

Bianca J. Russell



Marvin D. Rouse



Nick Masiello



Cath Branwood

Traveling Art Exhibition Opens At Four Venues

A new traveling art installation called Murals on Tour opens Monday, December 21 at four Southwest Florida venues. The 12-week exhibition features works about the challenges faced by people in marginalized groups.

Murals on Tour features four works of art, each created by a different Southwest Florida artist. Bianca J. Russell, Marvin D. Rouse, Nick Masiello and Cath Branwood

have been selected to create pieces on nine-by-three-foot vinyl canvases. Each piece will be shown on a rotating schedule through March 12 at Nice Guys Pizza, Alliance for the Arts, Ollie's Pub and Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center. The exhibition will culminate in a homecoming celebration at the Love Your Rebellion (LYR) Zine Library at Neenie's House in East Fort Myers in the spring of 2021.

Murals on Tour aims to participate through the arts in an ongoing conversation about the challenges facing marginalized groups. Plus, the exhibition creates works of public art that are easily accessible due to their mobility. Murals on



Women What Art Thou by Cath Branwood

image provided

Tour also provides support for Southwest Florida artists from marginalized groups via exposure and compensation. Each artist is provided with a \$100 supply stipend for the project and paid \$250 for their completed piece.

Murals on Tour is developed by Love Your Rebellion and Artsemble Underground. Cesar Aguilera, LYR board member and co-founder of Artsemble Underground, spearheaded the program with Angela Page, LYR founder and board chair. LYR board members Danielle

Branchaud, Annie Pritchard and Jason Teeters are also part of the Murals on Tour committee. The exhibition is sponsored by the Fort Myers Mural Society.

The tour begins with *No More Fallen Crowns* by Bianca J. Russell at Nice Guys Pizza from December 21 to January 8. Nice Guys Pizza is located at 1334 Cape Coral Parkway East in Cape Coral.

For more information and the complete tour schedule, visit www.loveyourrebellion.org/murals-on-tour.✪



From left, Madelaine Weymouth, Margaret Cooley, Daniel Sabiston, Kat Ebaugh and Kayleigh O'Connell photo provided

Live Theater On The Patio For Three Nights Only

The Laboratory Theater of Florida will bring live theater back for three nights only – Thursday to Saturday, December 17, 18 and 19 – with a one-act play, *Projekt Grotesquerie*. Performances will be held at 7 p.m. and 8:30 p.m.

Rabbit Sterling Hunter is a bully. When he threatens those closest to him, will they act? And will there be consequences for the rabbit?

Written by K. O'Connell and showcasing fantastically handcrafted papier-mâché costumes reminiscent of 12th-century grotesque masks, Artistic Director Annette Trossbach directs this tale of good versus evil. This show features Kat Ebaugh, Daniel Sabiston, Margaret Cooley, Madelaine Weymouth, Kayleigh O'Connell, Chet Gridley, Jonathan Johnson and the voice of Steven Coe.

The short play is inspired by the Fasching tradition of Germany, in which wild characters and caricatures of public personas can be presented with no fear of political retribution. The characters are in larger-than-life wire and papier-mâché

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Holiday Nights Continues At Estates



Visitors admire the decorated homes and gardens during Holiday Nights at Edison and Ford Winter Estates photo provided

The 45th Holiday Nights celebration is under way at Edison and Ford Winter Estates. Several guest appearances have been scheduled for the remainder of the event.

The list of activities includes:
December 18 – Oak Hammock Middle School students dance performance, 6 and 7:30 p.m.
Pianist in the Edison Guest House, 6 to 8 p.m.
Family science show, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Inside-the-Homes Tour, 6:30 p.m. (registration required, 335-3674)
Food vendors: Coastal Dayz Brewery, Aux Delices and Green Cup Cafe
December 19 – Pianist in the Edison Guest House, 6 to 8 p.m.
Food vendors: Aux Delices, Coastal Dayz Brewery, Green Cup Cafe and Flying Eagle Kombucha
December 20 – Food vendors: Aux Delices and Coastal Dayz Brewery
December 21 – Food vendors: Aux

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Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

Heitman's Marketing Unrivaled, Especially At Christmas

by Gerri Reaves, PhD



One Christmastime treat that early Fort Myers could count on was the window displays and extravagance of merchandise at Harvie E Heitman's store at First and Jackson.

From its early years, the store was known for artistic window displays, big frontpage Christmas ads in the *Fort Myers Press*, out-of-the-ordinary merchandise and holiday events that promoted fun as well as profits.

Santa Claus appearances, fireworks and hot-air-balloon rides brought out the shoppers, as did an appearance on Christmas Eve 1897 by "the Yellow Kid," a character in the comic strip *Hogan's Alley*. A 1907 ad for "delicious edibles" for Christmas dinner offered a tantalizing menu ranging from caviar, "boiled salmon with

anchovies," and cove oysters to plum pudding and stuffed dates.

Appealing toys, games and imported novelties such Japanese lanterns made Christmas shopping a bit more cosmopolitan for Fort Myers shoppers – big-city merchandise without the downsides of city life, was the implication.

Heitman was the epitome of a hardworking and innovative businessman, so the seasonal hype makes sense. One wonders, however, if his December 17 birthday made the holiday season even more special for him.

Heitman had come to Fort Myers from North Carolina in 1888 at the age of only 16 to work for his great-uncle, Howell A. Parker, who ran a store on the northwest corner at First and Jackson. Howell is also notable in local history because he was voted the town's first mayor following the vote to incorporate in August 1885.

After the uncle's business failed in 1894, Harvie moved his own general store, HE



Heitman opened his new store at First and Jackson in February 1898. It was the business district's first brick building.

Heitman & Co., into the two-story wood frame store shown in the historic photo.

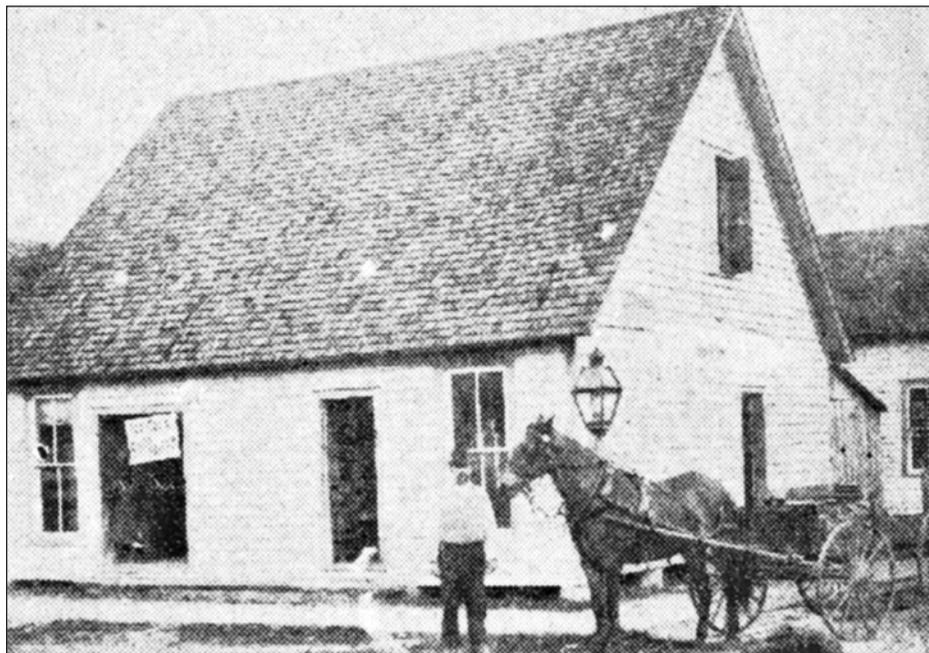
The natural-born businessman established a pattern of building and improving from the start and was perpetually involved in new ventures.

He soon built a bakery adjacent to the store. By Christmas 1894, the bakery was turning out cakes, pies and other goodies, as well as offering discounts to clubs, church groups and other organizations.

In October 1897, he began construction on the town's first modern brick building, pictured here circa 1909. Ambrose M McGregor was his financial partner in the venture.

The store had a grand opening in February 1898. He and his brother and partner,

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Harvie E. Heitman started his first store in 1894 in this wood frame building that was once the business of his great-uncle, Howell A. Parker photos courtesy SWFL Historical Society



The Heitman Building still stands on the northwest corner

photo by Gerri Reaves

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Two students of a Child Care of Southwest Florida early learning center photo provided

Register Your Child For Early Learning Sessions

Child Care of Southwest Florida is accepting new student registrations for all five of its early learning centers in Lee and Hendry counties.

Each location is accredited through the National Accreditation Commission for Early Learning Leaders and is a Gold Seal Quality Care Program through the Florida Department of Children and Families. Additionally, centers maintain five-star ratings through the Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida.

Child Care of Southwest Florida accepts children ages 6 weeks through 8 years old, including students enrolled in Florida's Volunteer Prekindergarten Education Program. VPK is a state-supported, high-quality early childhood education program that helps students develop a strong academic, social and behavioral foundation prior to entering school.

