise, Clean Water Week is still on and the kick-off is Saturday, March 14 in St. James City. This is one way people can take simple, positive steps to beautify the region in these uncertain times.

For more information on the clean-up, visit www.signupgenius.com/go/805094aaaaa2ca4f49-calusa.✱

SANIBEL *Music* FESTIVAL 2020 Concert Series Curtailed

The 2020 Sanibel Music Festival classical concert series is curtailed.

An announcement will be made shortly with the procedure to handle unused tickets, including the option of applying them to the exciting upcoming 2021 season celebrating the 35th anniversary of the festival.

Watch for news in this publication about upcoming plans and special events.

More information will be posted at
www.sanibelmusicfestival.org
as available



Sanibel Music Festival is grateful for the support of Lee County Tourist Development Council

Meals Of Hope Continues Food Pantry Outreach

Meals of Hope, the largest food pantry provider in Southwest Florida, is continuing to help people in need of food assistance with its regularly scheduled eight weekly mobile food pantries.

Anyone who needs assistance is welcome to choose from a varying selection of food offered at the mobile pantries, including frozen meat, fresh produce, canned goods and dry food, feminine hygiene and adult incontinence products, and diapers. Bring an ID and bags to carry food. Visit www.mealsofhope.org for the mobile pantry locations, including:

Lely Presbyterian Church – 110 St. Andrews Boulevard, Naples: Mondays from 3 to 5 p.m.

River Park Recreation Center – 301 11th Street North, Naples: Mondays from 3 to 5 p.m.

Greater Naples YMCA – 5450 YMCA Road, Naples: Tuesdays 3 to 5 p.m.

East Naples Community Park – 3500 Thomasson Drive, Naples: First, second and fourth Tuesdays from 3 to 5 p.m. and third Tuesdays from 3 to 5 p.m. with Harry Chapin Food Bank

Bonita Springs Elementary School – 10701 Dean Street, Bonita Springs: Wednesdays from 2 to 4 p.m.

Max A. Hasse Community Park – 3390

Golden Gate Boulevard West: Wednesdays from 3 to 5 p.m.

Golden Gate Senior Center – 4898 Coronado Parkway, Naples: Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m.

Farm Workers Village – 1724 Elm Hammock Circle, Immokalee: Thursdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

If you would like to help by donating, sponsoring a meal packing event, or volunteering at a mobile pantry, email info@mealsofhope.org for information. Volunteers need to arrive one hour before the mobile pantry distribution starts, stay the full three hours and wear closed-toe shoes.

To help those in need, a new interactive map of Collier County Food Pantries can also be found at www.mealsofhope.org/pantry.

Meals of Hope provides a total of 14 food pantries – including eight mobile pantries – throughout Collier and Lee Counties to distribute fresh and nutritious food to approximately 1,200 families, seniors and veterans each week. Additional services and summer meal programs serve more than 10,000 Southwest Florida residents each month.

With the help of more than 25,000 volunteers, Meals of Hope packed more than 10 million meals in 2019 at events in Southwest Florida and throughout the United States.

As a partner agency with the Harry Chapin Food Bank, Meals of Hope distributes more than two million pounds of food each year as it fulfills its mission of inspiring and empowering communities to

come together to end hunger. Established in 2007, Meals of Hope is a 501(c)3 tax exempt nonprofit organization.

To learn more, visit www.mealsofhope.org or call 537-7775.✪

Church Seminar Postponed

The Leadership of Peace Lutheran Church has found it prudent to postpone the Senior Aging in Place Symposium scheduled for March 19. The event will be rescheduled when the Coronavirus crisis has passed.

Contact the church at 437-2599 if there are questions about the symposium. Prayers are with those whose health has been impacted by this outbreak.✪

Dean Park Historic House Tour Postponed

Dean Park Historic District is postponing its 100th anniversary Historic House Tour – which had been scheduled for March 28, 2020 – due to the concerns about the coronavirus pandemic. The tour will be rescheduled for a date in early November or December of 2020 – still time to celebrate Dean Park's 100th anniversary.

Dean Park, one of the oldest subdivisions in Fort Myers, officially

came into being on May 1, 1920, when John Morgan Dean filed the “Dean’s Subdivision” map with the Lee County Clerk of the Court. The map shows 91 lots, with streets named “Rhode Island” after Dean’s home state and “Providence” after his home town.

The new date for Dean Park’s 100th Anniversary Historic House Tour will be announced in the near future.✪

Symphony Concert Update

The Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra has canceled its March 21 Masterworks 4 concert at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall.

Officials will be happy to exchange tickets for a future performance.

If you would like to return your tickets for a tax deductible donation, contact the box office by April 8. Otherwise, officials will issue gift certificates to ticket holders redeemable for the value of the ticket purchase price. Contact the box office by phone at 418-1500 or by email to tickets@swfso.org.

There are still plans to present Masterworks 5, the final classical concert of the 2019-20 season, although guest artist Ben Folds has postponed his appearance with the symphony until next season. That date will be announced as soon as information becomes available.✪

Churches/Temples

ALL FAITHS UNITARIAN CONGREGATION Service 9, and 11 a.m. Children’s RE, Adult Education Forum 10 a.m., www.allfaiths-uc.org, 2756 McGregor Boulevard, 226-0900.

ALL SAINTS BYZANTINE RITE CATHOLIC Sunday 10:30 a.m., 10291 Bayshore Road, 599-4023.

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX Sunday 9 and 10 a.m., www.annunciation.flgoarch.org, 8210 Cypress Lake Drive, 481-2099.

BAT YAM-TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS Friday Shabbat at 7 p.m. www.batyam.org, 2050 Periwinkle Way, 579-0296.

BETH YESHUA MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE Saturday 11 a.m. 15675 McGregor Boulevard, 437-3171.

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

BREAD OF LIFE MINISTRIES Sunday 10:30 a.m. 16581 McGregor Boulevard, 267-3166.

CHABAD LUBAVITCH ORTHODOX Friday 6:30 p.m., www.chabadswf.org, 5620 Winkler Road, 433-7708.

CHAPEL OF CYPRESS COVE Sunday 10 a.m., www.revtedalhouse@aol.com, 10200 Cypress Cove Circle, 850-3943.

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

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

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

CROWN OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND CHRISTIAN ACADEMY Sunday 8 and 10:45 a.m. Jan 1 - Easter; 9 a.m. after Easter - Dec 31. www.crownoflifelutheran.com. 5820 Daniels

Pkwy, 482-2315.

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. www.clpc.us, 8260 Cypress Lake Drive, 481-3233.

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

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

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST Wednesday 12 noon Testimony Service, Sunday 10:30 a.m., www.christiansciencefortmyers.net, www.christianscience.com. 2390 West First Street, 334-6801.

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

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Sunday 9:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. www.fumcftmyers.org, 2466 First Street, 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.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FORT MYERS 11 a.m. Sunday, www.fpcfmyers.org, 2438 Second Street, 239-334-2261

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

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

KINGDOM LIFE Sunday 10:30 a.m., 2154 McGregor

Boulevard, 218-8343.

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

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

NEW COVENANT EYES Monthly 9 a.m., www.newcovenanteyes.com, 1900 Park Meadows Drive, 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., www.newhopefortmyers.org, 10051 Plantation Road, 274-1230.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE

METROPOLITAN Sunday 10 a.m., 3049 McGregor Boulevard, 344-0012.

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

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

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

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

TEMPLE 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., www.templebethel.com, 16225 Winkler Road, 433-0018.

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

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

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

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

UNITY OF FORT MYERS Sunday 10 a.m., www.unityoffortmyers.org, 11120 Ranchette Road, 278-1511.

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

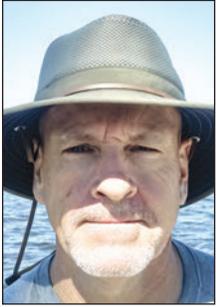
WORD OF LIFE Sunday 10 a.m., Wednesday 7 p.m., 2120 Collier Avenue, 274-8881.

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

CROW Case Of The Week:

Virginia Opossum

by Bob Petcher



The Virginia opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) is North America's only marsupial – an animal with a pouch, like a kangaroo or a koala. It is a solitary and

nocturnal animal about the size of a house cat.

Sporting a long head, pointed snout, rounded naked ears and a scaly, nearly hairless tail that has the capability of grasping objects much like a monkey's tail, the Virginia opossum is regarded as one of the oldest surviving mammals on earth with a history that exceeds 70 million years.

A female Virginia opossum may have as many as 25 babies, but she averages seven or eight. Opossums have a lot of babies to insure that some of them survive. These babies are tiny when they are born, reportedly about the size of a navy bean.

At CROW, an adult female Virginia opossum was admitted after being found in the middle of the road in Fort Myers acting dazed and bleeding from its face. On intake, the opossum was alert and growling, with a reasonable body condition. The marsupial had a



Patient #20-746 growls while being attended to. Inset, the inside of a female opossum's pouch reveals a couple joeys.

photos by Brian Bohlman

small laceration on the lip and tongue as well as a broken tooth. There were at least five joeys in her pouch. Fluids and anti-inflammatories were given and the opossum was cleared for release two days later.

In a four-day span, two other Virginia opossum mothers were also admitted with similar injuries. Both of these opossums were also found in the road with minor injuries to the face or head and had joeys in their pouches.

According to Dr. Mariah Lancaster,

CROW veterinary intern, the joeys in all three cases were less than one month old and did not sustain any injuries.

"All three female opossums sustained head trauma," she said. "However, none showed signs of trauma to their abdomen or pouch region."

The three patients, who were all released within a three-day period last week, were from different neighborhoods, with the second two admitted from Cape Coral.

"This is the time of year when most

female opossums will be carrying young in their pouch and are more active as they forage for food," said Dr. Lancaster. "This means that any female opossums presented to CROW will likely have joeys."

According to PBS' *NatureWorks*, after birth, Virginia opossum babies climb up their mother's fur and into her pouch where they find a teat. Those that do not find their way to the pouch will most likely die. If they make it to the pouch, only babies who find one of the 13 teats will survive.

"Joeys remain inside the pouch for about 50 days, after which time they begin to exit the pouch and spend time on their mother's back," added Dr. Lancaster. "Opossums breed and give birth to up to two litters of four to eight young – or joeys. The gestation period of an opossum is about 13 days."

The delicate young opossums were lucky to be spared from injury or possibly death.

"The joeys are small and soft skinned, with eyes and ears closed in the earliest weeks," said Dr. Lancaster. "If the mother sustains severe trauma, or significant trauma to the pouch, the joeys are likely impacted as well."

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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Spring Break Fishing



by Capt. Matt Mitchell

With spring officially starting this week, we are finally on a warming trend with no cold fronts in sight. Now our water has crept back into the mid-70s, the sound

has come to life with both bait and fish. All the spring visitors have arrived. Watching the increase in life reappear is amazing, and it brings some of the best fishing of the year.

Throughout the entire sound, Spanish mackerel have invaded our waters. Catching these mackerel is nonstop action on both artificial bait and live bait. Drifting the passes with live shrimp on a jig head resulted in double and triple hook-ups. However, be careful when handling these fish as their ultra sharp teeth can cut you extremely quickly. Using a dehooker is the safest way.

While getting in a few last sheepshead trips this week, we managed to catch the largest one on my boat this season. This 'sheepzilla' measured 21½ inches and came at the first stop of the trip. When catching these sheepshead, multiple other fish usually followed the hooked fish and we reeled them in. While filleting these fish at the end of the day, we noticed the majority had already spawned and were void of eggs.

Catch-and-release snook around the passes remained a strong bite. All of our local passes have these snook and, in the clear water, it's often as easy as seeing them and setting up to present them a bait.

The problem arises when the dolphins move in and start eating these snook as you release them. When this happens, it's time to move on.

The spring pompano bite is also in full swing. The best way to locate these fish is often to idle around and watch for them to skip in your wake. Small jigs tipped with shrimp along with pompano jigs in bright colors were used to catch them. Watch for these fish on sandy channel edges both off the toll booth flat and inside of Captiva and Redfish passes.

Shark fishing has heated up too with lots of blacktip of all sizes around. The Rocky Channel area and inside of Captiva Pass remain some of the most productive places I have caught these hard-pulling sharks.

It's a simple rig consisting of six to eight feet of 200-pound mono leader with a swivel on one end and a 12/0 cut bait circle hook on the other. Bait up with a large chunk of mullet or ladyfish. In these same areas, we have also been seeing a few rolling tarpon.

The coronavirus has caused lots of cancellations for all of our local businesses. Usually March is totally sold out and our busiest month of the year. This was the case until this week when the phone calls began with people changing their travel plans. With spring break now in full swing, I can't think of a safer place any further away from the virus than being out on a boat in the



This monster sheepshead measured 21 1/2 inches and was caught while fishing with Capt. Matt Mitchell this week photo provided

open water with family and friends.

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.*

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The recently renovated BIG ARTS campus

photo by Impressions Photography

BIG ARTS Suspend All Programming

To protect the health and safety of its patrons, talent, volunteers and team members, BIG ARTS is suspending all programming and activities effective March 13 and continuing until further notice. The building will be closed to all public traffic. Programming includes the following:

Late Nite Catechism, Mike Super, all workshops, rentals, band and chorus rehearsals and concerts, gallery exhibits and receptions, the FORUM, Monday Night films and the March 27 annual benefit.

BIG ARTS regrets this inconvenience and will offer all ticket holders the following options:

Donate your tickets and tuition cost. As a nonprofit arts organization, BIG ARTS relies on the generosity and support of its loyal donors. In this difficult time, which will have significant financial impact on BIG ARTS, you can choose to donate your tickets, tuition fee and benefit gifts. All donations are now 100 percent tax deductible.

Request a refund by emailing: info@bigarts.org.

BIG ARTS will continue to monitor developments and will implement and communicate any additional changes that help ensure a safe environment for all. BIG ARTS thanks its volunteers, patrons, artists and the community for their loyalty and support – especially during this challenging time.*

All remaining March classes
Seussical Kids Spring Break Camp scheduled March 16-21
Bil Lepp workshop and performances scheduled for March 20 & 21

Indoor Bluegrass Concerts in March and April

Future of Art gallery opening receptions (in partnership with Lee Art Educators Association)

Suspended until further notice
Weekly Saturday GreenMarket
Saturday gallery and office hours
Free Family Art Labs scheduled for the fourth Saturday of each month
Members-Only Book Club scheduled for the third Tuesday of each month
Poetry Open Mic Night scheduled for April 8

Show Off! Youth Performance Showcase scheduled for April 18

All ticket holders and students for March events and classes have been notified via email. Purchasers are receiving full refunds or choosing to donate back their ticket or class fee to the Alliance. While the site will remain open to staff, we are discouraging people onsite without a scheduled appointment. Call 939-2787 if you have any questions.*

Postponements/ Cancellations At Alliance

As the impact of COVID-19 continues to unfold, the Alliance for the Arts will remain vigilant and heed guidance from local authorities and the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). In accordance to cancel or postpone in-person events that consist of 50 people or more for the next eight weeks and in an effort to ensure the health and wellness of its staff, volunteers, artists, members, donors, patrons and ultimately, the larger community, Alliance officials have made the decision to suspend all activities for the immediate future.

Postponed

Fringe Fort Myers scheduled April 22-26

Charlotte's Web youth cast rehearsals and performances

I Never Saw Another Butterfly youth cast rehearsals and performances

Artist Studio Tour scheduled for March 28

Cancelled

County Teams Capture Titles



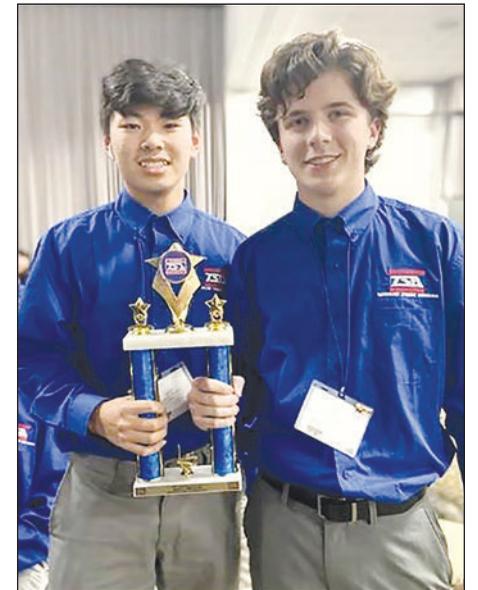
Claudia Castellon and Devon Bolton

photos provided

The School District of Lee County is proud to congratulate four North Fort Myers High School students for winning first place at the Florida's Technology Student Association (TSA) state competition. North High had another student group finish second, and Lexington Middle School had a student win third place. Several other Lee County students also placed in the top 10.

Cladia Castellon and Devon Bolton won first place in Technical Problem Solving, while Justin Lim and Jonathon Wood won first place in Structural Design and Engineering. Lim, Wood and Michael Taylor finished second in the Drone Pilot competition, and Lexington Middle's Sophia Rozanski placed third in Digital Photography. The state conference was held in late February in Orlando.

In TSA, students are self-motivated to learn how to bring their designs in robotics, flight endurance, fashion design, video game design, dragster, architecture and structural design to life. Students compete and test their abilities



Justin Lim and Jonathon Wood

to innovative prompts of engineering problem-solving. They work alongside teachers, classmates and special guest volunteers to engage in project-based learning. TSA provides students a co-curricular opportunity that gives them experiences that better prepare them for their postsecondary education or career after high school.

The competing teams and programs from Lee County included:

Dunbar High – Animatronics, Computer Integrated Manufacturing, Dragster, Music Production, Technology Problem Solving, Video Game Design
Mariner High – Architectural Design, CAD Architecture, Flight Endurance, Music Production, Photographic Technology

North Fort Myers High – Drone, Photographic Technology, Structural Design and Engineering, Technical Problem Solving

Lexington Middle – Biotechnology, Construction Challenge, Cybersecurity, Digital Photography, Forensic Technology, Junior Solar Sprint, Leadership Strategies, Promotional Marketing.*

Davis Art Center Temporary Closing

The Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center (SBDAC) has announced the temporary closing of all scheduled performances and shows until May 11. There have been no known incidents of COVID-19 at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center. This action is to comply with the recommendations by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The board of directors and senior management are monitoring the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation carefully and are taking proactive measures for team members, performers and patrons in accordance

with the guidance provided by the CDC.

"Following increased and overwhelming concerns about the COVID-19 virus, we felt this was the best way to proceed during such an unprecedented global situation. We are very disappointed that we are unable to hold these events for our patrons." Jim Griffith, executive director said. "But we know it's the right decision based on the information we have today. We thank everyone who supports the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center and look forward to bringing you innovative arts experiences this summer and next season."

The Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center is located at 2301 First Street in the historic downtown Fort Myers River District. For more information, visit www.sbdac.com or contact Griffith at 333-1933 or jim@sbdac.com.*

Plant Smart

Bluejacket

by Gerri Reaves

Bluejacket (*Tradescantia ohiensis*) is a short-lived perennial found in woods and disturbed areas and along roadsides and ponds.

A member of the spiderwort family, it is native to the eastern half of the U.S.

It is also called Ohio spiderwort. "Spider" probably refers to its mucilaginous leaf sap that resembles a spider web when strung out.

The erect strap- or grass-like leaves are clasping and about 16 inches long. A length-wise fold forms a V-shape.

Up to 10 flowers appear in the umbrels, each at the end of a smooth fleshy drooping stem that becomes purplish.

The flowers, which range in color from pink to blue or purple do not bloom simultaneously.

They measure an inch or so across and have three rounded petals and six stamens with frilly filaments and yellow anthers.

The flowers bloom most of the year but last only one day, often wilting by midday.

Plant it in a wildflower garden or use it as a groundcover in full sun to partial shade. It attracts a variety of pollinators.

Drought-tolerant, pest-free and easy to grow, it adapts to many soils but is not salt tolerant.

It spreads easily and quickly via rhizomes, so much so that some gardeners consider it weedy.

The plant will reseed in open areas but can be propagated with the seeds or by clump division.

The leaves and flowers are said to be edible and the leaves are used as a potherb.

Sources: *Florida Wildflowers* and



Native bluejacket clusters of flowers do not bloom at the same time and usually last less than a day photo by Gerri Reaves

Roadside Plants by C. Ritchie Bell and Bryan J. Taylor, *Florida's Incredible Wild Edibles* by Richard J. Deuerling and Peggy S. Lantz, *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants* by Rufino Osorio, *National Audubon Society Field Guild to Florida* by Peter Alden et al., *Native Florida Plants* by Robert G. Haehle and Joan Brookwell, *Wildflowers of Florida* by Jaret C. Daniels and Stan Tekiela, <http://www.efloras.org>, www.fnps.org, <http://plants.ifas.ufl.edu>, and www.regionalconservation.org.

Plant Smart explores the diverse flora of South Florida.✱

The Story Of Ospreys



An osprey

photo provided

The Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) weekly Speaker Series continues with *The Story of Ospreys* in the CROW Visitor Education Center on Tuesday, March 24 at 4:15 p.m. Claudia Burns, volunteer for International Osprey Foundation, will present the program.

Ospreys are large brown and white raptors who breed in Southwest Florida from December through April and can be seen diving for live fish in shallow waters throughout the area. Because they build their nests right out in the open, their behavior is easy to observe, but not always easy to understand. This presentation uses

photos, videos and recorded vocalizations to explain osprey behavior.

Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for teens (age 13 to 17) and free for children age 12 and younger. Space is limited and events do sell out, so advanced registration is highly recommended.

CROW's 2020 Speaker Series presented by LCEC features weekly talks that runs through April 14.

The CROW Visitor Education Center is located at 3883 Sanibel Captiva Road. For a full schedule of talks, more information or to register in advance, visit www.crowclinic.org/articles/2020-speaker-series-presented-by-lcec.✱

Register For Parks Summer Camp

Lee County Parks & Recreation Summer Camp registration has opened for youngsters in programs, outings and activities at the department's traditional camps, middle school camps and specialty camps.

Parents are encouraged to sign up early for allotted spaces at Wa-Ke Hatchee Park, Lakes Park and Estero Recreation Center. Registration for swimming lessons and other aquatics programs begins Tuesday, March 3. Summer camp runs for seven weeks from June 15 through July 31.

Here's a tip from the registration desk: If you plan to register for camp at one

of the four large recreation centers, you need to obtain a membership first. This applies to the centers at Wa-Ke Hatchee, Estero, North Fort Myers or Veterans Park in Lehigh Acres. Second tip: You need to have a household account at www.webtrac.leegov.com if you want to register online.

All campers will receive a specially designed Lee County Parks & Recreation T-shirt. Camp sites will participate in countywide initiatives, such as service learning projects, fitness and wellness programs, and National Park and Recreation Month.

For more information about Lee County Parks & Recreation, visit www.leeparks.org, call 533-7275 or email leeparks@leegov.com.✱

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What Stays And What Goes On Countertops



by Jeanie Tinch

For many, the kitchen is a cozy oasis. It's a place to cook delicious meals, get creative with new recipes and spend time with the ones you love. Beyond preparing and enjoying food

As mentioned earlier, decorating the kitchen can be just as fun as any other room. It's important to note that while the kitchen island and countertops may be bare, that doesn't necessarily mean you need to add any items. Remember that less is more as decorative items often get in the way as well.

Keep this in mind year-round, especially when you're decorating for the seasons. Christmas decor can often pile up quickly, and the last thing you want is red and green trinkets cluttering up the counter space you could use to decorate holiday cookies.

While less is more is certainly our recommended way to go about things, that doesn't mean you should leave your countertops bare. This can make the room feel incomplete. If your countertop appliances take up minimal space and you don't generally use a fruit basket, think outside of the box when it comes to decorations. There is no reason candles can't reside in the kitchen, for example. Other cute trinkets and accessories you often use throughout your home to decorate bookshelves and other surfaces can be used in the kitchen as well.

Whether you're reorganizing a room in your home, taking on a new renovation project or redecorating a small area that you've neglected in the past, handling any of these tasks on your own can seem daunting and intimidating without the experience. Avoid putting the stress on yourself by working with a design professional to discuss potential options for your kitchen countertops, with ideas for styling and decluttering. Remember, the smallest details can truly make the biggest difference.

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

with others, this space is also ideal for decorating and letting your style shine. From wall decor to area rugs, there are so many different options for personalizing the living space and making it yours. The kitchen island and countertops are other areas that offer optimal space, but placing the wrong items here can amount to clutter and discomfort.

Look at the current arrangement of your countertop appliances and other trinkets. Does this space feel empty or overcompensated? Your countertops should reflect the way you live and navigate through the kitchen. Oftentimes, if you use something daily, it is easier and more functional to have a place for it. From a design standpoint, a choice pot or appliance can be appropriate, but too much, as with anything, will feel cluttered.

Based on your current set up, do you see appliances that you only use during the holidays? Put these in storage to free up some space for food preparation. Remember that less is more.

Affordable Housing And Issues For Women

submitted by Becky Lucas

The issue of home affordability touches everyone in our community. No group, however, is more adversely impacted by the shortage of affordable and available housing than female-headed households.

Every day at Habitat for Humanity, mothers and grandmothers walk through our doors looking for an opportunity to build a better life for their children. They're not asking for a handout and they don't want a free home – they simply want a bit of hope.

Empowering women and empowering families are central to our goal of breaking the cycle of poverty through affordable homeownership. However, current gender disparities in housing illustrate that the issue of home affordability is also a women's issue. Today in America, 35 percent of single mothers live below the poverty line. Often, the high cost of housing forces them to sacrifice spending on basic necessities, including medical care, quality food and reliable transportation.

With the median rent in Lee County approaching \$1,200 per month, a single mother would have to earn an annual wage of at least \$43,200 to afford a modest, two-bedroom apartment. This figure is significantly



greater than the entry-level wages for many careers that are historically female-dominated positions, like teachers, nursing assistants, medical technicians, government employees and service industry workers. As increases in the cost of housing continue to far outpace wage growth, it's evident that decisive action is required to mitigate our community's housing challenges. It's going to take all of us coming together and declaring that home affordability is a top priority for women, families and everyone in search of an affordable home.

March is always a special month for Habitat, but this one is particularly significant. On March 5, Habitat for Humanity of Lee and Hendry Counties celebrated a milestone by kicking off its 10th annual Women Build Campaign at the Heitman House in downtown Fort Myers. Over the past decade, the campaign has galvanized hundreds of local women to join forces in raising funds and building homes for strong, independent, female-headed households. Through Women Build, Habitat has partnered with mothers of disabled children, women who've escaped violent partners, grandmothers raising their grandchildren and recent widows to make homeownership a reality for 20 women and their 50 children.

This year, our Women Build sponsors, donors and volunteers are striving to build and fully fund three additional Habitat for Humanity homes for hardworking, single mothers in Southwest Florida.

To learn how you can become involved with the Women Build Campaign, visit give.habitat4humanity.org/2020womenbuild or call 652-0434.*

Workshops And Presentations Postponed

In accordance with guidance to practice social distancing and limit potential exposure to COVID-19, the Area Agency on Aging for Southwest Florida is postponing all of its health and wellness workshops and SHINE Medicare presentations through March 31.

The affected Health and Wellness Programs are:

Tai Chi: Moving For Better Balance at Peace Lutheran Church in Fort Myers

Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance at Lake Kennedy Senior Center in Cape Coral

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls Prevention at the LJ Nobles Senior Center in LaBelle

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls Prevention at the North Collier Regional Park in Naples

Tai Chi for Arthritis and Falls Prevention at Cypress Lake Manor South in Fort Myers

Arthritis Foundation Exercise

Program at Buttonwood Village in Punta Gorda

Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program at Wa-Ke Hatchee Recreation Center in Fort Myers

Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program at Iona-Hope Episcopal Church in Fort Myers

Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program at the Senior Friendship Center in Arcadia

Arthritis Foundation Exercise Program at Lake Kennedy Senior Center in Cape Coral

The affected Medicare presentations are:

Medicare: What's New in 2020 at the Punta Gorda Library in Punta Gorda

Medicare 101 at the Englewood Charlotte Library in Englewood

Medicare 101 at the North Fort Myers Public Library in North Fort Myers

Medicare 101 at the Clewiston Public Library in Clewiston

If You See It, Report It! Senior Medicare Patrol presentation at the Wm. H. Jervey Public Library in Venice.

SHINE Medicare counseling sessions will continue, although some sessions may be conducted over the phone rather than in a one-on-one

setting. Individuals needing assistance with Medicare counseling, Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment, Medicare savings programs, or Medicare fraud should make an appointment by calling the Area Agency on Aging's Elder Helpline at 866-413-5337.

The Area Agency on Aging's main office in North Fort Myers will remain open, as will the Elder Helpline.