"The spring and summer terms are incredibly important for current 4- and 5-year-olds who will be entering kindergarten next fall," said Chris Hansen, CEO of Child Care of Southwest Florida.

"VPK helps students hit the ground running, and each of our locations still has space available for all age levels."

Child Care of Southwest Florida follows the nationally recognized, research-based Creative Curriculum, which builds a safe, nurturing learning environment that develops young minds, supports families, strengthens the community and secures the future.

Scholarship assistance is available through partnerships with area businesses, foundations and generous individuals. Nutritious meals and snacks are included at no additional charge through Child Care of Southwest Florida's participation in the U.S Department of Agriculture's Child Food Care Program. The five locations include:

PA Geraci Child Development Center, 3713 Canal Street, Fort Myers

The Children's Learning Center, 37 Barkley Circle, Fort Myers

Joseph H. Messina Children's Center, 4650 Fowler Street, Fort Myers

The Community Children's

Center, 1260 Wings Way, Lehigh Acres

Children's Garden of LaBelle, 88 South Main Street, LaBelle

For more information or to register a child, call 278-1002 or visit www.ccsfwf.org.

Broadway Palm To Live Stream Irving Berlin Play

Broadway Palm is thrilled to present their production of Irving Berlin's *Holiday Inn* through a live stream for two performances only on Saturday, December 19 at 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.

With many people not quite ready to venture out and extremely limited ticket availability in person, theatre officials believe this will be a wonderful way to share the joy of live theatre in the safety and comfort of home. In addition to the production, Broadway Palm will include a live pre-show, an exclusive look behind the scenes at intermission and a live question-and-answer session with the cast and crew. There will also be add-ons offered including a package of

macaroons, a discounted gift certificate and a delivered meal option through a partnership with Jason's Deli.

Holiday Inn is a heartwarming musical adaptation of the 1942 classic holiday film starring Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire. The uplifting yet comical story follows Jim as he leaves the bright lights of show business to settle down in a farmhouse in Connecticut. When Jim meets a spirited schoolteacher with a hidden talent to spare, they turn a farmhouse into a fabulous inn that is only open on holidays. You'll experience a year of holiday celebrations with dance numbers and Irving Berlin classics such as *Shaking the Blues Away*, *Blue Skies*, *Easter Parade* and *White Christmas*.

Streaming tickets are \$15 for one person, \$30 for two people, \$50 for four people and \$100 for eight people with additional add-on options available. For tickets, call 278-4422 or visit www.broadwaypalm.com.

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Fort Myers Art:

Artwork Sought For Centerpiece At The Forum

by Tom Hall



There's a new park being constructed out at The Forum, and the city's public art committee is seeking an artist to create a \$50,000 artwork to serve as the park's aesthetic centerpiece.



Fire Dance in Centennial Park
photo provided

more than five decades to every state in the union east of the Rocky Mountains.

The new park will contain two multiuse fields, a fenced dog park (for both large and small dogs), a rolling hill amphitheater, an interactive fountain (splash park), three playgrounds, an outdoor fitness court, bike paths, two picnic areas, a number of open spaces and eight pickleball courts. The proposed art piece will be installed in a 50-foot-diameter circle at the north end of the parking lot adjoining the pickleball courts and picnic area located southeast of the intersection of Champion Ring Road and Warrior Way.

The art committee is also formulating plans to move three of the Edgardo Carmona sculptures that the city purchased in August of 2018 to the park

in furtherance of its goal of creating art hubs in each of the city's six wards. The term "art hub" refers to an aggregation of public artworks in a location that is already or which is intended to become either a cultural, business or residential destination. Art hubs will enable a greater number of people and larger percentage of the city's citizenry to see, interact with and enjoy the city's public art collection while simultaneously engendering greater economic opportunity and better quality of life in the residential neighborhoods and business districts in which they are placed.

Each of the artworks that are eventually installed in the park will be connected to each other and the other 65 pieces in the city's public art collection through Otocast, a free mobile phone app that provides descriptions, photographs and audios that tell behind-the-scenes stories about the art and artists who created them.

The budget for the project was provided by The Forum's developers and covers all costs associated with the project including, but not limited to, materials, fabrication, installation, permitting, documentation and transportation.

Artists who'd like to be considered for the project have until midnight on Thursday, January 14 to submit their qualifications. The full request for qualifications (RFQ) can be viewed and submissions are to be made electronically at no charge on the CAFÉ website at www.callforentry.org.

From the submissions it receives, the committee will select up to three finalists. Each finalist will be paid a \$500 design fee to produce a maquette or formal electronic proposal for presentation to the committee in open session, together with a prefabrication review that

identifies the materials the artist intends to use, expected longevity, fabrication techniques, installation methods and long-term preventive maintenance strategies. Stakeholders who live and work in The Forum and surrounding communities will be invited to attend the presentations and voice their preferences. Thereupon, the committee will select the winning design based upon the merits of the proposal, suitability of materials and artist's credentials.

The City of Fort Myers has been quietly building a public art collection for decades and now includes 68 outdoor sculptures and installations as well as a number of interior works that are on display at city hall and in other city-owned buildings that are open to the public. Based upon information provided by Otocast, the city's most asked-about art piece is the Dupont red modernist sculpture called *Fire Dance* that's located in Centennial Park West, and the most photographed work is the dual drum light sculpture known as *Caloosahatchee Manuscripts* that sits on the sidewalk outside the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center. Installed in August of 1913, its earliest public artwork is the *Tootie McGregor Fountain* and its oldest piece is *Lorelei*, which was carved in Italy in 1880.

For more information, contact Thomas Hall, City of Fort Myers public art consultant, at 691-2292 or tom@artswfl.com.

*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.**

Community Thrift Store

Merry Christmas!

30% OFF

Storewide

TUESDAY
DEC. 22

40% OFF

Storewide

WEDNESDAY
DEC. 23

50% OFF

All Christmas Items

THURSDAY
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Holiday Savings!

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Located next to Planet Fitness at the corner of McGregor Blvd. and Gladiolus. (239) 225-6529
ACT-1660-20

Store closing early at 1 p.m. on Dec. 24 Closed Dec. 25 and Dec. 26

15501 Old McGregor Blvd., Suite 2 Tuesday through Saturday • 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

From page 2

Historic Downtown

Gilmer, created one of the best-known and best-stocked grocery stores in South Florida.

The modern store with plenty of glass and light specialized in "fancy" goods and catered to the yachting and winter tourist trade.

One measure of just how groundbreaking the store was -- it was lit with 10 electric lamps. The business district had gotten the first electric lights only the previous New Year's Day.

Above the ground-floor store were six rental spaces, including a private office. In 1900, Gilmer founded the town's first telephone company in the front office.

In an imaginative weekly promotion for the bakery in 1912, \$2.50 gold pieces were hidden in bread for lucky people to discover. That is the equivalent of more than \$64 in today's currency.

In November 1914, the bakery was expanded and a second oven increased baking capacity from 600 to 1,000 loaves per baking cycle.

Another of Heitman's advertising angles through the years was imploring shoppers, "Why not keep the money home?"

Between staple and fancy groceries, baked goods, and even hay, grains and feed, the store was pretty much early Fort Myers's Amazon.com.

Harvie Heitman died in 1922 at age 49

and is buried in the Fort Myers Cemetery. His brick store still stands and is restored to the Mediterranean-Revivalist architectural features of the 1920s.

Walk down to First and Jackson and imagine Christmas shopping at Heitman's store more than a century ago. Then visit these two research centers to learn more about Heitman's legacy, which includes politics and civic activities as well.

Hours might be affected by the coronavirus pandemic, so call first.

The Southwest Florida Historical Society is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization open Wednesday and Saturday 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 *Fort Myers Press*, *The Story of Fort Myers* by Karl H. Grismer, and www.dollartimes.com.*

Humane Society Fundraiser To Be Virtual Race

Safety will be the top priority for the 10th annual Gulf Coast Humane Society's The Fast and the Furriest 5K/1-Mile Walk.

Instead of the usual one-day live race, The Fast and the Furriest is being held virtually throughout the month, ending December 26. This change in the event will hopefully be just a one-time happening, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We already postponed the event from its original date in April," said GCHS Executive Director Jennifer Galloway.

"This decision was tough, but we wanted to make sure this popular event was held, albeit virtually. We hope our regulars take part in The Fast and the Furriest, as well as any newcomers."

To start the process of registering for The Fast and the Furriest, visit www.bit.ly/fastandfurriest. Registration fees range from \$20 to \$35. It includes an Active account to record your time down and a T-shirt and finisher medal to the first 400 registrants.

Once registered, you can go out with your furry friend and/or running or walking friends anytime or anywhere and record your time.

While you are running or walking for The Fast and the Furriest, use the hashtag #FastandFurriest2020 when

posting photos to your social media, so GCHS can share them.

Once the time is recorded for the 5K Run or 1-Mile Walk, enter it in your registered Active account. Afterward, pick up the Fast and the Furriest T-shirt and finisher medal, in which the date/time will be announced. Pick-up will be at the Gulf Coast Humane Society (unless you are out of state, then the items will be mailed).

Traditional age group medals will be awarded to top chipped runners and to the fastest dogs in three weight categories. Other awards will go to top fundraisers and triple crown award winners.

If you have already registered for the event, you do not need to do anything except enter your time after the event in order to compete for awards.

Even though this year's The Fast and the Furriest is virtual, the same result will be accomplished as in the first nine events – the chance to make an impact in the lives of the GCHS shelter animals.

The 10th annual The Fast and the Furriest cannot happen without its sponsors, which include Title Sponsor Lee County Sheriff's Office and Diamond Sponsor Coconut Point Ford.

"Even though the event will not take place live, the goal of The Fast and the Furriest stays the same and that is helping take care of literally thousands of shelter animals," Galloway said. "This is an important fundraiser for GCHS, and we hope everyone has fun taking part in it. Your effort will pay off in the form of helping the GCHS' shelter animals."✪



Children experience the touch tank at IMAG

photo provided

IMAG Announces Winter Break Camps

The IMAG History & Science Center will offer exciting day camps for students over the Winter School Break.

Camp IMAG is offering STEAM Camp for students focused on science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics. Campers will have a blast while inventing, experimenting, exploring, and investigating.

Designed for kindergarten to second grade students and for third to fifth grade students, campers will view the museum, experience live animal encounters, participate in science shows, see a 3D movie and get up close with sea life in the touch tank.

IMAG STEAM Camps are scheduled for Monday, December 21 through Wednesday, December 23, and Monday, December 28 through Wednesday, December 30, 2020, as well as Monday, January 4, 2021.

IMAG History & Science Center is located at 2000 Cranford Avenue in Fort Myers. For more information and to register for camp, visit www.theimag.org.✪

Southwest Florida Living



NEW

GULF ACCESS CANAL HOME

Fairview Isles single level 2 BD + large den (or 3rd BD) w/2 BA & 2 car attached garage. Covered dock w/lift, impact windows, metal roof & AC new 2019 & home protection plan. MLS#220075903 \$859,000



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Highly desirable turnkey furnished 2BD/2BA Pointe Estero condo. Panoramic Gulf & sunset views. Huge screened lanai. Floor to ceiling windows. Close to shopping & dining. MLS#220003878 \$685,000



ON THE BEACH WEEKLY RENTAL

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ON THE DESIRABLE NORTH END

New construction on Fort Myers Beach. Across the street from the beach. 5BD/5BA home w/saltwater pool. Gas appliances in kit. Completion in February 2021. Weekly rental. MLS#220071544 \$1,995,000

6035 Estero Blvd., Fort Myers Beach, FL 33931
239-463-0000 | sales@fmb_sun.com | www.fmb_sun.com



Grant To Provide Weekend Meals For Needy Kids

As COVID-19 cases rise across our region and the country, Blessings in a Backpack SWFL recognizes the needs of schoolchildren lacking nourishment during this crisis. The nonprofit recently received a grant from the Cape Coral Community Foundation (CCCF) to provide weekend meals for needy children across Southwest Florida.

CCCF CEO Michael Chatman recently presented Blessings in a Backpack SWFL Executive Director Cecilia St. Arnold with a \$25,000 check to help feed schoolchildren throughout the community. The Cape Coral Community Foundation grant will help provide weekend meals for approximately 190 children for a full school year.

During the school week, these children are fed by federal government programs, but no meals are provided on the weekends. A leader in the movement to end childhood hunger, Blessings in a Backpack makes sure children receive nutritional meals over the weekend. Through the efficiency of Blessings in a Backpack, just \$115 feeds one child on weekends for the entire 38-week school year. The CCCF grant, in addition to other sources of financial and in-kind support, helps make this possible.

"This grant is for our children who aren't always sure where their next meal will come from, it's to help reduce the worry and strain of the parents and



Cecilia St. Arnold holds a check from the Cape Coral Community Foundation

photo provided

family, and it's for the betterment of our community," said Cecilia St. Arnold, executive director of Blessings in a Backpack SWFL. "Having a group like the Cape Coral Community Foundation recognize the need that exists, and the value we provide is heartwarming and encouraging."

As COVID-19 forced school closures, reduced employment and increased poverty, school-age kids were missing more meals and going hungry. Projections show that 18 million American children – one in four – may be struggling with limited or uncertain access to enough

food to support a healthy life. The consequences of hunger can result in a weaker immune system, increased hospitalization, lower IQ, shorter attention spans and lower academic achievement.

"Taking care of our youth should be a priority for every single person in our community. We're proud that partners

like Blessings in a Backpack SWFL exist and are honored to help them meet their priority of providing nourishing meals to our school-age children," said Cape Coral Community Foundation CEO Michael Chatman. "Above all, we want to be a vehicle for people of all means to make a lasting impact in our community."✪

Rescue Runway Fundraiser For Children's Center

The Children's Advocacy Center of Southwest Florida (CAC) thanks its 2nd annual Rescue Runway sponsors, online voters for the pet costume and silent auction bidders as it was able to raise \$10,615 for its programs and services for child victims of abuse.

Without the help of the community and sponsors, the total amount raised would not have been achievable. In addition to the grand total raised, the Rescue Royalty Queen and King have been crowned. After weeks of fundraising, the winners are Chloe for Rescue Royalty Queen and Barnaby for Rescue Royalty King. Best Pet Costume Winner was Micky, dressed as "tiny Santa."

Sponsors included Lee County Sheriff's Office, Brown & Brown Insurance, Edison National Bank, Markham Norton Mosteller Wright & Co. PA and supporter Seed and Bean Market.

Since 1981, Children's Advocacy Center of Southwest Florida, Inc. (CAC), a United Way partner agency, has worked



Santa Micky captured Best Pet Costume

photo provided

to improve the lives of children and their families through a coordinated response to child abuse and neglect, offering them a safe and friendly environment in which to heal. For more information, call 939-2808 or visit www.cac-swfl.org.✪

Churches/Temples

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHAVURAT SHALOM
(Fellowship of Peace) Friday Shabbat services led by members at 6 p.m. Saturday morning Jewish current events at 10 a.m. Talks by members on topics of interest Thursdays at 11 a.m. Contact ChavuratShalom@gmail.com to participate on Zoom.

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

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

CROWN OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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

REDEEMER CHURCH
Sunday 9:45 and 11 a.m., 7 p.m.; Wednesday 6:30 p.m. 8400 Cypress Lake Drive, 481-5442.

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

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

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

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

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

FORT MYERS CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Sunday 10:30 a.m., 5916 Winkler Road, 437-4330.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Meditation classes. www.MeditationInFortMyers.org, 567-9739.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

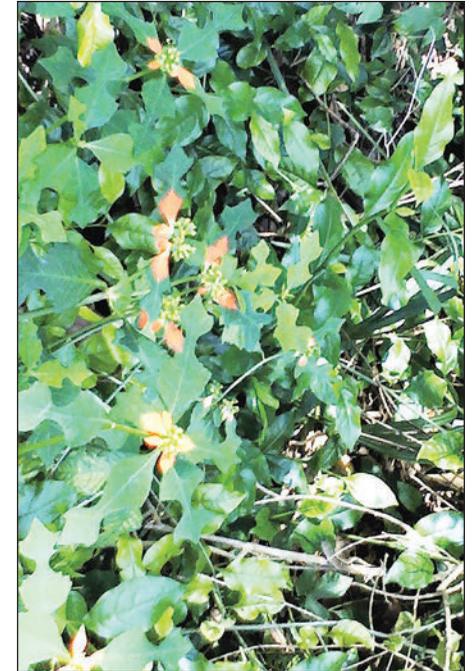
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A wasp (encircled) visits a narrow leaf form of paintedleaf, a native poinsettia photos by Gerri Reaves



This paintedleaf is vine-like with very narrow leaves



Some paintedleaf specimens have broad or fiddle-shaped leaves with red splotches at the leaf bases

Plant Smart Poinsettia's Variable Leaves

by Gerri Reaves

It's difficult to imagine a Christmas season without festive bright red poinsettias decking the halls.

The commercially produced poinsettia (*Euphorbia pulcherrima*) has an almost two-hundred-year history in the U.S. The plant is a native of Mexico and is said to have been introduced to in 1825 by Joel Roberts Poinsett, the first U.S. Ambassador to Mexico.

But Florida has its own native poinsettia species, too, including at least one endangered endemic one, *Poinsettia pinetorum*, called pineland spurge or Everglades poinsettia.

Native poinsettias grow wild and sometimes weedlike in a variety of locations, including pinelands, along roadsides and in vacant lots.

The most familiar of them, *Poinsettia*

cyathophora, sports red markings as brilliant as the red of the commercial poinsettia.