The agency will continue to evaluate the situation and work to reschedule Medicare presentations and health and wellness workshops when the time is appropriate.

For more information, call the AAASWFL Elder Helpline at 866-413-5337 or visit www.aaaswfl.org.*

From page 2

Historic Downtown

incorporating them into the parking lot landscape. Several others will be carefully relocated to prevent the trees from going into shock.

Hurrah for the incentives in the city's permitting process that encourages the preservation of grand old trees. Let's make those incentives even more enticing to redevelopers.

Walk down to the site of Captain

Towles's 1880s home and imagine what that spot was like when it was still called Riverside Avenue.

Then learn more about what might be the oldest house in Fort Myers at the following research centers.

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

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

Clemente Park. Hours for the nonprofit organization are Wednesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday by appointment only. For more information, call 332-8778 or visit www.leecountyblackhistorysociety.org.

Visit the IMAG History & Science Center at 2000 Cranford Avenue or at www.theimag.org.

Sources: The Archives of the Southwest Florida Historical Society, *The Story of Fort Myers* by Karl H. Grismer, and *The News-Press*.*

Professor Returns From South Pacific

submitted by Brielle Ruiz

Peter Blaze Corcoran, a Sanibel resident and professor emeritus at Florida Gulf Coast University, has recently returned from three months in Australia and Fiji. Corcoran, who's worked in the South Pacific for over 30 years with a variety of universities, has recently accepted an honorary position as adjunct professor of environmental and sustainability education at University of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. In this position, he will research a variety of topics associated with K'Gari/Fraser Island, a UNESCO World Heritage site with land title held by the local Aboriginal people. He will work in indigenous education, including training for university faculty and staff.

Corcoran also serves as senior advisor to the non-governmental organization Unity Earth based in Melbourne, Australia. Through them, he's consulting on the development of an Aboriginal education and cultural center in the Willandra Lakes region. This is a remote area of the Australian Outback, which Corcoran previously visited in 2017 during the Return to Country of Mungo Man, the remains of a 50,000-year-old Aboriginal ancestor of the local people, making this the oldest continuous culture that we know of on earth. In November, 2019, at the invitation of Unity Earth, he gave a keynote talk entitled An Earth Charter



Peter Blaze Corcoran photo provided

Vision for Intercultural Education: Radical Hope, Intergenerational Equity, and World Affirming Spirituality at the Melbourne Convergence, a gathering of several hundred teachers and Aboriginal elders at Victoria University.

Since his retirement from Florida Gulf Coast University, he has begun work on several research projects in Australia. Along with a colleague at Griffith University Gold Coast, Corcoran is conducting research and writing reimagining water education in Australia in light of the current pervasive drought, intense heat and

terrifying bushfires, which Corcoran experienced during his time there.

He said, "The world must take the current climate catastrophe in Australia as a warning for all humankind. The effect of the wildfires there is on unprecedented scale with the unimaginable loss of an estimated one-and-a-quarter billion animals, including whole species which are now extinct." Corcoran continues to believe that universities can and must play a leading role in educating students and the general public about the implications of anthropogenic climate change.

During his time in the Fiji Islands, Corcoran traveled to see the destruction caused by Cyclone Winston of 2016, the most intense tropical cyclone on record in the Southern Hemisphere. His time in Fiji coincided with Cyclone Sarai. While it was far less serious than Winston, it was a dangerous storm that disrupted travel throughout Fiji's 333 islands.

Corcoran is a former professor at The University of the South Pacific in Suva, Fiji, the national university of 12 island nations. His work there was focused on climate change education. Corcoran said, "The intensity of storms and the impact of rising seas represent an existential threat to Pacific Island cultures and nations."

Corcoran plans to continue to work on education projects in the South Pacific. If interested in learning more, contact him at pcorcora@fgcu.edu.*

Hodges University Promotion

Hodges University recently announced that Noah Lamb has been promoted to assistant vice president of student services.

In his new role, Lamb oversees all of the university's student services offices, which includes admissions, registrar, financial aid/auxiliary services, student accounts/veterans services and student experience. He was the assistant vice president of student financial services.

Lamb has nearly 13 years of expertise in the area of higher education. He earned a bachelor of arts degree in business and organizational leadership from Marshall University. He also earned a professional certification in business management and administration from the University of Kentucky and a master of arts degree in administrative leadership studies from Marshall University Graduate College.

Lamb is active in several organizations, including the Florida Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators, the Florida Association of Bursar & Student Account Administrators, the Southern Association of College and University Business Officers, the National Association of Colleges and University Business Officers, and the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

For more information, visit www.hodges.edu.*

United Way Assists With Response To COVID-19

Lee County residents seeking general information about COVID-19 and its related impacts on the community can call the United Way 211 Helpline by dialing 2-1-1 or 433-3900 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m.

United Way of Lee County has trained volunteers who can provide information related to cancellations, closings and status updates for schools, government offices, day camps/day cares and events. They also can provide information on safety precautions, social distancing and self-isolation.

The 211 line does not replace the Florida Department of Health's COVID-19 hotline. If you think you or someone in your family might have COVID-19 and are exhibiting respiratory illness symptoms, you should call a healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will work with the Florida Department of Health to determine whether testing is needed. For updates on the state's response to the coronavirus, visit www.floridahealth.gov/covid-19.

For quick links to COVID-19 resources, visit www.unitedwaylee.org. For local government information, visit www.leegov.com/covid-19. In addition to the Department of Health website, additional information is also available from the Centers for Disease Control at www.coronavirus.gov.*

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Book Review

Dear Edward

by Di Saggau



What does it mean not just to survive, but to truly live? That's the main question behind *Dear Edward* by Ann Napolitano. Inspired by a true story of one

child's incredible survival, this is an unforgettable, life-affirming novel. One summer morning, 187 passengers board a flight in Newark headed for Los Angeles. This includes 21-year-old Edward Adler, his beloved older brother and his parents. The passengers include a Wall Street wunderkind, a young woman coming to terms with an unexpected pregnancy, an injured vet returning from Afghanistan, a septuagenarian business tycoon and a free-spirited woman named Florida, who claims to have had several lives and is running away from a controlling husband. Tragically, the plane crashes and Edward is the sole survivor.

Naturally his story captures the attention of the nation. Edward feels that a piece of him has been left in the sky with all his fellow passengers. He is taken in by his mother's sister and her husband, a childless couple in New Jersey. Edward finds it hard to

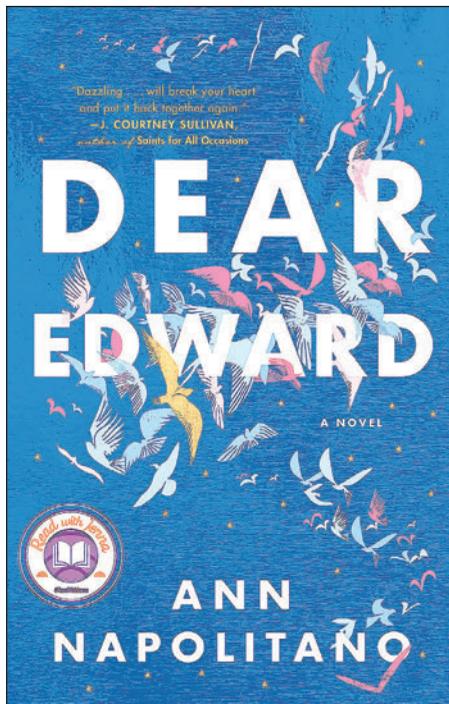


image provided

cope. Unable to sleep in the never-used nursery his aunt and uncle have given him to serve as his bedroom, he ends up bunking next door, where there's a young girl his age named Shay. Their friendship is what connects him to the living.

Dear Edward is a coming-of-age story and a portrait of an unforgettable cast of characters. Through alternating chapters, we meet all the doomed airplane passengers, explore their

backstories and learn about their hopes and plans. It's satisfying for the reader to develop an emotional connection to as many people as you do in this novel. The author's love of her characters makes each one of them whole and complex.

Edward slowly heals and his biggest sense of loss is the absence of Jordan, the brother who knew him best in the world. Jordan has his own secrets and when Edward is ready, he learns about them. "Edward used to miss

Jordan only for himself. It has been his terrible loss. Now he also mourns what his brother has lost." The novel shows a perfect understanding of human vulnerabilities. Helen Simonson, author of *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* says, "This is a stunning novel of courage and connection in the face of unimaginable loss. It's beautifully written, with characters so intensely alive you will hold your breath as they break your heart. An extraordinary read." I agree.*

School Smart



by Shelley M. Greggs, NCSP

Dear Shelley, My daughter who's in second grade is having trouble with spelling. Is this normal?

How should I help her?

Maria V, Fort Myers

Maria,

It's common for young children to make spelling mistakes. If kids struggle with reading, writing or focus, it can affect spelling, but there are ways to help your child get better at spelling.

When children struggle with spelling, it doesn't always happen in the same way. Some children make mistakes across the board with all kinds of words. Others mainly have trouble with certain types of words. And some make the same mistake over and over, no matter how many times they've been taught the correct spelling.

Keep in mind that early readers and writers aren't going to have perfect spelling. Children in kindergarten might spell most words wrong, and that's OK. Reversing letters like confusing 'b' and 'd,' is also very common in early readers and writers. And, as late as second grade, you might see schoolwork that has all kinds of creative spelling. Some schools encourage what's called "kid writing." They want kids to get comfortable with writing and not worry about spelling rules.

As children get older, though, there are some key things to look out for. When children have trouble with spelling, here are things they may do:

Write slowly

Only write a few words, even when they have more to say

Use the wrong spelling when words sound the same but have different meanings, like sale and sail

Easily forget spelling rules

Mix up the letters in words

Not notice spelling mistakes

Misspell the same words in different ways

Spelling involves different skills including reading, writing and focus. If children struggle with those skills, it can impact their spelling. Children who struggle with reading often have a hard time recognizing the sounds in words.

That makes it hard to spell them out. Some kids have difficulty writing words, whether by hand or typing. They may misspell the same word in different ways. Difficulty paying attention makes it hard to remember spelling rules. It can also keep children from noticing spelling mistakes.

There are simple, inexpensive ways you can help your child, especially when you know what the challenges are. Here are some examples:

Look into pencil grips to make it easier to hold a pencil correctly.

Have your child take a brain break, a brief physical or quiet activity interspersed through homework, to help your child refocus when studying.

Encourage your child to slow down when writing and proofread the work. Sometimes reading work aloud is a good way to proofread.

Try to spend extra time practicing sight words with your child.

Remember, early readers and writers aren't going to have perfect spelling. Talk with the teacher to find out if your child's spelling is a concern. Teachers can be a great source of insight and can also make suggestions for what might help. Struggling with any skill or task can be stressful. Watch for signs of stress and anxiety and make sure to discuss what you see with your child.

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 To Meet

The Continental Women's Club will hold a luncheon meeting at The Hideaway Country Club on Thursday, April 2 at 11:30 a.m. Cost to attend is \$24.

Dennis Solon with Florida Coalition Against Human Trafficking will be the guest speaker. He will speak about human trafficking on a local level and what is being done to stop it.

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

EPIC FIRES OF FORT MYERS

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





THOMAS P. HALL

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

Governor Activates Business Loan Program

Gov. Ron DeSantis activated the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program to support small businesses impacted by COVID-19. The bridge loan program, managed by the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO), will provide short-term, interest-free loans to small businesses that experienced economic injury from COVID-19. The application period opened March 17 and runs through May 8, 2020.

"As we mitigate against the spread of COVID-19, the health, safety and well-being of Floridians comes first," said Gov. DeSantis. "I understand the harm mitigation strategies will have on small businesses throughout our state. By activating the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan, we are providing the opportunity for Florida's small businesses to receive cash immediately to ensure they can lessen the impacts felt as a result of COVID-19."

DEO will administer the Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan Program in partnership with the Florida SBDC Network and Florida First Capital Finance Corporation to provide cash flow to businesses economically impacted by COVID-19. The short-term, interest-free loans help bridge the gap between the time the economic impact occurred and when a business secures other financial resources, including payment of insurance claims or longer-term Small Business Administration (SBA) loans. Up to \$50 million has been allocated for the program.

"Governor DeSantis has been a true leader in the fight to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and has prioritized the safety of all Floridians," said Florida Department of Economic Opportunity Executive Director Ken Lawson. "The Florida Small Business Emergency Bridge Loan will help Florida's small businesses get through this unsettling time. We appreciate the governor's efforts to keep Florida's small businesses

top of mind and our partners at the Florida SBDC Network and Florida First Capital Finance Corporation to help them recover."

Small business owners with two to 100 employees located in Florida affected by COVID-19 can apply for short-term loans up to \$50,000. These loans are interest-free for up to one year and are designed to bridge the gap to either federal SBA loans or commercially available loans. DEO will work with every borrower to ensure that repayment of the loan isn't an overwhelming burden. To be eligible, a business must have been established prior to March 9, 2020 and demonstrate economic impacts as a result of COVID-19.

"Mitigating the spread of COVID-19 in Florida must be our number one priority," said Florida SBDC Network CEO Mike Myhre. "The Florida SBDC Network stands ready to assist Governor DeSantis and the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity to help small businesses recover as a result of the impacts of COVID-19."

"We are ready to assist the governor and state of Florida to deliver this vital assistance to the small business community we serve, as we have 23 times since 1992," said Florida First Capital Finance Corporation President and CEO Todd Kocourek.

DEO is currently surveying businesses throughout the state of Florida who have been impacted by COVID-19. Businesses and nonprofits can access the Business Damage Assessment survey at www.FloridaDisaster.BIZ Select "COVID-19" from the drop-down menu on the survey page. Response to the Business Damage Assessment survey is not an application for assistance. Businesses interested in the bridge loan program must fill out a bridge loan application.

For more information on the program, visit www.floridadisasterloan.org. For questions regarding the Emergency Bridge Loan Program, contact the Florida Small Business Development Center Network at 866-737-7232 or email Disaster@FloridaSBDC.org. The phone line will be answered during regular business hours; all voicemails and emails will be responded to within 24 hours.*

Women Of Distinction Award Winner

Samira K. Beckwith, president and CEO of Hope Healthcare, has been inducted into the Hall of Honor in the McKnight's Women of Distinction awards, a joint program of McKnight's Long-Term Care News and McKnight's Senior Living.

The program, in its second year, recognizes women who have made significant contributions to the senior living and skilled nursing professions or who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to the fields.