The bright red appears at the leaf bases. As with the commercial poinsettia, the leaves, or bracts, are often mistakenly thought to be flower petals.

Known as paintedleaf, as well as fire-on-the-mountain and Mexican fire plant, this native poinsettia grows throughout most of the state.

In fact, this member of the spurge family is native to much of the U.S.

One notable, even puzzling, feature of paintedleaf is the highly variable leaf shapes.

While we tend to assume that the leaves of a particular species are more or less uniform in shape, especially on the same plant – that's not the case with paintedleaf.

The alternate leaves occur in both narrow and broad leaf forms, as well as fiddle-shaped ones. They can be lance-like or even so narrow as to be grass-like.

The less conspicuous berry-like flowers appear in a cluster at the center of the whorl of leaves. Small and greenish, they

lack petals and bloom throughout the year. The plant also varies in overall form, which can be a multi-branched shrub of two to five feet tall or a spindly vine.

As a landscape specimen, it prefers full sun to partial shade and isn't fussy about soil type.

It is wildlife friendly and drought tolerant but not salt tolerant. It can be propagated by seed but readily self-sows, so well that some gardeners consider it invasive.

Mourning doves eat the brownish black oval seeds, and butterflies, moths and bees visit the flowers.

Take care not to touch the milky sap that exudes from broken stems, for it is toxic, as is the entire plant, and can cause skin irritation.

Sources: *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants* by Rufino Osorio, *The Guide to Florida Wildflowers* by Walter Kingsley Taylor, *National Audubon Society Field Guide to Florida* by Peter Alden et al., *Wildflowers of Florida* by Jaret C. Daniels and Stan Tekiela, www.britannica.com, www.flawildflowers.org, www.fnps.org, www.rufino-osorio.blogspot.com and www.wildflower.org.

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

Utility Assistance Program

The LeeCARES Utilities Assistance Program is now available for households impacted economically by the COVID-19 pandemic. Eligible households must have lost jobs, been furloughed or experienced a reduction

of income after March 1, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is the third round of utility assistance to pay up to \$1,000 in water/sewage and electric bills for eligible applicants. Assistance may be provided regardless of whether the applicant has received previous utility assistance.

For more information visit www.LeeFLcares.com.*

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Winter Sheepshead Tactics



by Capt. Matt Mitchell

Plummeting temperatures from cold mornings in the mid 40s dropped our water in the sound to as low as 58 degrees. Anglers willing to wrap up and brave

the cooler temperatures were rewarded with the best sheepshead fishing we have seen so far this winter. During these extreme cold periods, sheepshead fishing can be as good as it gets.

Deeper docks and jetties in and around the passes along with nearshore wrecks held lots of early season sheepshead. Though this is not glamorous fishing, it requires a different skill set. After being able to place a bait right up against a barnacle-covered structure, you then have to try to hook these fish.

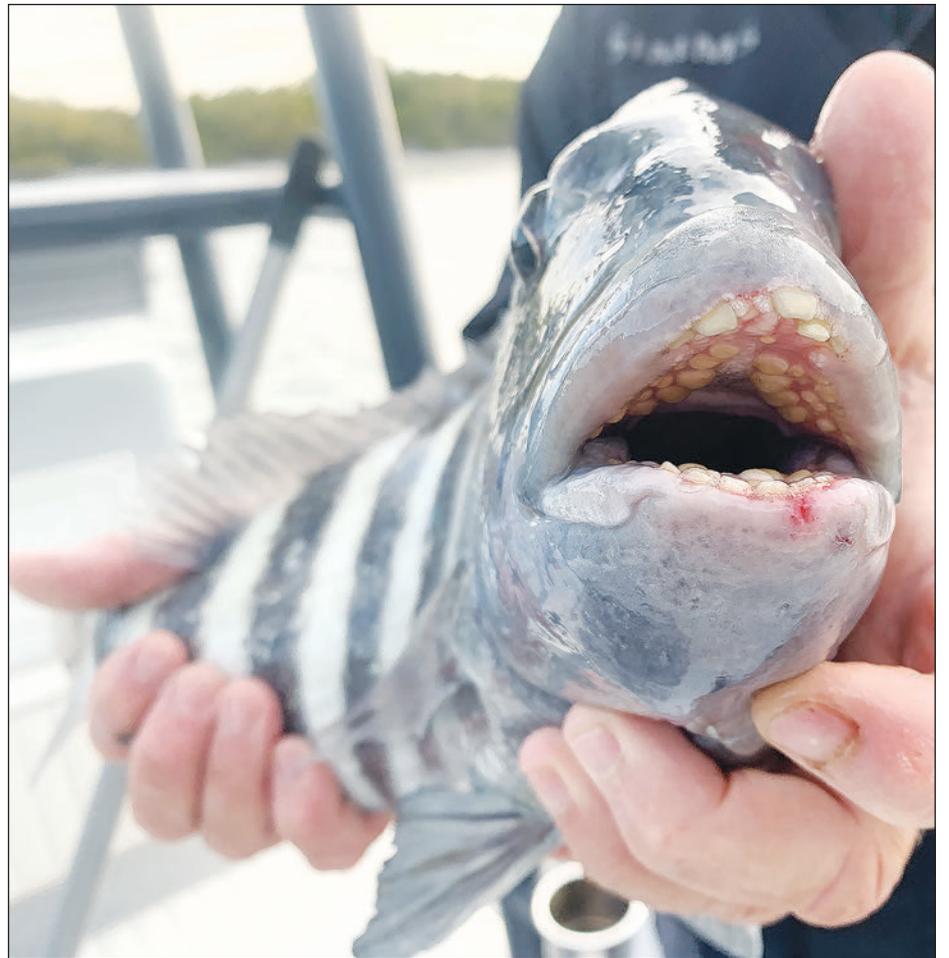
When a sheepshead bites a bait, it feels like small little dings as they often never take the bait solidly. One way to describe it is like you are chewing around a chicken wing bone. During the nibble, I have my clients slowly lift the rod tip. If you feel solid pressure on the lift, the rod tip will bend. Give a quick short strike. Even then they have such a hard tooth-filled mouth. Once

they are on, I often pop them a few more times to make sure the barb is in the fish.

Sheepshead can be a very frustrating fish to catch because of how good they are at stealing bait from a hook. Using small baits on a small hook will increase your hook-up ratio. I like to use a quarter ounce jig head with a 2/0 hook. I then thread a shrimp on the hook by breaking off the tail. Shrimp easily curve naturally onto the hook when pushed on tail first. Once on the hook, I pinch off the head, and this makes a small compact offering. This bait is not only harder for the fish to steal but is also very aerodynamic, which helps with an accurate cast. I find having the weight right on the hook gives a better feel of the bite than either a sliding weight or split shot.

Sheepshead are also one of the more popular fish for shore bound anglers to target all winter long. Bridges, piers, jetties and pilings will all hold great numbers of these fish. You don't need much tackle, bait or even a boat to get in on this action. Many of my seasonal clients love taking home a fresh sheepshead dinner. Since sheepshead feed on crustaceans, the meat is firm, white and sweet allowing it to be prepared in many different ways.

Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission rules and regulations on sheepshead include a 12-inch minimum size and a limit of eight fish per person per day. These delicious fish have a very large rib cage and yield very little meat for there size. Although they are very plentiful, I'd suggest not keeping anything less than 14 inches. Like all



A sheepshead smiles for the camera

photo provided

fish, they are always better when eaten fresh so only take what you plan on eating.

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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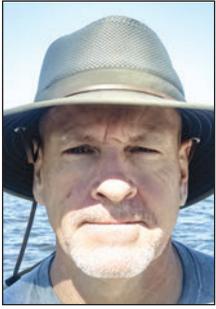
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CROW Case Of The Week:

Eastern Box Turtle

by Bob Petcher



While the eastern box turtle (*Terrapene carolina carolina*) is the official state reptile of North Carolina and Tennessee, it has a far-reaching range that extends to southern Maine,

southern Florida, eastern parts of Kansas Oklahoma and Texas as well as the Michigan Upper Peninsula.

This species of box turtle is relatively small (averaging four to six inches in length) with a high dome for a carapace and colorations that include brown or black with a yellow or orange radiating pattern to its shell. Interestingly, like all box turtles, it has a hinged plastron that makes it possible for the turtle to completely close its carapace for strong defensive measures.

At CROW, an adult male eastern box turtle was admitted from Fort Myers with bleeding on its front left leg, under and around its shell. Veterinarians noted the turtle to have a traumatic amputation of its left front foot along with multiple abrasions on its plastron and carapace.

"This turtle came in with a traumatic injury to its left front leg. We do not know what caused the trauma. It could have resulted from a predatory attack,



After three weeks of care, patient #20-5218 still needs an esophageal feeding tube for nutrition photo by Breanna Frankel

being hit by car, etc., but the soft tissue was macerated – soaked, softened and dying off – and the patient was missing the bones of the hand, hence traumatic amputation," said Dr. Sasha Troiano, CROW veterinary intern. "The injury seemed fairly recent, as it was still bleeding and the tissue did not appear dead or devitalized. The turtle should be able to move around well without the foot."

The day after being admitted, the patient received surgery to amputate the leg at the elbow. The box turtle was also

fitted with a feeding tube.

"Surgery was needed to remove the damaged soft tissue and ensure that the amputation site is closing healthy soft tissue over healthy bone. The radius and ulna – two bones that make up the anatomy of the forearm – appeared to be intact on radiographs, but the damaged soft issue extended up part of the forearm, so the amputation was performed at the elbow to allow for healthy soft tissue closure," said Dr. Troiano. "There were no shell fractures, so no need to repair the shell."

After a few weeks in care, CROW medical staff reported that the amputation site was deemed healthy with no signs of inflammation, discharge, or pain, but the team remains concerned with providing enough nutrition for the turtle to maintain its weight.

"We often will place feeding tubes at the time of surgery in our reptile patients to ensure they receive adequate nutrition while they are healing," said Dr. Troiano. "Often, it can take a couple weeks for a patient to start eating on its own. This patient still does not seem to be eating much on its own, which is why we are still supplementing feeding via the esophageal feeding tube."

Three weeks after admittance, the eastern box turtle is still in the healing stages.

"The patient continues to receive supportive care, and the amputation site is healing well. We will continue to monitor bloodwork to ensure there is no infection, and monitor interest in food," said Dr. Troiano. "When the patient is eating well on its own and the surgery site is fully healed, it will then be released, but a timeline for that has not yet been determined."

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.

Kettle Challenge Matching Funds

The Salvation Army recently issued a call for help to raise \$200,000 in the last 12 days of the Lee County Red Kettle Campaign. If the Rescue Christmas Kettle Challenge can be met, the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation will match the funds for a total of \$400,000 to help local families in need this Christmas and throughout the coming year.

Through the holiday season, The Salvation Army has urged volunteers and donors to help Rescue Christmas for the most vulnerable. With an increase in need of more than 150 percent this year,

every dime, dollar and volunteer hour is even more valuable. The annual Red Kettle Campaign is The Salvation Army's largest fundraiser helping to brighten the holidays and meet critical needs throughout the year.

Donations dropped into red kettles in front of local Walmart, Publix and other retail locations, and small countertop kettles at 3 Pepper Burrito locations in Lee County, or Dairy Queen locations on South Tamiami Trail in Fort Myers and Skyline Boulevard in Cape Coral until December 24, will count toward the match. You can also mail a gift to The Salvation Army at 10291 McGregor Boulevard or give over the phone by calling 278-1551 and designate your gift to the Red Kettle Campaign.✪



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Teri Hansen of Priority Marketing, winner of 2019 Business Ethics Award photo provided

Deadline Extended For Ethics Award

The Uncommon Friends Foundation has extended the nominations deadline for its 2020 Business Ethics Award to Friday, January 15.

Businesses in Lee, Charlotte, Collier, Hendry and Glades counties who consistently demonstrate a system-wide commitment to high ethical business practices are eligible. Businesses can nominate themselves or be nominated by a third party. The online nomination form and submission guidelines are available at www.uncommonfriends.org.

Finalists will be announced after the close of nominations and will be honored guests at the annual Florida Gulf Coast University Business Ethics Roundtable

to be held on Wednesday, April 21. This is jointly hosted by FGCU's Lutgert School of Business and the Uncommon Friends Foundation. The recipient of the Business Ethics Award will be announced at an Uncommon Breakfast Gala to be held on Friday, May 14 at the Luminary Hotel in downtown Fort Myers. Led by Rachel and Cole Peacock, the event will be in collaboration with Lee County Economic Development Industry Appreciation week.

Fundraising efforts will be in the form of Uncommon Society and Uncommon Evening annual sponsorships, due in part to the many people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. There are five separate sponsorship packages that range from \$500 to \$10,000 and include event tickets and advertisements.

For more information, contact Jennifer Nelson, executive director, at 826-0556 or jennifer@uncommonfriends.org.

Free Legal Services Being Offered To Seniors

In the spirit of giving this holiday season, the Lee County Legal Aid Society will offer free legal assistance to Lee County seniors age 60 and older on Saturday, December 19. Members of the Lee County Bar Association will volunteer their time for "Just for Seniors" from 9 a.m. to noon and 1 to 5 p.m. to answer legal questions specific to older adults.

In order to maintain safety protocols due to COVID-19, this event will take place via Zoom video conferencing and by telephone. Seniors wishing to speak with an attorney will need to schedule an appointment online at www.leecountylegalaid.org/just-for-seniors. Each appointment will be 20 minutes in length. If more in-depth service is needed, customers will be referred to attorneys that can offer assistance at up to 50 percent off of their regular rates.

The Lee County Legal Aid Society provides free legal aid to low-income residents and has worked primarily with younger families and individuals. Recently, Executive Director Andrew Banyai realized a need to provide

assistance to the elderly population in the community. Through a grant from the Cape Coral Community Foundation, funds were secured to offer Just for Seniors events multiple times over the course of the next year.

"This has been a tough year for so many, especially the seniors in our community. We have always answered the call when it comes to legal assistance and now is no exception," Banyai said. "We hope the free advice we give can help eliminate some of the financial hardship our seniors may be facing this time of year."

Banyai expects 20 to 30 attorneys to take part in the event. Many of these attorneys will volunteer as part of the Florida Bar's Pro Bono Service Initiative, a program intended to encourage lawyers to volunteer free legal services to the underserved in their communities.

This event is being sponsored by the Lee County Legal Aid Society and Cape Coral Community Foundation. Additional support is being provided by United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades & Okeechobee; Lee County BOCC; The Florida Bar Foundation; Lee County Bar Association and CONRIC PR & Marketing.

For more information about this event and the Lee County Legal Aid Society, email Nanci DuBois at nanci@leecountylegalaid.org.

Lee Principal And Assistant Principal Of The Year

Bonita Springs Elementary School Principal Rob Cooper and Dunbar High School Assistant Principal Forrest Walker Jr. were recently selected the Lee County Principal and Assistant Principal of the Year respectively, according to the the School District of Lee County.

Cooper was appointed principal of Bonita Springs Elementary in 2018 after previously leading Mirror Lakes Elementary and Rayma C. Page Elementary. To benefit his students, he is involved with both civic and community groups resulting in school supplies, money, Christmas gifts for all students, a mobile pantry, recess supplies and supplemental academic materials and resources being donated to the school. He worked with the Literacy Council to also provide English lessons for his students' parents.

"Rob has enabled staff to work as a system focused on student learning and has maintained a climate that supports student engagement," Bonita Springs Elementary Assistant Principal Jillian Fiora said in her nomination letter. "As a result, Bonita Springs Elementary continues to meet the needs of its Title 1 population and has maintained a school grade of an "A" in FY19."

Cooper has been with the district since 2006. First as a teacher, then assistant principal before becoming a principal in 2014. The staff at Bonita Springs Elementary says Cooper continuously promotes relationships, collaboration, shared leadership and respect. Teachers are taught how to adjust the curriculum to meet the needs of individual learners, while administrators are empowered to lead and grow. Cooper is also a Principal Lead for the district, serving as a mentor to new principals, and is known for always providing advice and assistance when needed.

"I am honored to receive this recognition and to represent our highly skilled and dedicated group of principals in Lee County," Cooper said. "It has been a privilege to serve our students and staff. This has been an incredibly engaging year, where I have had a wealth of opportunities to participate in many roles within our school, Bonita Springs Elementary, and in our community of Bonita Springs. I am appreciative of Superintendent Adkins and his Cabinet for their confidence in me."

At Dunbar High, staff are greeted every morning with words of encouragement from Walker Jr. The email is a daily dose of inspiration and motivation. "Despite these unprecedented times, our current situation continues to strengthen our significance and purpose as educators," Walker said. "When we confidently believe in our worth, it gives credence to every endeavor we commit to. Our time is now to become aggressive learners, and prove our allegiance in being life-long leaders. Without any doubt or thought, 'We are the difference-makers'."

Walker was appointed assistant principal at Dunbar High in 2014 after serving in the same capacity at Success Academy, South Fort Myers High and



Rob Cooper



Forrest Walker Jr.

Lehigh Acres Middle. He uses his daily message to build relationships and mentor both teachers and students. He coaches teachers on pinpointing areas of need and coming up with strategies to increase student achievement. Students are able to master the standards because of his guidance. He is also well known in his community for his good deeds, leadership and fellowship.

"Forrest Walker Jr. plays a major role in the development of future leaders," Dunbar Assistant Principal Tamika Woods said in her nomination letter. "He mentors teachers, community members and students. He embodies compassion, charisma and selflessness in mentoring others, which has resulted in stronger administrators and teachers at Dunbar High School."