McKnight's Editorial Director John O'Connor said, "The dedication and commitment shown by our Hall of Honor recipients truly sets them apart."

With more than 40 years of experience in hospice and health care, Beckwith's leadership on local, state and national levels is broadly recognized. She is a frequent participant in national and state health policy forums, and she has provided expert testimony before government bodies including the U.S. House Judiciary Committee and the U.S. Senate Aging Committee.

Since becoming president of Hope Healthcare in 1991, Beckwith has led the organization through decades of growth to meet community needs with a broad spectrum of innovative programs and services including Hope Hospice and Hope Palliative Care, Hope



Samira K Beckwith photo provided Connections, Hope Parkinson Program and Hope Kids Care.

"It's an honor to be included among the truly accomplished group of women recognized by McKnight's," said Beckwith. "I'm grateful and humbled by the opportunity I've had through Hope to help improve the quality of life for those in our community who most need our compassion and care."

Nominations were judged by an external panel of industry experts. All winners will be honored at a May 7 awards dinner in Chicago. An educational forum will follow on May 8.

continued on page 20

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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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Will Power

Coping With Uncertainty



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

As I write this column (the deadline is approximately one week before it's published), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has labeled the coronavirus an international pandemic, the stock market recorded its single biggest drop since the 1987 crash, President Trump suspended travel to the United States from most of Europe, and schools, sporting and entertainment venues have all shut down.

A childhood friend of mine, Dr. Louis Profeta, an emergency room physician in my hometown of Indianapolis, who has testified on health matters before Congress and is a bestselling author, warns in Facebook and LinkedIn posts that hospitals don't have the ability to serve all those infected.

It's unreal. And unnerving.

We don't have clear guidance on what to do. In reality, no one knows short of general guidelines not to attend large gatherings or shake hands.

So how do we cope? While I'm not a trained mental health professional, I commonly deal with uncertain situations, both professionally and personally. When my mother had leukemia, we never knew when the other shoe would drop. Without any warning I was suddenly told that I needed open heart surgery.

I'm sure that you've endured events in your life that have come as unwelcome surprises.

Looking back, the best way to cope with uncertainty is to simply take it one day at a time. Sure, it may sound like a cliché, but it's true. Live in the present moment.

Are you healthy now?

Are you taking precautions to limit exposure?

Are you listening to the advice of your savvy financial advisors who have been through stock market crashes before?

Speaking of advice, once you've learned today's update, does it do you any good to continue to watch the scary news on our 24/7 cycle?

Then you're doing all the right things.

Worrying about what might happen tomorrow, next week or next month won't help. The "future" is an abstraction. It doesn't exist except as an idea. The only future that has any reality is the one that you create for yourself through each day's contributions, achievements and results.

Focus on what you can do over the course of the next 24 hours, and you'll build the future that will work for you.

Should you huddle in your home to wait things out? The experts tell us that most of us who come down with the virus won't die. Certainly, if you're part of a high-risk demographic, such as the sick or elderly, then you may wish to take extra precautions.

Otherwise, perhaps continuing with a normal schedule, to the extent possible, will keep you centered. You'll know what's right for you.

As far as your estate plan is concerned (after all, this is an estate planning column), most of you have a proper plan in place. You probably have your advanced directives such as durable powers of attorney, health care surrogates and living wills in place. If you don't know where to locate yours, take the time to do so. Perhaps scan them in and distribute them to your loved ones named to act for you.

Clients of my firm, incidentally, who are a part of our Client Care Program simply need to share their client portal log in username and password with those named to have 24/7 access. I say this only to prevent a rush of calls to my office!

Take it day by day. The overwhelming chances are, just like most of us, you will get through this crisis. Once you gain that mental fortitude, do your best to spread that confidence to friends and loved ones.

That will do us all some good.

©2020 Craig R. Hersch. Learn more at www.sbshlaw.com.✱

Limited Access Protecting Seniors From Coronavirus

submitted by Kevin Ahmadi, Area Director of Operations, Volunteers of America



The continuing spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) has prompted Gulf Coast Village to make an unprecedented decision.

For the first time in our 30 years in Cape Coral, Gulf Coast Village is limiting access to our community to protect residents from the coronavirus. No visitors, regardless of the reason, are allowed to enter the community until further notice. The only exceptions will be for very specific circumstances, such as an end-of-life visitation and, even then, specific screenings must take place prior to entering the facility. The administrator and executive director are the only persons authorized to make exceptions.

Other senior health providers statewide and nationwide have begun making similar decisions to ensure the virus doesn't spread to our vulnerable senior population, based on guidance from health officials, including the Florida Department of Health and the Florida Agency for Health Care Administration.

The coronavirus has a much higher mortality rate in seniors and those with compromised health, making our resident population at high risk.

Our leadership team will continue to monitor updates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other government agencies as the safety of our residents is our highest priority. The initial suspension will last for the next 30 days, but is subject to change based on the latest CDC information and governmental guidance.

While this presents a challenge for families who wish to visit their loved ones, we are implementing alternative means of communication with our residents, such as phone calls and video chats. After hosting "town hall meetings" to address the new policy, our residents and their families have been very supportive of the decision, knowing we have their loved ones' best interests at heart.

We are encouraging seniors throughout Southwest Florida to begin social distancing, if you haven't already, in an effort to protect your health. Please avoid large groups of people and stay away from anyone, including family and friends, who are ill. In addition, CDC guidelines to help prevent illness include:

Washing your hands with soap and warm to hot water for 20 seconds, frequently throughout the day.

Using alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Avoiding touching your eyes, nose and mouth.

Covering your cough or sneeze with a tissue, or coughing into your elbow.

Additionally, I commend our staff for their unwavering commitment to caring for our residents and adapting to the situation with compassion and expertise.

As a Volunteers of America community, we have the support of a national non-profit, faith-based organization dedicated to helping those in need rebuild their lives and reach

their full potential. Throughout this difficult time, the Gulf Coast Village team truly reflects the mission of Volunteers of America – helping the most vulnerable during a time of great need.✱

State Awarded Response Funds In COVID-19 Efforts

The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) recently announced the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) will provide \$27,296,306 in funding to Florida in support of their response efforts to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

"State and local health departments are on the frontlines of responding to the COVID-19 outbreak, and we are deeply grateful for their work," said HHS Secretary Alex Azar. "CDC is distributing this new funding extremely rapidly, as called for by Congress. President Trump, and his entire administration will continue working to ensure state and local jurisdictions have the resources they need to keep Americans safe and healthy."

"Our state, local, tribal and territorial public health partners are on the front lines of the COVID-19 response. The action we are taking today will continue to support their efforts to increase public health capacity where it's needed most," said CDC Director Robert R. Redfield, MD. "These funds will allow public health leaders to implement critical steps necessary to contain and mitigate spread of the virus in communities across the country."

On March 6, the President signed the Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2020.

The supplemental contains \$8.3 billion government-wide, with resources directed for grants or cooperative agreements to states, localities, territories and tribes to accelerate planning and operational readiness for COVID-19 preparedness and response, as well as develop tools and strategies, provide technical assistance and program support, as well as ensure ongoing communication and coordination among public health agencies and partners throughout the response.

CDC is contacting state health officers to move forward with awarding over \$560 million to states, localities, territories and tribes. CDC will use existing networks to reach out to state and local jurisdictions to access this initial funding.

To view the list of CDC funding actions to jurisdictions, visit www.hhs.gov/about/news/2020/03/11/cdc-funding-information.html. For more information about this virus, visit www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/index.html.✱

From page 19

Distinction

To see the full list of inductees, and for more information about the program and to register for the events, visit www.mcknightwomenofdistinction.com.

The Diamond sponsor for the McKnight's Women of Distinction program is PointClickCare. The Silver sponsors are OnShift and PharMerica.

Hope Healthcare is a not-for-profit health care organization dedicated to providing care and comfort to every individual and their loved ones as they fulfill life's journey. For more information, call 482-4673 or visit www.hopehcs.org.✱

Frankly Speaking

by Howard Prager



Last week I wrote about the last game I saw, a meaningless basketball match between Northwestern and Penn State. I played in the pep band, and afterwards, the Northwestern

Women's team, ranked 11th in the nation, came over to both thank the band for their support as we did the same for their amazing season, looking forward to a hoped-for high tournament ranking. The stadium is now silenced. The horns are quiet. It's surreal. It's the same sort of shocked state we walked around in after 9/11. Is this really happening? Where's the normalcy? And what's everybody doing?

I look to the sports section, broadcasts and games every day to relax and escape from the day-to-day challenges of life and put some energy into teams I care about. How about you? If you're reading this column, you are most likely a sports fan of some kind, from casual to fanatic. What do we do now? Reading, cleaning, or watching the constant news updates. Not too much in sports right now other than some off-season trades and how the coronavirus is affecting everyone

associated with sports, the latest news on teams, rosters and player trades. Ruminations every day on what needs to happen both in playoffs (NHL and NBA) and in restarting baseball with some type of spring training II happening first when it resumes. (And to my Floridian residents where will that take place?)

The professional athletes we all admire, cheer or boo for all are getting paid. I feel for everyone else. Those athletes on the cusp of making the big leagues, only to lose their opportunity to a virus, not even to a great player. All the people who support making the games happen. Vendors, parking lot attendants, ushers, souvenir hawkers, ball and bat boys and girls, the musicians, dancers and entertainers at halftime shows, sportswriters, etc. For every one person on a team, there are dozens more that support what they are doing, many of whom live in the gig economy where you are paid for service and nothing else like Lyft and Uber, like so many people who work at stadiums and ballparks or support the work there. Even the Fort Myers economy is taking a hit because of the shortening of spring training, by one estimate over \$25 million.

It's nice to see some owners and players offering to pay the salaries of many of these lower paid workers in the stadiums and parks for now. Those are great stories in Chicago, from Zion Williamson and so many others. It doesn't mean anything for all the others that don't work inside the park, or do so on

an as-needed basis, so take a moment to think about your favorite sport, your favorite team your favorite athlete. How did they get there and who supports their efforts now? They are the tip of the iceberg, and we know from Titanic that it's what's below the surface that makes the iceberg dangerous and a force to be reckoned with. Same with sports broadcasts; it's all the people we don't see or think about... they are that makes things go. It's not just the announcers that bring you a telecast, it's all the cameramen, speaker holders, statisticians, producers, directors, set-up, and sideline reporters and workers that allow broadcasts to seem seamless. What are they all doing now?

We've grown accustomed to our seasons, our tournaments and our favorite teams and players. For now, we won't be seeing them on the screen or in the sporting news other than on tape. So, let's take these lessons as we go forward. First, there's only one winner in sports and, for now, it's important that the winner be each one of us doing all we can to keep the virus away. Second, let's appreciate the fact that there is so much out there we care about and, for now, maybe we care more about each other than any one team or athlete. And third, sports will come back. No one knows when, but it will happen. And at that time, as we are sitting next to friends or strangers, offer them a smile and know then that we defeated the worst pandemic in our lifetime and have come back. Stay

healthy and well, my readers.

Howard Prager is the son-in-law of longtime columnist Ed Frank. Prager is a sports enthusiast from the Chicago area who also writes and blogs about leadership. Email comments or questions to press@islandssunnews.com.

Deadline Extended For Expiring Cards

In a response to the current health emergency, all driver licenses and identification cards in the state of Florida expiring between March 16 and April 15 will have a 30-day extension to renew, according to an emergency order issued by Florida Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles. Any delinquent renewal fees incurred during the extension period will be waived.

More than 4,000 Lee County residents will be impacted by Executive Order 20-52.

The Lee County Tax Collector is urging county residents to call or visit the official website before coming to any of its locations. Many services can be accomplished online or over the phone and do not require an in-person visit. Visit www.leetc.com or call 533-6000 with any questions prior to your visit.

Tennis, Pickleball Players Sought For Tournament

Sundial Beach Resort & Spa on Sanibel will host the Sundial Battle of the Islands Tennis & Pickleball Weekend Smash open to players ages 18 and over. Slated for Saturday and Sunday, April 25 and 26, categories include men's and women's doubles for tennis and men's and women's doubles for pickleball. Tennis divisions are 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5+. Pickleball divisions are novice, 3.0, 3.5, 4.0 and 4.5+.

Players can register at the Racquet Sports Office at the resort, located at 1451 Middle Gulf Drive, or by emailing christian.clark@sundialresort.com. Cost is \$40 per person for tennis or pickleball, or \$70 for both. Registration closes April 22.

"We're looking forward to a great weekend of competition and camaraderie," said Christian Clark, Sundial racquet sports manager and tournament organizer. "This is our first year hosting a tournament with both sports in the same event."

With a long legacy of island tennis, Sundial's facilities are recognized area-wide and have repeatedly been named the "Best Tennis" on Sanibel and Captiva islands. The resort features six state-of-the-art sub surface HydroGrid courts. In 2017, the resort added 12 pickleball courts with stadium seating at a new lakefront facility. Since then, the courts have played host to pro exhibitions, tournaments and camps, and the facility

has garnered national recognition. Sundial offers an active tennis and pickleball program as well as memberships, all of which are open to the public.

The two-day tournament schedule features tennis on Saturday and pickleball on Sunday. Registration includes a poolside barbecue on Sunday with live music.

Sporting Clays Tournament

Grampy's Charities has partnered with Kids & Clays again for the 2nd annual Grampy's Sporting Clays Tournament at Sarasota Trap, Skeet & Clays on Friday, April 10. Registration and breakfast begin at 8 a.m. followed by a brief safety meeting at 9:30 a.m. Shotgun start is 10 a.m. with lunch, raffle and awards to follow. Tournament proceeds benefit Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwest Florida.

Each participant receives a Grampy's Famous Ditty Bag, Kids & Clays shooter gift, breakfast, pig roast lunch with live entertainment from a bluegrass band, eye and ear protection, ammunition, loaner gun and that feel-good sense of helping children and families in need.

Thanks to the generosity of Grampy's Charities, all event expenses are covered. Therefore, 100 percent of sponsorships directly support its mission.

Sarasota Trap, Skeet & Clays is located at 3445 Rustic Road in Nokomis, Florida. For more information, sponsorship opportunities and reservations, visit www.rmhcswfl.org/events/grampys-sporting-clays.

Anglers Needed For Benefit Fishing Tournament

Calling all anglers to the 24th annual LCEC United Way Catch and Release Fishing Tournament to be held in the waters off Matlacha on Saturday, April 11. All proceeds from the tournament will benefit the United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades and Okeechobee Counties.