Nominations for Cooper as Florida Principal of the Year and Walker as Florida Assistant Principal of the Year will be sent to the Florida Department of Education (DOE) by Superintendent Dr. Greg Adkins. The DOE will announce the finalists in January and the winners by early March. Each award comes with a \$5,000 cash prize.

The School District of Lee County has recently won both awards. Kelly Stedman was named 2017 Florida Assistant Principal of the Year. Ken Savage was named 2018 Florida Principal of the Year after leading James Stephens International Academy from an "F" grade to a "B" in just one year. Savage is now chief of operations for the district while Stedman is principal at James Stephens.**

County Donates Residential Lots To Nonprofit

The Lee Board of County Commissioners recently voted to donate three surplus residential lots to a local nonprofit organization that provides affordable housing to elderly, disabled, veterans and youth aging out of foster care.

The lots donated to the Affordable Home Ownership Foundation Inc. are: 1007 Eisenhower Boulevard, Lehigh Acres;

1001 Eisenhower Boulevard, Lehigh Acres; and

429 Sacramento Street, North Fort Myers.

The lots previously were acquired by Lee County due to non-payment of taxes.

For more information on the Affordable Home Ownership Foundation Inc., a Fort Myers-based 501(c)3 organization, visit www.ahf.today. For more information about surplus property, visit www.leegov.com/countylands/surplusproperty.

Walking Challenge For Charity

Vectra Digital President Albert Arguelles doesn't typically walk 30,000 steps in a day. That is until he had a purpose.

Vectra Digital is raising awareness of charities through its own 2 Million Steps for Charity Challenge. The company's employees each chose a charity to walk for and are competing against each other for the most steps completed. The employee who wins the challenge on Monday, December 21 will receive a \$250 gift card and a donation of \$1,000 to the charity he or she is walking for.

"I saw I was getting behind a little, so I stepped it up one day to 30,000 steps," said Arguelles, whose nickname in the Army was Double A for having the energy of a battery. "My dog couldn't even complete the steps that day, but I kept going because I am raising awareness for the American Legion in Bonita Springs. That group is going through a really tough time right now, and I really want to win this competition for them."

Employees started the challenge in late November and have so far surpassed 1.2 million steps.

"What's really great," said Harrison Ambs, chief strategy officer at Vectra Digital, "is that we are also learning about what charities are important to our team members. From Project Robby and Hearts & Homes for Veterans to the Harry Chapin Food Bank, Hoops on Mission and more, the charities chosen show we are all walking for a real personal purpose."

Ambs is walking for Ronald McDonald House Charities, which he found out about in 2013 after his newborn daughter Helen



Harrison and Helen Ambs photo provided

was hospitalized with a 104-degree fever. "We drove three hours away to get her the care she needed, and getting a hotel or driving back and forth was not an option," said Ambs. "Being able to stay in the room with Helen and use the Ronald McDonald House Family Room at the hospital meant we didn't have to worry about where we were going to get sleep every night for what was about two weeks, so we could keep the focus on our daughter's wellbeing."

Vectra Digital, a full-service marketing agency in Fort Myers, will be sharing employee charity stories to Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter.

"This is really using our marketing expertise for good," said Arguelles. "Please follow along and cheer everyone on while learning about all of the great resources and organizations we have that are making a difference every day." ✨

Bank Giving Tree For Children's Advocacy

Sanibel Captiva Community Bank is hosting a Giving Tree for the Children's Advocacy Center of Southwest Florida holiday program at select bank locations. Every holiday season, the center identifies families in need that will benefit from their Giving Tree program. Southwest Florida businesses, community organizations and residents are asked to spread cheer by donating unwrapped gifts, cash donations and gift cards.

All off-island Sanibel Captiva Community Bank locations are participating in the program, including 9311 College Parkway; 7500 College Parkway; 7040 Winkler Road; 1533 Hendry Street, Unit 100; 15975 McGregor Boulevard; and 11961 Gateway Boulevard. The Giving Tree at each bank location has gift tags available with the gender and age of a child. Participants can return donations at select bank locations until Friday, December 18.

Since 1981, Children's Advocacy Center of Southwest Florida Inc. has worked to improve the lives of children and their families through a coordinated response to child abuse and neglect,



Sanibel Captiva Community Bank's Giving Tree photo provided

offering them a safe and friendly environment in which to heal. The staff provides abuse determination services as well as therapeutic counseling, parenting education and prevention programs in Lee, Hendry, Glades and Charlotte counties. All services are provided free of charge. For more information, call 939-2808 or visit www.cac-swfl.org. ✨

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Book Review

One By One

by Di Saggau



Ruth Ware has been called the Agatha Christie of our generation by some authors, and she claims that title in her latest book *One by One*, a suspenseful thriller that takes place

on a snow-covered mountain top in a secluded luxury French chalet, where members of a company retreat start being picked off, one by one.

They are all with a company that makes a streaming music app which allows users to listen to the music that others are listening to. The app is called "Snoop" and while I disliked the follower updates that begin each chapter, I definitely liked the storyline. There are 11 people to begin with, and then the numbers start to dwindle.

There is a storm brewing outside the chalet and inside among the London-based tech startup company. The cofounder organizes the weeklong trip for the team in the hopes they will decide whether or not to accept a buyout. Allegiances are made and tested and when an avalanche hits, they are stranded without reception or power.

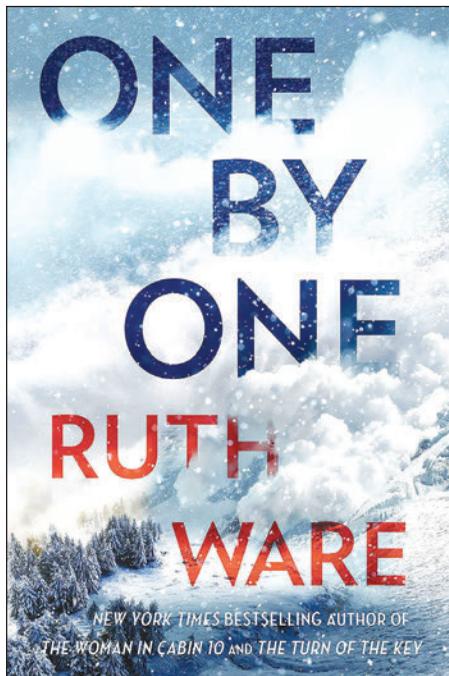


image provided

At this point, the actual mystery gets underway. You may guess who the killer is by following the author's clues, and maybe not. There are some interesting dynamics in the plot. As each hour passes without any sign of rescue, panic mounts, the chalet grows colder and the rift between the characters along with the presence of two outsiders, keeps you guessing and keeps your interest. *One by One* is a thriller from start to finish.✧

School Smart

by Shelley M. Greggs, NCSP



Dear Shelley, My children and I get stressed out during the holidays, and I wish I could keep the stress lower. Please tell me some ideas about reducing stress during this time of year.

Britta K, Cape Coral

The magic of the holidays as described by TV and social media may present our children with unrealistic expectations for this special time of year. While the kids are thinking about presents, no school, and extra sweets and treats, parents are thinking about how to get everything done in time for the special day, how to pay for it and how best can everyone enjoy their family time without squabbles and meltdowns. Here are a few tips to help keep kids and parents happier and ready to enjoy the season.

Getting presents is most often the high point of the holidays for kids, but this doesn't need to be the only focus. Helping our children understand that giving is as rewarding as receiving is a valuable life-long lesson that they should learn. Some strategies to help kids understand this is by allowing them to make or choose the gifts that they will give to favorite friends and family. Your kids can help you shop for others, make gifts for special people in their lives or community like school personnel or first responders, and even donate or collect toys for a local toy drive.

Take time for the whole family to get together and have fun like playing a game, watching a movie or making some cookies. With our busy lives, moments together are what kids remember as they get older.

Let your kids help out. There's a lot of extra work to do around the holidays so it's important to make sure our kids are included in those activities as well. Children can help in the kitchen, decorating and even wrapping presents. If they're too young to do a particular task, let them help by allowing them to do one part of the task, like holding the ribbon or tape when wrapping for example. There's always something kids can do. Often our preparations are as enjoyable as the final product. When the kids are included, they won't feel left out, and they will have a much better understanding of what goes into making the holidays so special.

While we enjoy our holidays because they give us a break from our everyday routines, that very fact can also make them stressful. Everyone relies on their daily routines for comfort and structure especially kids who find routine soothing. Make a conscience effort to keep the more important routines constant. Kids will still need their bath and bedtime routines as well as any other that are very important to them.

Some holiday traditions require children to be on their best behavior for long periods of time, in unfamiliar situations or even at mealtime with unusual holiday fare. Remember they are kids, and try to have reasonable expectations about

their behavior. Make sure to allow your children to have lots of physical activity and downtime prior to such events, and try not to schedule more than one demanding event in a day. Everyone will enjoy themselves much better with some understanding on maneuvering some of the more difficult times. Hopefully these strategies will allow you and your children to enjoy the holidays more fully.