A Captain's Meeting will be held at D&D Matlacha Bait and Tackle on April 10 at 6 p.m. Irby is the premiere sponsor of this year's tournament.

Cost is \$75 per angler before April 8 and \$90 thereafter. Cost for students (with valid student identification) is \$60

before April 8 or \$65 thereafter.

Cash and prizes will be awarded. There will also be barbecue and a large silent auction and raffle. A separate raffle will be held for a 2011 Ford Ranger with 100,000 miles, four-wheel drive, new tires, chrome wheels, automatic drive and air conditioning. Tickets for the truck are \$5 each or six for \$25 and can be ordered online now or bought at the tournament. All raffle winners will be announced at tournament, but you not have to present to win.

D&D Matlacha Bait and Tackle is located at 3922 Pine Island Road NW in Matlacha. Visit www.uw.lcec.net for information on registration, sponsorships and raffles, and contact fish@lcec.net or 656-2204 with questions.

SPORTS QUIZ

1. What women's college basketball team had its streak of 253 straight weeks ranked in the Associated Press poll's top five snapped on Feb. 17, 2020?
2. Actor Terry Crews ("Brooklyn Nine-Nine") was selected in the 11th round of the 1991 NFL Draft by what team?
3. In what sport would the competitors abide by the Marquess of Queensberry Rules?
4. Who was the last U.S. woman to win the gold medal in the ladies' discipline at the ISU World Figure Skating Championships?
5. What TV sportscaster played with future PGA Tour pros Fred Couples and Blaine McCallister as a member of the University of Houston golf team?
6. Jean Dolores Schmidt (aka "Sister Jean") became famous overnight as chaplain for what 2018 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament Final Four team?
7. Though nicknamed "The Admiral," what rank did basketball great David Robinson achieve when he completed his Navy service in 1989?

ANSWERS

1. The Connecticut Huskies, whose historic stretch began Feb. 5, 2007.
2. The Los Angeles Rams.
3. Boxing.
4. Kimmie Meissner, in 2006.
5. Jim Nantz, CBS Sports lead play-by-play announcer.
6. The Loyola University Chicago Ramblers.
7. Lieutenant (junior grade).

Alliance Winners From All Florida Juried Exhibit

Prominent and emerging Florida artists submitted more than 500 pieces for consideration in the Alliance for the Arts' 34th annual All Florida Juried Exhibit. After consideration from juror Amanda Poss, 60 pieces were unveiled to the public during an opening reception on March 6. The exhibit will continue through March 28.

Thomas Roth was awarded Best in Show and \$1,000 for *LSI*. Taylord Dezeme took second place and won a \$250 Golden Colors gift certificate for *A Slice of Life* and Joel Shapses placed third and won \$100 for *Fantasia*. Richard Stanton was awarded the Juror's Choice Award for *Deco Beach*.

The full list of exhibiting artists include: Eileen Amster, Cynthia Barbanera-Wedel, David Belling, Della Boynton, Mila Bridger, Stephen Bufter, Deborah Butler, Marcy Calkins, Dennis Church, Carol Coates, Steve Conley, Michael Danley, Taylord



Barbara Hill and Amanda Poss

photos provided



From left, Lisa Duritsch, John Meiser, Pam Beckman and Desiree DeMolina

Dezeme, Kathleen Durdin, Sharon Eng, Alejandro Estrada, Stacey Fletcher, Muffy Clark Gill, Kristin Herzog, Del Holt, Priscilla Jeffcoat, Pamela Jones, Jay Lana, JoAnn LaPadula, Jean Mau, Dave McFarlane, John Merchant, Kellen Mills, Lucy Nesheim, Gregory Presley,

Whit Robbins, Roy Rodriguez, Sherry Rohl, Thomas Roth, Rita Schwab, Cree Scudder, Joel Shapses, Dale Smith, Paul Stackpole, Richard Stanton, Erin Stein, Grayson Stoff, Daniel Venditti, Christina Wyatt, Barbara Yeomans and Peter Zell.

All Florida is sponsored in part by Family Thrift Center.

Alliance for the Arts is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. For more information, call 939-2787 or visit www.artinlee.org/allflorida. ✨



Joel Shapses



Barbara Yeomans and Tina Parker



Dennis Church



Mila Bridger



Stephanie Schultz and Maria Pereira Collier



Taylord Dezeme



Dr. Charles H. Curtis photos provided

Physicians Selected To Top Doctors List

Two physicians with Physicians' Primary Care of Southwest Florida have been named "Top Doctors" by Castle Connolly Medical Ltd. in New York.

Family Medicine physician Charles Curtis, MD, and Pediatrician Georgia Rocha-Rodriguez, MD., will be featured in the June issue of *Gulfshore Life* magazine. Dr. Curtis is a seven-time repeat winner from 2013 to 2019. Dr. Rocha-Rodriguez is a four-time repeat winner from 2016 to 2019.

Dr. Curtis sees patients at the Physicians' Primary Care family medicine office in Cape Coral at 1255 Viscaya Parkway. Dr. Rocha-Rodriguez sees patients at the Fort Myers pediatrics office at 9350 Camelot Drive and the Lehigh office at 5700



Dr. Georgia Rocha-Rodriguez

Lee Boulevard at the Olympia Pointe entrance.

Selections are made through a national survey of physicians and hospital administrators conducted by Castle Connolly, an independent research and information company that is the nation's leading provider of information on top physicians. After the votes are tallied, Castle Connolly ensures that the physicians meet the company's criteria, which include board certification, years of experience in their specialties and a clean disciplinary record.

"Castle Connolly is widely recognized for its extensive research of the medical profession. This demonstrates to our patients that we have been evaluated and meet their highest standards," said Dr. Mary Yankaskas, managing physician of Physicians' Primary Care of Southwest Florida.

The physicians will be honored by *Gulfshore Life* magazine at an awards banquet.*

and open additional collection sites due to demand. The Page Field Lee Convenient Care office is located at 4771 South Cleveland Avenue in Fort Myers.

"Increasing the number of individuals being tested is a priority for Lee Health to help reduce the spread of coronavirus in our community," said Larry Antonucci, MD, MBA, Lee Health president and CEO. "This is a key juncture point in managing this disease, and Lee Health is doing everything we can to protect the community."

The mobile site is for collection of COVID-19 samples only. The specimens will be sent to a lab for testing, which takes three to four days to return.

U.S. Senator Rick Scott expressed his appreciation for Lee Health's efforts on Friday, tweeting: "Thanks to Lee Health for limiting exposure and working to get more people tested. This model can be replicated across the state of Florida to immediately expand testing and keep health care professionals safe."**

Beautifulife:

Calm, Cool And Collected



by Kay Casperson

It doesn't matter what is happening in the world, or what situations may be affecting your own slice of life – three phrases need to remain on top of your mind: Stay calm, be cool and

keep collected.

It is easy to jump to a conclusion or be swayed one way or another if you allow yourself to make quick decisions based on fear or panic. The reality is that if you make an extra effort to dive deeper into the facts, assess each situation with eyes wide open and a clear mindset, you will remain in control of things that can affect you. Not only will this be better for you but for those around you as well.

Here are a few suggestions for how to make this happen in your life:

Stop, take a step back and assess things before responding in fear, anger or panic. Regardless of what the situation is, there can be a positive outcome if you learn all the details, not just from one source but a few that you are sure can be trusted with the truth. Remember, not all information that is available is correct. Especially in our environment of social

media and search engines, there is a multitude of opinions that are just that, an opinion and not necessarily truth.

Keep your faith, prayer and meditation in the forefront of your life as it can be your saving grace when it comes to jumping too fast. Don't let your actions be determined by fear. Realize that faith and fear can not live in the same space.

Give yourself simple words of affirmations to live by every day. For example, "I am at peace," "I am in control," "I am wise," "I am confident." These simple phrases will help you get through anything if you believe them at the same time they are said.

Allowing yourself to make wise decisions based on knowledge and control will continue to keep your life peaceful and more meaningful. Being calm, cool and collected means to be completely relaxed, and to keep your composure. If you have the confidence to get through anything, the outcome will be positive. This way of thinking and doing will continue to lead you to your most balanced and beautiful life.

My affirmation for you this week is:

"I will take a step back to assess things on my own time in order to remain calm, cool and collected in all situations."

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.*

Mobile Collection Site To Test For COVID-19

Lee Health has established a drive-up site to collect specimens for COVID-19 to increase access for the number of people being tested in the community. The mobile site is in the parking lot of the Lee Convenient Care office at Page Field.

Patients must have an order from their physician or provider and make an appointment before showing up to the collection site. These requirements are necessary to maintain an orderly collection process. Patients who are experiencing symptoms and don't have a test order should call their primary care physician.

The collection site opens today at noon and will be open seven days a week from noon to 4 p.m. The site will initially have the capacity to collect up to 32 specimens per day. Lee Health has plans in place to expand the hours

YOUR NEUROLOGICAL SYMPTOMS MAY HAVE A STRUCTURAL CAUSE!

- Balance problems
- Blurred vision
- Dizziness / vertigo
- Fainting / drop attacks
- Swallowing or speaking difficulties
- Tinnitus or hearing problems
- Torticollis / cervical dystonia
- And many more!

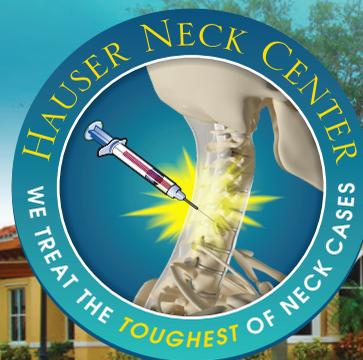
The Hauser Neck Center at Caring Medical Florida specializes in unique, dynamic diagnostic tests that find what traditional MRI scans can miss, and Comprehensive H3 Prolotherapy to treat the underlying structural cause of chronic neck pain, migraines, and neurological symptoms.

Learn more at CaringMedical.com and contact our team to review your case!



Ross Hauser, MD

Hauser Neck Center
Caring Medical Florida
9738 Commerce Center Ct.
Fort Myers, FL 33908
(239) 308-4725
DrHauser@CaringMedical.com



HELPING THE WORLD SEE CERVICAL INSTABILITY WITH 2020 VISION!

dearRPharmacist

How To Make An Herbal Immune Tea



by Suzy Cohen, RPh

Dear Readers: There are several herbs that I'd like to talk to you about because they are known to have some benefits for your immune system. This isn't to discount Vitamin D or Vitamin C, two

vitamins that can support your immune system, but rather to enhance what those nutrients can do.

Herbs can be made into a tea or what's termed a decoction. I made a video to show you how easy it is to make this at home, provided you have the herbs. Those can be purchased online, or at health food stores. There is still plenty of bulk herb to buy so hopefully we won't run out of those. My video is live on youtube. You can search it by the title *Make Your Own Immune Tea Amid Coronavirus Fears*.

Here is my recipe for "Immune Tea" and, following it, you will see the rationale for the inclusion of these precious, effective and safe herbs.

Suzy's Immune Tea:

Ingredients

4 or 5 cups water

1 tblsp. of elderberries

1 tblsp. of Echinacea

1 tblsp. of orange peel

2 tsp. licorice root

Optional: honey to sweeten

Directions: Pour four to five cups of water into a pot, and add the herbs. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to a very gentle simmer and continue simmering for approximately 30

minutes. You may strain the herbs and put into a glass jar or pitcher. Shelf life is about three days. Sweeten if desired. Drink one cup daily.

Elderberry – Black elderberries have been used as anti-virals and natural antibiotics against cough, colds and the flu for centuries. Studies in test tubes and humans prove demonstrable efficacy when it comes to inhibiting the influenza virus (and other bacteria).

Echinacea – This herb has been used for centuries to help control symptoms of the common cold, influenza and other viruses. It can inhibit "hemagglutinin" and "neuraminidase," which are specific to influenza. When echinacea does inhibit these compounds inside your cells, it controls the spreading and severity of symptoms of influenza.

Orange Peel – This is just the rind of an orange, but it's dried up. It adds Vitamin C, which has documentation for its ability to shorten the duration of a cold. It is a strong antioxidant.

Licorice Root – This contains glycyrrhizic acid, a compound that is known to inhibit viral growth (slow it down), as well as directly inactivate certain viral particles. A study in the *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry* in 2005 showed that glycyrrhizin could "inhibit SARS-coronavirus (SARS-CoV) replication in vitro."

I have a longer version of this article that I can email to you if you sign up for my free health newsletter at www.suzycohen.com

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

Read us online at
IslandSunNews.com

Public Health Awareness Fair To Be Postponed

In an abundance of caution and for the safety of Floridians, the Florida Department Health in Lee County (DOH-Lee) in partnership with Lee Health and First Assembly Cornerstone has decided to postpone the Community Faith and Wellness in Action Health Fair, a community event to raise and promote public health awareness.

The event was scheduled for Saturday, March 21 at First Assembly Cornerstone Church in Fort Myers. Information on the new date will be announced at a later time.

COVID-19 is an emerging respiratory disease, and there is more to learn about its transmission, clinical course and populations at increased risk of disease and complications, especially older adults and people who have

severe underlying chronic medical conditions like heart or lung disease or diabetes.

People who are at higher risk are encouraged to avoid crowds as much as possible. Everyone can do their part to help plan, prepare and respond to this emerging public health threat.

Everyone plays a part in lowering the impact within our communities and workplaces by taking every day preventative actions helps to impede the spread of respiratory diseases such as COVID-19. Preventative actions include:

Washing your hands frequently with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom, before eating and after blowing your nose, coughing or sneezing. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60 percent alcohol.

Avoiding close contact with people who are sick.

Staying home when you are sick. This message cannot be emphasized

Doctor and Dietician

Crispy Tofu With Veggies In Asian Peanut Sauce



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

We love tofu. And we have found the secret to making it just the way we like it – crispy! The secret to crispy tofu is to first purchase the right kind of tofu. Organic extra-firm is the way to go. You want to choose organic to avoid pesticides that are commonly used on soybean crops.

The second secret is to squeeze out as much moisture as possible. Drain the tofu and wrap it in a dishcloth. Gently press. Slice the tofu lengthwise and wrap a clean dishcloth around it for 30 minutes minimum. (Or overnight in the fridge!)

The third secret is to toss your tofu in a drizzle of oil, soy sauce and a couple tablespoons of cornstarch or arrowroot, with your favorite seasonings. The starch makes the edges extra crispy and delicious.

Here's my recipe – amounts are approximate:

1 block organic extra-firm tofu
1 to 3 tsp. coconut oil
2 to 4 tbsp. soy sauce, tamari, or Bragg's aminos
2 to 4 tbsp. corn starch or arrowroot

¼ to ½ tsp. each of ginger, garlic powder, Adobo, chili powder, Hungarian paprika

1 tbsp. brown sugar or honey
Veggies (peapods, onions, garlic, carrots, broccoli, mushrooms – choose your favorites)

2 cups organic vegetable or chicken broth

2 tbsp. peanut butter (or other nut butter)

Fresh ginger and turmeric (about one inch), chopped (or substitute ½ tsp. dried)

Rice or quinoa, made with coconut milk and/or vegetable broth

Garnish, fresh lime, chopped cilantro, hot sauce

1. Cook rice or quinoa. Season as desired.

2. Prepare the tofu with seasonings, spread on a greased baking sheet, bake for 25 to 30 minutes at 400 degrees.

3. Sauce: In a saucepan, combine broth, peanut butter, seasonings, soy sauce, two tablespoons of cornstarch. Whisk together. If you like a sweeter sauce, add another tablespoon of brown sugar. Stir in fresh ginger and turmeric root, heat until thickened, continually whisking. Set aside.

4. Sauté veggies in a wok with a little oil. Toss with about half of the sauce. Set aside.

5. Serve cooked rice in a large shallow bowl, top with cooked veggies, placing crispy tofu on top. Add remaining sauce.

6. Garnish with fresh lime, cilantro, or hot sauce or whatever you like. Other options are shredded coconut, pineapple, chopped cashews, red pepper flakes – sky's the limit! Cheers!

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

enough.

Employees who have symptoms of acute respiratory illness are recommended to stay home and not come to work until they are free of fever (100.4° F or greater using an oral thermometer), signs of a fever and any other symptoms for at least 24 hours, without the use of fever-reducing or other symptom-altering medicines (e.g. cough suppressants).

Employees should notify their supervisor and stay home if they are sick.

Before traveling take certain steps: Check CDC's Traveler's Health Notices for the latest guidance and recommendations for each country to which you will travel.

Employees who become sick while traveling must understand that they should notify their supervisor and should promptly call a healthcare provider for advice if needed.

The Department's dedicated COVID-19 webpage at www.floridahealth.gov/covid-19 remains the

best and most up-to-date resource for information and guidance regarding COVID-19 in Florida.

The Department of Health has set up a dedicated COVID-19 Call Center for questions about this virus. Anyone with questions may call 1-866-779-6121 or email covid-19@flhealth.gov. The call center is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.✱

Talk On Medical Breakthroughs Canceled

Due to the threat of coronavirus, Shell Point Retirement Community has canceled its 5th annual 2020 Medical Breakthroughs & Discoveries series presentation by Jay Saccaro, which was scheduled for Monday, March 30 at 7 p.m.

For more information, visit www.shellpoint.org or call 433-7936.✱

PETS OF THE WEEK photos provided

Lee County Domestic Animal Services

Angus And Two Socks



Angus ID# A813802

Hello, my name is Angus. I am a 6-year-old male black mouth cur mix who is a beautifully built fellow with rugged good looks that are second only to my fun-loving personality. My ideal home would be with an active family that will take me for long walks or have a big back yard to run around and play. If you have a canine sibling for me that would be an added bonus!

My adoption fee is \$10.

I bet you can guess how this pretty girl got her name! Hi, my name is Two Socks. I have two white paws that look like socks. I am a 3-year-old female domestic shorthair who has a



Two Socks ID# A813918

very inquisitive personality. I want to see what everyone, including my feline friends, are doing. I keep myself entertained just watching everything that goes on around me. Head bumps are my way of showing affection when I like you.

My adoption fee has been waived.

Are you looking to adopt a new furry friend? Whether you are looking for a dog, cat, bunny or perhaps a ferret, stop by Lee County Domestic Animal Services in March to see the fun and games we have planned. Adoption fees on all adult dogs and cats will be reduced to just \$40 with an approved application. In addition, play our game of the day to win a prize with your adoption.

*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.lee.gov/animalservices or call 533-7387.**

Learn How To Hunt Wild Turkeys

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has launched a new online guide with information about how to hunt wild turkeys. Information hunters can learn include finding a place to hunt, scouting, calling, needed apparel and gear, regulations and license requirements. Florida's wild turkey season opens March 7 south of State Road 70 and March 21 in the rest of the state on lands outside of the wildlife management area (WMA) system.

"Wild turkeys are challenging to hunt. They're extremely wary and have sharp eyesight and excellent hearing," said Buddy Welch, FWC's wild turkey management program coordinator. "Our new guide is a great way to learn the basics about turkey hunting, but there's no substitution for getting outdoors and putting your skills to the test."

Florida's abundant wild turkey populations offer sustainable harvest opportunities throughout the state. For hunters who don't know where to go, the FWC also offers a guide that lists public hunting opportunities where a quota permit is

not required. However, to hunt one of these wildlife management areas, hunters need a hunting license, turkey permit and a management area permit. Because season dates and other regulations can vary, hunters should always check the WMA regulations brochure for the area they wish to hunt.

The Sunshine State is home to healthy populations of two wild turkey subspecies: eastern and Osceola. Florida is unique because the Osceola subspecies lives only on the state's peninsula and nowhere else in the world. Osceola wild turkeys are similar to the eastern wild turkey subspecies, which is found in north Florida and throughout the eastern United States. However, Osceolas tend to be smaller and darker with less white barring on the wings.

The FWC's wildlife professionals use scientific data to conserve wild turkey populations and provide regulated and sustainable hunting opportunities. Hunters also play an important role in wild turkey management by purchasing licenses and permits, and along with other shooting sports enthusiasts, contributing to the successful wildlife and sport fish restoration program.

To learn more about wild turkey management and hunting, visit www.myfwc.com/turkey.*



Emergency	911
Lee County Sheriff's Office	477-1200
Florida Marine Patrol	332-6966
Florida Highway Patrol	278-7100
Poison Control	1-800-282-3171
HealthPark Medical Center	1-800-936-5321
Ft. Myers Chamber of Commerce	332-3624
Foundation for Quality Childcare	425-2685
Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce	454-7500
Fort Myers Beach Library	463-9691
Lakes Regional Library	533-4000
Lee County Chamber of Commerce	931-0931
Post Office	1-800-275-8777
Visitor & Convention Bureau	338-3500
ARTS	
Alliance for the Arts	939-2787
Arts For ACT Gallery & Studio	337-5050
Art League Of Fort Myers	275-3970
Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall	481-4849
BIG ARTS	395-0900
Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre	278-4422
Cultural Park Theatre	772-5862
Edison Festival of Light	334-2999
Florida Repertory Theatre at the Arcade	332-4488
Florida West Arts	948-4427
Fort Myers Harmonica Band	610-653-7940
Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers	288-2535
Gulf Coast Symphony	489-1800
Harmony Chorus, Charles Sutter, Pres	481-8059
Naples Philharmonic	239-597-1111
The Schoolhouse Theater	472-6862
SW Florida Symphony	418-0996
Theatre Conspiracy	936-3239
Young Artists Awards	574-9321
CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS	
American Legion Post #38	239-332-1853
Angel Flight	1-877-4AN-ANGEL
Animal Refuge Center	731-3535
American Business Women Association	357-6755
Audubon of SWFL	https://www.audubonswfl.org/
Caloosahatchee Chapter DAR	482-1366
Caloosahatchee Folk Society	321-4620
Cape Chorale Barbershop Chorus	1-855-425-3631
Cape Coral Stamp Club	542-9153
duPont Company Retirees	454-1083
Edison Porcelain Artists	415-2484
Embroiderers Guild of America - Sea Grape Chapter	239-267-1990
FM UDC Chapter 2614 - United Daughters of the Confederacy	728-3743
Friendship Force Of SW FL	561-9164
Garden Club of Cape Coral	239-257-2654
Horticulture and Tea Society	472-8334
Horticultural Society	472-6940
Lee County Genealogical Society	549-9625
Lee Trust for Historic Preservation	939-7278
NARFE (National Active & Retired Federal Employees)	482-6713
Navy Seabees Veterans of America	731-1901
Paradise Iowa Club of SWFL	667-1354
Sons of Confederate Veterans	332-2408
Southwest Florida Fencing Academy	939-1338
Southwest Florida Music Association	561-2118
Kiwanis Fort Myers Beach	765-4254 or 454-8090
Kiwanis Fort Myers Edison	694-1056
Kiwanis Fort Myers South	691-1405
Iona-McGregor	482-0869
Lions Club Fort Myers Beach	463-9738
Lions Club Fort Myers High Noon	466-4228
Lions Club Estero/South Fort Myers	898-1921
Notre Dame Club of Lee County	768-0417
Organ Transplant Recipients of SW Florida	247-3073
POLO Club of Lee County	477-4906
Rotary Club of Fort Myers	332-8158
Sanibel-Captiva Orchid Society	472-6940
United Way of Lee County	433-2000
United Way 211 Helpline (24 hour)	211 or 433-3900
AREA ATTRACTIONS	
Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum	395-2233
Burrough's Home	337-9505
Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium	275-3435
Edison & Ford Winter Estates	334-7419
Fort Myers Skate Park	321-7558
Imaginarium Hands-On Museum & Aquarium	321-7420
JN "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge	472-1100
Koreshan State Historic Site	239-992-0311
Langford Kingston Home	239-334-2550
Ostego Bay Foundation Marine Science Center	765-8101
Skatium	321-7510
Southwest Florida Historical Society	939-4044
Southwest Florida Museum of History	321-7430
True Tours	945-0405

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

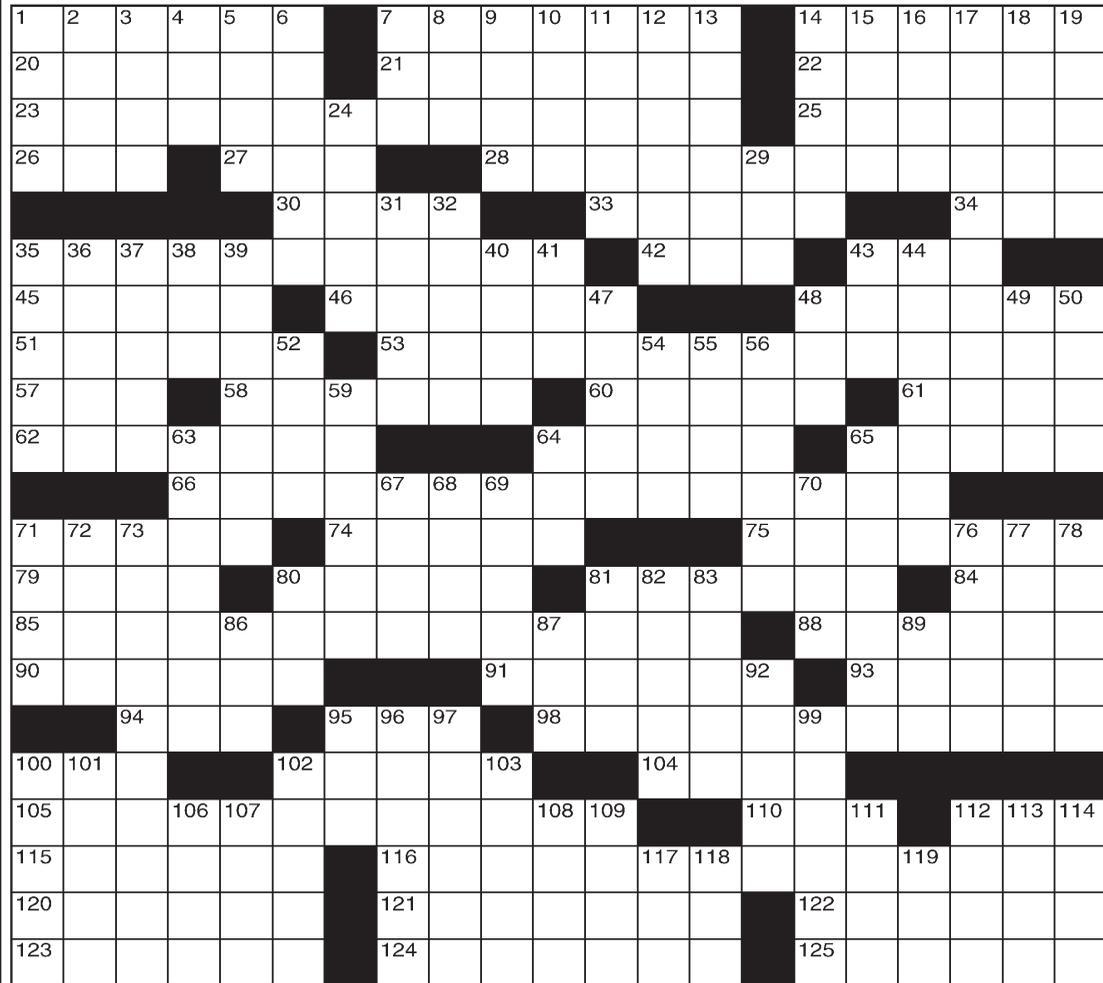
PUZZLES

Answers on page 28

Super Crossword

"CAN'T YOU SEE I'M DIZZY?!"