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.✧

Boat Parade Award Winners

The 32nd annual Fort Myers Beach Christmas Boat Parade lit up the waters of the town on December 5th. With thirty boats entered and four houses decorated in the new house decorating contest, it was deemed a huge success.

The following are the winners of this year's contest:

- Best Small Powerboat – Shelbi Kay, Marc Hiles
 - Best Large Powerboat – Jersey Bounce, Joe Fossella
 - Best Sponsored Small Powerboat – Kim Davidson Painting, Kim Davidson
 - Best Sponsored Large Powerboat – All Water Excursions, Jay Stern
 - The Hot Mess Award – E-Fish-N-Sea, Nicole Baker
 - People's Choice – The Grinch, Toni Palsgrove
 - Best Decorated House – Crazy Christmas Crib
- For more information, contact the Fort Myers Beach Chamber at 454-7500 or visit www.fmbboatparade.com.✧

From page 1

Live Theater

masks. This devised script by O'Connell examines the final days of a tyrant and those who orbit him, set in the world of woodland creatures.

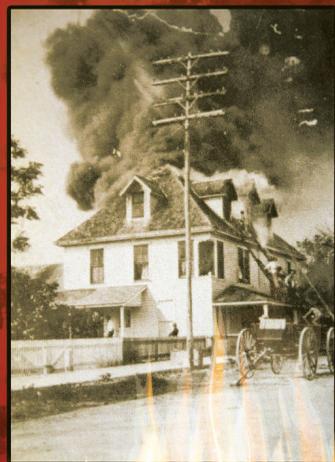
Projekt Grottesquerie is an in-person event, and masks are required at all times. The area around the north patio has been marked off in grids for safety, with a maximum of two people per grid. The theater will provide folding chairs, but you are invited to bring your own blanket or beach chair, should you prefer.

Tickets are \$10 each or \$20 for a square that seats two.

The Laboratory Theater of Florida is located at 1634 Woodford Avenue in Fort Myers. For tickets, call the box office at 218-0481 or visit www.laboratorytheaterflorida.com. Ticketed patrons can create an evening out by parking at the theater, experiencing the show and then walking to the end of the block to visit the Holiday House at the Burroughs Home, or walking a little further for dinner or drinks downtown before or after showtime.✧

EPIC FIRES OF FORT MYERS

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



THOMAS P. HALL
ROBIN C. TUTHILL, EDITOR

Available at
www.Amazon.com
www.OutSkirtsPress.com

"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

County Adjusts Schedules For The Holidays

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

Holiday schedule adjustments are:

Solid Waste – Solid Waste offices and the Topaz Court Solid Waste Annex will be closed on Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25. The Resource Recovery Facility in Buckingham will be closed on Friday, December 25, but open regular hours on Thursday, December 24. Solid Waste offices and the Topaz Court Solid Waste Annex will be closed on Thursday, December 31 and Friday, January 1. The Resource Recovery Facility in Buckingham will be closed on Friday, January 1, but open regular hours on Thursday, December 31.

All garbage, recycling and yard waste collections in unincorporated Lee County, the City of Bonita Springs, the Village of Estero and the Town of Fort Myers Beach that is normally picked up on Friday, will be collected on Saturday, December 26 and Saturday, January 2. Regular collection schedules resume on Monday, January 4.

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

LeeTran – LeeTran will operate its regularly scheduled bus service on Thursday, December 24. There will be no bus, trolley or Passport service on Friday, December 25. Bus service will resume on Saturday, December 26. LeeTran will operate its regularly scheduled bus service on Thursday, December 31. There will be no bus, trolley or Passport service on Friday, January 1. Bus service will resume on Saturday, January 2. Visit www.rideleetrans.com for route information.

Parks & Recreation – Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25, beaches, boat ramps, parks and preserves will be open. The administrative office, recreation centers, community centers

and Six Mile Cypress Slough Interpretive Center will be closed Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25. The centers will resume normal operating hours Saturday, December 26. The administration office resumes normal operating hours Monday, December 28. The community swimming pools will be closed Friday, December 25 through Monday, December 28, resuming normal operating hours Tuesday, December 29.

On Thursday, December 31 and Friday, January 1, beaches, boat ramps, parks and preserves will be open. The administrative office, recreation centers, community centers and Six Mile Cypress Slough Interpretive Center will be closed Thursday, December 31 and Friday, January 1. The centers will resume normal operating hours Saturday, January 2. The administration office resumes normal operating hours Monday, January 4. The community swimming pools will be closed Friday, January 1 through Monday, January 4, resuming normal hours Tuesday, January 5.

Library System – On Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25, all libraries will be closed. Libraries will resume current, limited hours on Saturday, December 26. On Thursday, December 31 and Friday, January 1, all libraries will be closed. Libraries will resume current, limited hours on Saturday, January 2. The online library is available at www.leelibrary.net/online.

Lee County Domestic Animal Services – On Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25, the Lost & Found Pet Center and the Pet Adoption Center will be closed. Normal hours resume Saturday, December 26 at the 5600 Banner Drive location at Fort Myers. On Thursday, December 31 and Friday, January 1, the Lost & Found Pet Center and the Pet Adoption Center will be closed. Normal hours resume Saturday, January 2. Visit www.leelostpets.com for more information.

Lee County Utilities – The Customer Service Lobby at 7391 College Parkway remains closed to the public. The drive-thru window will be closed Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25, and will reopen Monday, December 28. The drive-thru window will be closed Thursday, December 31 and Friday, January 1, and will reopen on January 4.

A drop-box is on-site at the front door, and another is accessible via the drive-thru for payments by check. A drop-box is also available at the Lee County Community Development/Public Works Center

located at 1500 Monroe Street in Fort Myers. The Call Center will be closed Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25. It will reopen Monday, December 28, close Thursday, December 31 and Friday, January 1, and reopen Monday, January 4. ❄️

Marketing Firm Promotion

CONTRIC pr + marketing is excited to announce the promotion of Jaimie Miller to senior vice president of marketing. Miller will work alongside the CEO and CFO to lead the CONTRIC team and manage day-to-day operations in addition to managing key client accounts.

The year 2020 has been a year of change and growth for CONTRIC pr + marketing, introducing a new brand and website, adding to its ever-growing team, and developing a semi-monthly podcast. The marketing company continues its evolution with the promotion of Miller.

"My passion and desire to help our clients advance their business is still as important today as it was when I first joined CONTRIC. I truly enjoy being part of the team, mentoring others, growing businesses and helping my community in every way possible." ❄️

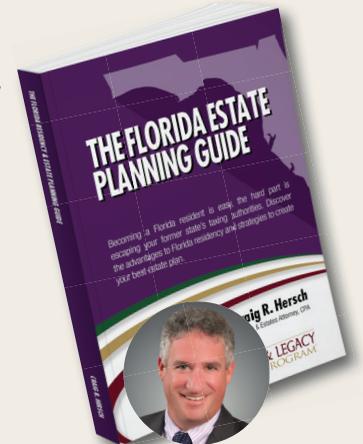


Jaimie Miller

FREE ESTATE PLANNING GUIDE

Is Your Plan:

- maintaining CONTROL over your assets while you're alive
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- providing the PEACE OF MIND knowing everything goes where you want when you pass
- Most importantly, is your plan up-to-date and Florida-compliant?



by **Craig R. Hersch**
Florida Bar Board Certified Wills,
Trusts & Estates Attorney, CPA &
Island Sun Columnist

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Will Power

Gifts As The Year Ends



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

Another year is almost over! While 2020 was tumultuous and full of unprecedented happenings, can you believe another year end is almost here? Are you relieved? Scared about what 2021 is going to bring? Me too!

But with the new year, inevitably comes questions about gifting and taxes, especially considering possible tax changes next year. Most gifts to our loved ones are gift tax free, but you should know some basics before gifting anything of value to your children, grandchildren and other loved ones.

As of right now, the most that you can give tax free to any one person is \$15,000 in any calendar year. This counts whether you give cash, a valuable painting, a car or any combination of items. Currently, a husband and wife together can therefore give \$30,000 worth of assets to any one person during a calendar year and count them as tax free. If the assets aren't gifted from a joint account, you can still treat the gift as coming from both the husband and the wife so long as a Gift Tax Return Form 709 is timely filed, and the spouse elects to "split the gift" by checking a box on the return and signing it.

Gift-splitting is more common in second marriage situations. An example might help assist in understanding this technique. Suppose that Randy is married to Shelia, and that this is a second marriage. Randy has two children from a prior marriage, Stanley and Shelley. Shelia has two children from her prior marriage, Kyle and Isaac. Randy wishes to give each of his children, Stanley and Shelley \$30,000. Assume further that Randy and Shelia maintain separate bank accounts.

So Randy transfers \$30,000 each to Stanley and to Shelley. This would be a taxable gift exceeding the \$15,000 per beneficiary rule unless Shelia agrees to "split the gift" by signing a Gift Tax Return Form 709. Shelia is not affected by splitting the gift,

nor are her children affected. In this example, Randy is gifting money from Randy's separate bank account. Shelia may therefore still give \$15,000 each to her children and grandchildren. In fact, Shelia can ask Randy to split the gifts to her children, Kyle and Isaac, to give them \$30,000 each as well so Shelia can write those checks directly from her account.