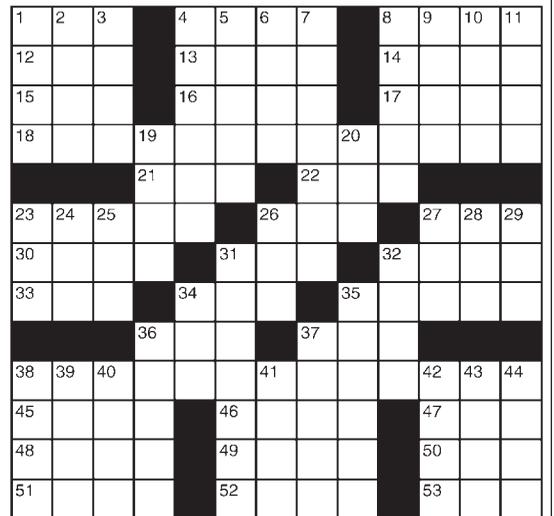
- ACROSS**
- 1 Bar mitzvah language
 - 7 Its capital is Montgomery
 - 14 Old jazz buff
 - 20 Henry II player Peter
 - 21 Horse feed supporter
 - 22 106-Down on Cal Ripken's cap
 - 23 Amaze a Sherlock Holmes portrayer?
 - 25 — acid (corrosive liquid)
 - 26 — -mo
 - 27 Brighton brew
 - 28 12-month famine?
 - 30 Trendy berry in juices
 - 33 Shire of film
 - 34 Goddess of the dawn
 - 35 Singer Brown got dressed?
 - 42 Gridiron gains: Abbr.
 - 43 Pen giant
 - 45 Make reparations
 - 46 Cosa — (Mafia's kin)
 - 48 Areas of expertise
 - 51 Provides party platters
 - 53 Determine which team scored?
 - 57 Supper scrap
 - 58 "Egypt — up like a flood": Jeremiah 46:8
 - 60 "NO TURN —" (traffic sign)
 - 61 Octa- plus one
 - 62 Relative of a résumé
 - 64 Judge on the bench, e.g.
 - 65 Bee creation
 - 66 Fact about a consolidation loan?
 - 71 Two-spot
 - 74 University in Atlanta
 - 75 In — (owing)
 - 79 Old science magazine
 - 80 Balance pan gains: Abbr.
 - 81 Pittsburgh's Carnegie — University
 - 84 Instructors' org.
 - 85 Sub-shop blaze?
 - 88 Relative key of B minor
 - 90 Michelangelo work
 - 91 California wine region
 - 93 Old Greek market
 - 94 Erwin of old films
 - 95 "The Tell-Tale Heart" taleteller
 - 98 Moola earned by a love god?
 - 100 Blocks from the freezer
 - 102 Is up against
 - 104 School in Berkshire
 - 105 Road named after singer Deanna?
 - 110 Seeded loaf
 - 112 — Alamitos, California
 - 115 Thinking the world of
 - 116 What to do to socks that tear every 24 hours?
 - 120 Appear
 - 121 Asinine
 - 122 Late actress Brennan
 - 123 Hot- — (drag racer)
 - 124 Turn from a straight line
 - 125 Say "no" to
- DOWN**
- 1 Mortar trays
 - 2 List-ending abbr.
 - 3 TV clown
 - 4 "Frasier" woman
 - 5 Jazz singer Fitzgerald
 - 6 Li'l fellow
 - 7 Gasteyer of "Mean Girls"
 - 8 Truckload
 - 9 Deadly pale
 - 10 Neuwirth of "Frasier"
 - 11 "If I Had —" (Lyle Lovett song)
 - 12 American avant-garde artist
 - 13 Antediluvian
 - 14 Toyota rival
 - 15 Iroquois foe
 - 16 Falafel bread
 - 17 Amendment
 - 18 Samuel of justice
 - 19 PC whizzes
 - 24 Intel mission
 - 29 Hi- — (stereos)
 - 31 Positive pole
 - 32 Atlas feature
 - 35 Son of Isaac
 - 36 Video game name
 - 37 Catchphrase
 - 38 Phenyl ender
 - 39 Saw-toothed
 - 40 Ingrain
 - 41 Soft & —
 - 43 Jazz genre
 - 44 Limonite, e.g.
 - 47 Worship
 - 48 Nursed, say
 - 49 Kin of -ess
 - 50 Don't depart
 - 52 Uses a stool
 - 54 Writer Blyton
 - 55 Grove plant
 - 56 Kind of tea
 - 59 — Field (Mariners' stadium)
 - 63 Most chancy
 - 64 "— will be done"
 - 65 Very irate
 - 67 Arabian Sea country
 - 68 Actor's part
 - 69 Long lock of hair
 - 70 Stomped
 - 71 Tip, as a hat
 - 72 Arab bigwig
 - 73 Frank and open
 - 76 Pear variety
 - 77 Corp. shuffling
 - 78 Mother of Isaac
 - 80 — -cone
 - 81 List of dishes
 - 82 Get hitched on the fly
 - 83 Maximum
 - 86 Post-OR area
 - 87 OR worker
 - 89 Before now
 - 92 Prettify
 - 95 "NerdTV" network
 - 96 Bested
 - 97 Online investing site
 - 99 Tom of "Tomorrow"
 - 100 Slacking sort
 - 101 Pataki's predecessor Mario
 - 102 Make furious
 - 103 Font flourish
 - 106 Nest builder
 - 107 "Picnic" dramatist William
 - 108 Organic compound
 - 109 Head, to Gigi
 - 111 Falco with four Emmys
 - 112 In — of (rather than)
 - 113 Jai-alai cries
 - 114 "Auld Lang —"
 - 117 Amp plug-in
 - 118 Masquerade
 - 119 Furry TV alien



King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Symbol of intrigue
- 4 Jet forth
- 8 Faucet problem
- 12 Shade
- 13 Part of the foot
- 14 Solemn promise
- 15 Geological period
- 16 Silver salmon
- 17 Wrinkly fruit
- 18 Informal game
- 21 "Absolutely"
- 22 Deposit
- 23 Brilliance
- 26 Cotillion honoree
- 27 Blond shade
- 30 Proper subject?
- 31 Stop running
- 32 Toll road
- 33 Pooch
- 34 Cover
- 35 Bizarre
- 36 "A mouse!"
- 37 Donkey
- 38 Uncanny ability to make money
- 45 Memory unit
- 46 Tittle
- 47 Aye canceler
- 48 Practice pugilism
- 49 Heal, as a fracture
- 50 Little demon
- 51 Bouquet
- 52 Withered
- 53 Ball prop
- 8 Uncertainty
- 9 Sitarist's music
- 10 "— have to do"
- 11 Collins or Donahue
- 19 Greenish-blue
- 20 Bathroom fixture
- 23 Conclusion
- 24 Bill's partner
- 25 Drag along
- 26 Accomplished
- 27 Football fill
- 28 Go downhill rapidly?
- 29 Haw preceder
- 31 Long-snouted antelopes
- 32 Mexican moola
- 34 Mainlander's memento
- 35 Will subject
- 36 Nail smoother
- 37 Moving about
- 38 Recipe meas.
- 39 Syringe, for short
- 40 Greek vowels
- 41 Top-notch
- 42 Troop group
- 43 Arrived
- 44 Advertise



DOWN

- 1 Sharpen
- 2 Continental coin
- 3 Bridges or Brummell
- 4 Potpourri bag
- 5 College lecturers, often
- 6 Reverberate
- 7 "Yahoo!"

MAGIC MAZE ● THE PEN

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

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

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|----------|
| Ballpoint | Fountain | Nib | Scribble |
| Documents | Ink | Paper | Stylus |
| Drawing | Instrument | Quill | Writing |
| Felt | Jot | Rollerball | |



SCRAMBLERS

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

Stride
CAPE

Humid
PICTOR

Alcove
INCHE

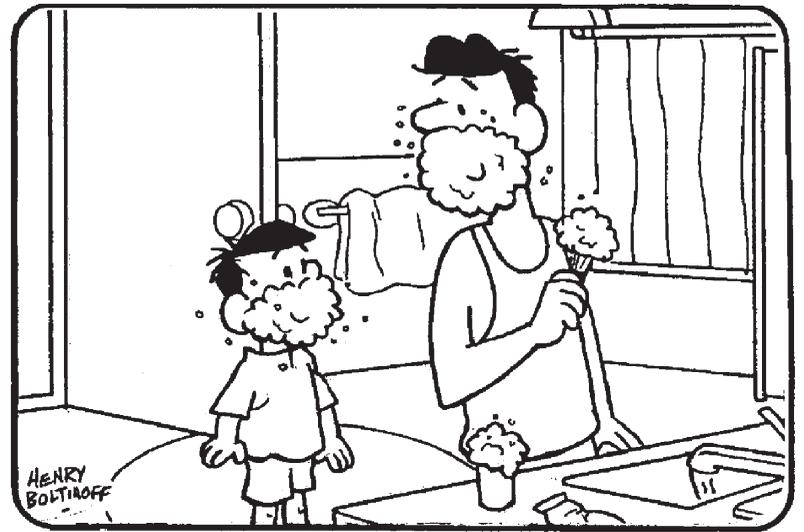
Ambition
RESIDE

"What I like best about _____ is you don't have to wash your hands before eating."
 Answer on page 31

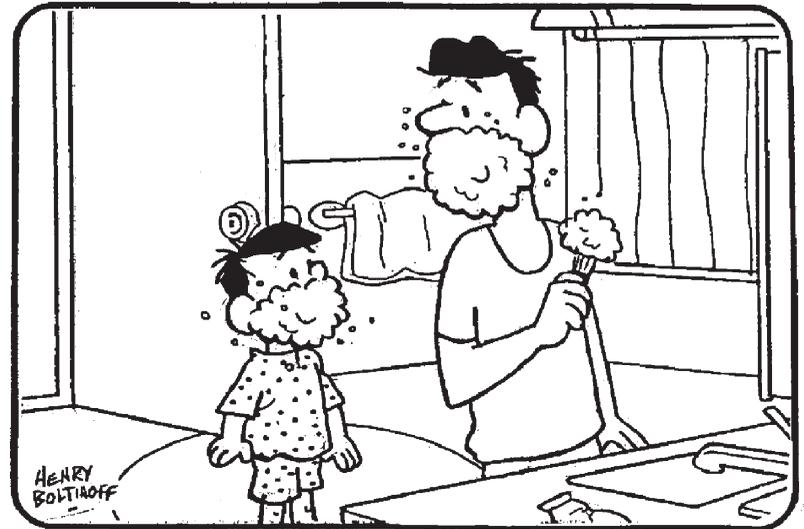
TODAY'S WORD

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



FIND AT LEAST SIX DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS



Differences: 1. Polka dots are added. 2. Knob is different. 3. Towel is shorter. 4. Shirt is different. 5. Cup is missing. 6. Water is off.

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

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 28



Beef Sliders with Candied Bacon and Tomato Jam

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1 head of lettuce
- Candied bacon
- Tomato jam
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose seasoning (such as Everglades)
- Slider condiments (mayonnaise, mustard, ketchup)
- 8 mini buns or slider rolls
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste

Preheat grill to medium-high. Season ground beef with all-purpose seasoning and mix thoroughly. Form into 8 (2-ounce) patties and season with salt and pepper. Place onto grill and cook for 3-4 minutes per side, depending on the desired internal temperature. Remove from heat and assemble burgers with tomato jam and candied bacon as desired. Serve immediately. Servings 4.

Tomato Jam

- 3 Tomatoes, finely chopped
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 2 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1/2 Sweet onion, diced small



Beef Sliders with Candied Bacon and Tomato Jam

- 2 tablespoons fresh thyme
- 2 tablespoons apple cider vinegar
- 1 Lemon zested and juiced
- 1 tablespoon tomato paste
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- 1 tablespoon all-purpose seasoning

- Pinch red pepper flakes
- 2 tablespoons water
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste
- Combine all ingredients into a medium pot. Bring to a boil and reduce to simmer

photo courtesy Fresh From Florida

for at least 30 minutes or until jam has reduced and thickened. Taste and adjust seasoning as needed. Remove from heat and allow to cool completely. ✨

 FRIDAY Sunny High: 78 Low: 69	 SATURDAY Sunny High: 75 Low: 66	 SUNDAY Partly Cloudy High: 76 Low: 67	 MONDAY Sunny High: 79 Low: 69	 TUESDAY Mostly Sunny High: 76 Low: 67	 WEDNESDAY Sunny High: 79 Low: 69	 THURSDAY Mostly Sunny High: 81 Low: 70
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Redfish Pass Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	1:39 pm	6:07 am	11:50 pm	5:39 pm
Sat	1:50 pm	6:41 am	None	6:23 pm
Sun	12:38 am	7:09 am	2:00 pm	6:59 pm
Mon	1:19 am	7:32 am	2:08 pm	7:33 pm
Tue	1:56 am	7:52 am	2:16 pm	8:05 pm
Wed	2:33 am	8:11 am	2:27 pm	8:39 pm
Thu	3:10 am	8:28 am	2:43 pm	9:16 pm

Point Ybel Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	12:44 pm	6:09 am	10:55 pm	5:41 pm
Sat	12:55 pm	6:43 am	11:43 pm	6:25 pm
Sun	1:05 pm	7:11 am	None	7:01 pm
Mon	12:24 am	7:34 am	1:13 pm	7:35 pm
Tue	1:01 am	7:54 am	1:21 pm	8:07 pm
Wed	1:38 am	8:13 am	1:32 pm	8:41 pm
Thu	2:15 am	8:30 am	1:48 pm	9:18 pm

Punta Rassa Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	1:03 pm	5:56 am	11:54 pm	5:56 pm
Sat	1:14 pm	6:38 am	None	6:39 pm
Sun	12:32 am	7:14 am	1:30 pm	7:17 pm
Mon	1:04 am	7:45 am	1:49 pm	7:53 pm
Tue	1:34 am	8:14 am	2:09 pm	8:28 pm
Wed	2:06 am	8:38 am	2:25 pm	9:02 pm
Thu	2:40 am	8:58 am	2:31 pm	9:37 pm

Cape Coral Bridge Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	1:00 am	9:23 am	3:49 pm	8:55 pm
Sat	2:00 am	9:57 am	4:00 pm	9:39 pm
Sun	2:48 am	10:25 am	4:10 pm	10:15 pm
Mon	3:29 am	10:48 am	4:18 pm	10:49 pm
Tue	4:06 am	11:08 am	4:26 pm	11:21 pm
Wed	4:43 am	11:27 am	4:37 pm	11:55 pm
Thu	5:20 am	11:44 am	4:53 pm	None

PUZZLE ANSWERS

SUPER CROSSWORD

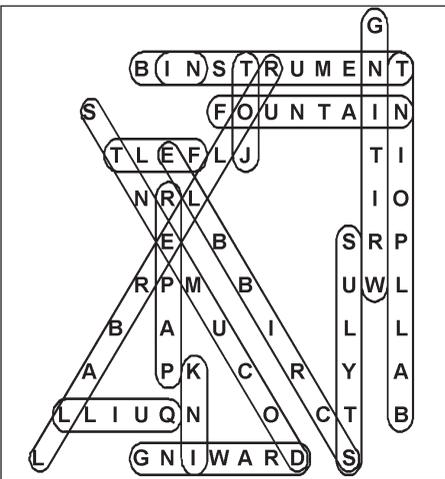
KING CROSSWORD

MAGIC MAZE

SUDOKU

H	E	B	R	E	W	A	L	A	B	A	M	A	H	E	P	C	A	T	
O	T	O	O	L	E	N	O	S	E	B	A	G	O	R	I	O	L	E	
D	A	Z	Z	L	E	R	A	T	H	B	O	N	E	N	I	T	R	I	C
S	L	O	A	L	E	Y	E	A	R	O	F	D	E	A	R	T	H		
			A	C	A	I	T	A	L	I	A	E	O	S					
J	A	M	E	S	D	O	N	N	E	D	Y	D	S	B	I	C			
A	T	O	N	E	N	O	S	T	R	A	F	O	R	T	E	S			
C	A	T	E	R	S	D	E	C	I	D	E	T	H	E	P	O	I	N	T
O	R	T	R	I	S	E	T	H	O	N	R	E	D	N	O	N	A		
B	I	O	D	A	T	A	T	R	I	E	R	H	O	N	E	Y			
			I	T	S	F	O	R	T	H	E	D	E	B	T	O	R		
D	E	U	C	E	E	M	O	R	Y	A	R	R	E	A	R	S			
O	M	N	I	S	C	A	L	E	M	E	L	L	O	N	N	E	A		
F	I	R	E	I	N	O	N	E	S	D	E	L	I	D	M	A	J	O	R
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2	8	4	9	6	3	7	5	1
5	9	7	8	2	1	6	3	4
6	1	3	7	4	5	9	2	8
9	7	5	6	8	2	4	1	3
8	6	1	4	3	9	5	7	2
3	4	2	5	1	7	8	6	9
1	5	9	3	7	8	2	4	6
4	3	8	2	5	6	1	9	7
7	2	6	1	9	4	3	8	5

TRIVIA TEST

- Advertising Slogans:** Which product was advertised as “the champagne of bottled beer”?
- Geography:** Which was the first designated national park in the United States?
- Bible:** From which book of the New Testament does the proverb “the blind leading the blind” originate?
- U.S. Presidents:** Which president established the Purple Heart award to military members injured or killed in battle?
- Literature:** What is the title of a classic novel that its British author originally named “Strangers from Within”?
- Animal Kingdom:** Which animal’s home is called a lodge?
- Food & Drink:** Which spice is described as “the Queen of Spices”?
- Music:** Who wrote the libretto and music to the opera *The Flying Dutchman*?
- History:** Which country’s revolution was described in the book *Ten Days That Shook the World*?
- Anatomy:** What is the most common blood type in humans?

TRIVIA ANSWERS

- Miller High Life
- Yellowstone
- Matthew
- George Washington
- Lord of the Flies
- William Golding
- Beaver
- Cardamom
- Richard Wagner
- Russia
- Positive

My Stars ★★★★★

FOR WEEK OF MARCH 23, 2020

- Aries** (March 21 to April 19)
Disappointed about something that didn’t go your way? Cheer up. Look at the reasons it happened, and you could find a valuable lesson about what to do (or not do!) the next time.
- Taurus** (April 20 to May 20) It’s a good time to do some reassessing of plans and goals – even how you considered redoing your bathroom. The point is to be open to change if change can improve things.
- Gemini** (May 21 to June 20) Take some time to learn who is the right person (or persons) to approach and discuss your ideas with for your new project. Also, reserve time to prepare for an upcoming family event.
- Cancer** (June 21 to July 22) Dealing with a demanding situation, as you recently did, could drain much of your own emotional reserves. Take time to relax and indulge yourself in some well-earned pampering.
- Leo** (July 23 to August 22) The regal Lion might feel that she or he is above emotional displays. But showing your feelings can be both liberating for you and reassuring for someone who has been waiting for you to do so.
- Virgo** (August 23 to September 22)
An emotionally needy person might make more demands than you can cope with. Best to ask for some breathing space NOW, before resentment sets in

- and makes communication difficult.
- Libra** (September 23 to October 22) An unexpected spate of mixed signals could cause serious schedule setbacks. Best to focus on straightening everything out as soon as possible and get everyone back on track.
- Scorpio** (October 23 to November 21) Be aware that someone in the workplace could try to use a disagreement with a colleague against you. If so, be prepared to offer your side of the story with the facts to back you up.
- Sagittarius** (November 22 to December 21) An unexpected challenge to a previous decision can be unsettling. But your reservoir of self-confidence – plus your loyal supporters – should help carry the day for you. Good luck.
- Capricorn** (December 22 to January 19) While the idea of making some sort of major move in the near future continues to interest you, don’t overlook a new possibility that could be emerging closer to home.
- Aquarius** (January 20 to February 18) Be careful not to base an upcoming decision on gossip or anything you might hear if it can’t meet provable standards. That’s true regardless of whom the source might be.
- Pisces** (February 19 to March 20)
You might still need to do some solid reassessing early in the week before you can close that sensitive situation. A new job-related opportunity could present itself later in the week.

Born This Week: You are extraordinarily sensitive to people’s feelings, and you’re always ready to offer comfort if necessary.

MOMENTS IN TIME

- On March 25, 1911, the Triangle Shirtwaist Company factory in New York City burns down, killing 145 trapped workers within minutes. Only one elevator was operational, one of two exit stairways was locked from the outside and the inside fire hose was rotted and its valve rusted shut.
- On March 29, 1929, President Herbert Hoover has a phone installed at his desk in the Oval Office of the White House. Previously, Hoover had used a phone in the foyer outside the office.
- On March 27, 1939, the University of Oregon defeats Ohio State University to win the first-ever NCAA men’s basketball tournament, now known as “March Madness.”
- On March 26, 1953, American medical researcher Dr. Jonas Salk announces that he has successfully tested a vaccine against poliomyelitis, the virus that causes the crippling disease of polio. In 1952 there were 58,000 new cases reported in the U.S., and more than 3,000 people died.
- On March 28, 1979, a pressure valve in a nuclear reactor at Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania fails to close, setting off the worst accident in the history of the U.S. nuclear power

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RENTAL WANTED

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Stan@cosmeticindex.com
2/14 * 4/3

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3/6 * 3/27

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3/20 * 3/27

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10/11 * 4/3

LOST & FOUND

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3/13 * 3/20

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GARAGE SALE

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3/13 * 3/20

PSA



Narconon reminds families that the opiate problem in the U.S. is continuing to worsen and it's more important than ever to know and understand the signs and symptoms of an opiate overdose. To learn more about how to identify the signs and symptoms of opiate abuse, go to: <http://www.narconon-suncoast.org/blog/how-to-recognize-signs-of-an-opiate-overdose.html>
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From page 28

Moments In Time

industry. Safety devices would have prevented the crisis, but human operators misread readings and shut off the emergency water system.

- On March 23, 1983, Barney Clark dies 112 days after becoming the world's first recipient of a permanent artificial heart. The 61-year-old dentist spent the final four months of his life attached to a 350-pound console that pumped air in and out of the aluminum-and-plastic implant.

- On March 24, 1996, U.S. astronaut Shannon Lucid transfers to the Russian space station Mir from the space shuttle Atlantis for a planned five-month stay. Her return to Earth was delayed more than six weeks because of last-minute repairs to Atlantis' booster rockets and then by a hurricane.

NOW HERE'S A TIP

- Most people wash their sheets, and some people fluff and air out their pillow. But how many properly clean their mattress? Vacuum the mattress surface at least every three months. Sprinkle with baking soda to absorb any odors.

- "I use my panini press to make hash browns because I like them nice and crispy on both sides. It works out great!" – LR in Florida

- If you're adding fruit to muffins or quick breads, just make sure you toss them in flour first. It will keep them from sinking to the bottom, distributing them more evenly throughout the bread.

- Need more storage in a small bathroom? Try installing a shelf over the door. It's an out of the way area where you can store items you don't need

SCRAMBLERS

1. Pace; 2. Tropic;
3. Niche; 4. Desire

Today's Word
PICNICS

daily, but do need accessible.

- Use a serrated knife to cut the dome tops off of cake layers, then put them in the freezer for 30 minutes. It will make it easier to frost, and you'll get less crumbs that come up.

- "I often get up during the night to take medicine to help me sleep better. It's hard to see and line up the marks to open the container. So I got a permanent black marker and highlighted them (I even made them larger). Now it's easy to line them up in the dark." – DE in California

STRANGE BUT TRUE

- In the mood for a looong vacation? Consider the planet Uranus. Its summer lasts 21 Earth years.

- It takes 700 gallons of water to

make a cotton shirt. To put that in perspective, the amount of water needed to make a T-shirt is enough for one person to stay hydrated for 900 days, while the amount necessary to create a pair of jeans is equivalent to hosing down your lawn for nine hours straight.

- The official color of the Golden Gate Bridge is "International Orange."

- Speaking of that delightful hue, Alexander the Great washed his hair in saffron to keep it shiny and orange.

- The world's least-common surnames include Sallow, Miracle and Relish, while extinct surnames include Bread, Spinster and Bythesea (By the sea).

- Your navel contains thousands of bacteria that form an ecosystem the size of an entire rainforest.

- Ever wondered about those ridges along the edges of some coins? They were the brainchild of Sir Isaac Newton, who while warden of the Royal Mint in 1696 used the reeded edges to help combat theft and counterfeiters.

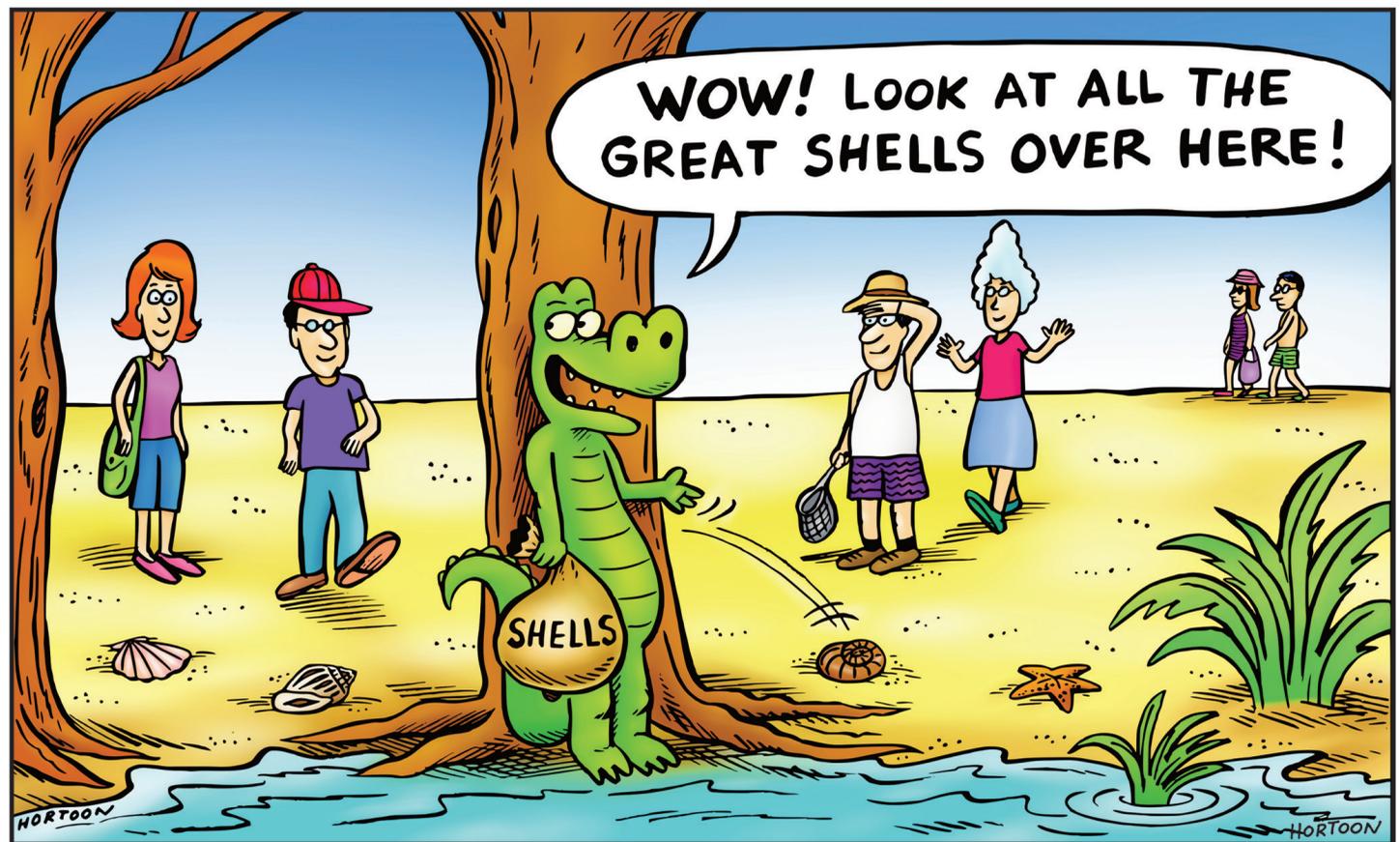
- After the hip-hop duo OutKast coined the phrase "shake it like a Polaroid picture" in their hit song "Hey Ya!" Polaroid released this statement: "Shaking or waving can actually damage the image."

- Just like fingerprints, no two tongue prints are alike.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"I don't need a friend who changes when I change and who nods when I nod; my shadow does that much better."
– Plutarch

HORTOONS



Top 10 Real Estate Sales

Subdivision	City	Year Built	Square Footage	Listing Price	Selling Price	Days On Market
Dickeys John R Subd	Captiva	1925	4,380	\$9,100,000	\$6,350,000	325
Metes And Bounds	Sanibel	2000	7,116	\$6,499,000	\$5,500,000	83
Dickeys John R Subd	Captiva	1976	2,805	\$3,700,000	\$2,650,000	359
Trevi	Miromar Lakes	2020	3,370	\$1,995,000	\$1,925,000	4
Fairview Isles	Fort Myers Beach	2016	2,111	\$1,800,000	\$1,675,000	47
Brynwood	Fort Myers	1977	7,866	\$1,699,000	\$1,250,000	86
Cases	Fort Myers Beach	1983	4,587	\$1,399,500	\$1,290,000	363
Chateaux Sur Mer Unrec	Sanibel	1992	3,909	\$1,389,000	1,295,000	420
The Dunes	Sanibel	1982	2,680	\$1,325,000	\$1,300,000	9
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	2013	2,872	\$1,295,000	\$1,170,000	124

Courtesy of Royal Shell Real Estate

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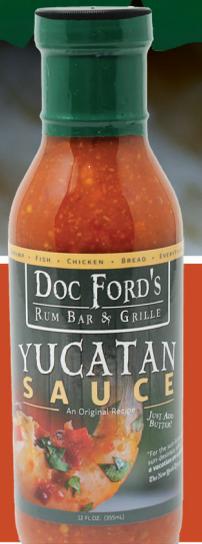


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