In addition to gifts of money, many of my clients tell me that they intend to give other items, such as valuable art or jewelry. In order for a gift to be considered "tax free" and to remove it from the estate for federal estate tax purposes, the donor must actually transfer custody of the asset to the donee. Let's illustrate this by another example.

Suppose that Shelia intends to give a valuable Jeff Koons sculpture to her son, Kyle. Shelia tells Kyle that the sculpture is his, but that Shelia intends to keep the sculpture in Shelia's living room until she dies. "After I die, I want you to take the sculpture off the mantle and put it in your home," Shelia instructs Kyle.

Shelia has not made a tax free gift to Kyle. In fact, Shelia has not made a gift at all. If Shelia dies with the Jeff Koons still on her mantle, then under the tax law, the sculpture is included in Shelia's estate for federal estate tax purposes. Clients often ask me how would the IRS know whether the sculpture was still hanging in Shelia's home at the time of her death?

The answer lies in a number of places. The most likely clue of ownership might be uncovered when the IRS requests a copy of Shelia's homeowner's insurance. The IRS would look to see whether at the time of Shelia's death there was a rider on the homeowner's policy covering the Koons. If Shelia truly transferred the Koons to her son, Kyle, then there would be no reason for Shelia to continue to insure it.

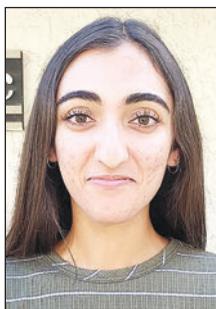
Some folks think that they are clever by "selling" something of value as opposed to gifting it. Suppose Stephen "sold" a piece of property to his son Leopold for \$10,000 when in fact the fair market value of the property at the time of the transfer was \$110,000. Here, despite the fact that Stephen "sold" it, the IRS would consider the transaction to be a \$100,000 gift (calculated as a transfer of \$110,000 of property for \$10,000).

If you have any particular questions about gifting that may be affected by the tax laws, discuss them with your estate planning attorney prior to making the transfer.

©2020 Craig R. Hersch. Learn more at www.sbslaw.com.✪

KLCB Hires Environmental Coordinator

Sajel Dodia joins Keep Lee County Beautiful, Inc. (KLCB) as the new environmental education and outreach coordinator.



Sajel Dodia

As a native of Southwest Florida, Dodia grew up with a deep appreciation for the areas' unique ecosystems. She recently graduated from the University of Florida where she studied biology and environmental science and has found passion in educating others on how to be environmental stewards. An avid nature lover, Dodia is most often found outdoors and spends her free time gardening, traveling, practicing yoga and visiting her favorite beaches. In her new role with KLCB, she hopes to make a difference by inspiring and connecting people with the beauty of the community.

Dodia is responsible for sharing KLCB's mission of protecting the environment to local groups, clubs and communities. She will also be implementing the KLCB Classroom in a Box program, which offers teachers complete, week-long educational "boxes" for their classrooms. The box contains all of the materials, curriculum (some even offer field trips) to complete their lessons. Lessons include microplastics testing, reducing the carbon footprint and the importance of trees. These educational modules will be offered at no cost to educators and are available on a first come, first serve basis. The hands-on engagement opportunities will reach

thousands of Lee County students and help educate them on the importance of protecting the environment.

The addition of Dodia to the KLCB team is an exciting expansion to its mission to educate and engage the community and raise awareness of local environmental issues.

Email sajel@klcb.org to schedule a presentation for your group or organization.✪

Executive Joins Foundation Board

Christopher T. Spiro, chief creative officer at Spiro & Associates Marketing, Advertising, Public Relations and Brand Architecture, has been appointed to the board of the Uncommon Friends Foundation.

This comes after recommendations by seated members and the nonprofit's executive director.

The 30-plus-year industry veteran will join other outstanding leaders and community members in furthering character education and workplace ethics, specifically by rebranding and reenergizing the 501(c) (3) organization.

This includes echoing the sentiments of Thomas Edison, Henry Ford, Harvey Firestone, Alexis Carrel and Charles Lindbergh as well as conducting business ethics roundtables, hosting awards programs, preserving archives and identifying regional scholarship recipients.

Spiro will also offer a fresh



Christopher T. Spiro

perspective to pandemic-inspired challenges and adjust itineraries in real time to align with today's new normal.

"Fort Myers is the historic heart of Southwest Florida, and the Uncommon Friends Foundation is the glue that holds that great legacy together," Spiro said. "It's a privilege to be part of the decision-making process that influences the way the city maintains that history by looking towards the future. Every organization needs a facelift to accentuate its best qualities, and I cannot wait to get started."✪

Holiday Gift Guide To Help Businesses

Priority Marketing has launched its 2020 Holiday Gift Guide, a virtual platform encouraging the community to support local businesses and nonprofits this holiday season.

The inaugural Holiday Gift Guide offers gift suggestions and donation opportunities in six categories: Charity; Experiences; Food & Drink; Health & Beauty; Home & Outdoor; and Luxury.

"This year, it's incredibly important to support small businesses and local nonprofit organizations that have faced so many challenges in 2020," said Teri Hansen, Priority Marketing's president and creative director. "Hopefully our Holiday Gift Guide offers inspiration for Southwest Florida residents as they shop for their loved ones and consider year-end donations to help charitable causes."

Gift ideas include helicopter rides, boat tours, jewelry, cosmetics, wellness products, spa days, restaurant gift certificates and more. Charitable causes include year-end donations to organizations addressing health care, education, children, housing, hunger and

employment.

To view the Holiday Gift Guide, visit prioritymarketing.com/holiday-gift-guide.✪

The Homeless Memorial Day For

As a tribute to at least 19 homeless individuals who have lost their lives while living on the streets or in shelters in Lee County this year, the Lee County Homeless Coalition will host its 24th annual Candlelight Vigil on Monday, December 21 at 6 p.m. The community is encouraged to gather on the steps of the Old Lee County Courthouse located at 2120 Main Street in Fort Myers to mourn those who have passed.

The memorial event is also intended to educate and inspire the public to support the community's need for more affordable housing, shelters, living wages and accessible health care. The vigil will include remarks by Lee County Homeless Coalition Board Member Therese Everly and Board Chair Amy Davies. An opening prayer will be presented by Father Philip Read of St. Luke's Episcopal Church. Taps will be performed by Harvey Charter, Commander Victor Paul Tuchman Post 400 Jewish War Veterans.

The Lee County Homeless Coalition is a nonprofit organization comprised of community and faith-based service providers, local businesses, people who are currently experiencing or who have experienced homelessness and other advocates committed to ending homelessness. The coalition's mission is to advocate, educate and promote awareness of issues and obstacles facing homeless individuals in Lee County through community collaboration, planning and implementing solutions.

For more information on the Lee County Homeless Coalition, visit www.leehomeless.org.✪

Hospitals Earn Safety Award

HealthPark Medical Center and Lee Memorial Hospital have been named a Top Teaching Hospital, while Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida has been selected a Top Children's Hospital nationally by The Leapfrog Group, a national watchdog organization focused on health care quality and safety.

The Leapfrog Top Hospital award is widely acknowledged as one of the most competitive awards American hospitals can receive. More than 2,200 hospitals were considered for a Top Hospital Award, and Lee Health Hospitals are three of just 105 hospitals in the country to earn this recognition.

"Patient safety is our top priority, and we are honored to be named among the very best hospitals in the country," said Larry Antonucci, MD, MBA, president and CEO of Lee Health. "This year has been like no other and this recognition wouldn't be possible without the hard work and dedication of our amazing team. We are committed to meeting the needs of our community, and residents and visitors can be confident that they are receiving safe, high-quality care when they visit our hospitals."

The quality of patient care across many areas of hospital performance is considered in establishing the qualifications for the award, including infection rates, practices for safer surgery, maternity care and the hospital's capacity to prevent medication errors. The rigorous standards are defined in each year's Top Hospital

Methodology.

"Leapfrog is a national leader in driving quality health care, and it is an honor to be recognized for our commitment to patient safety," said Alex Daneshmand, DO, MBA, FAAP, chief quality and patient safety officer at Lee Health. "COVID-19 brought many challenges that our health care workers have had to overcome. This recognition is a reflection of our dedicated team of doctors, advanced providers, nurses and support staff and the amazing work they do every day to provide safe and compassionate care."

The Leapfrog Group issues its safety grades twice per year, and all Lee Health adult hospitals earned straight As on the 2020 spring report card.

"Being recognized as a Top Hospital is an extraordinary feat, and we are honored to recognize HealthPark Medical Center, Lee Memorial Hospital and Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida this year," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "Despite the extraordinary pressure and strain of the COVID-19 pandemic, Lee Health hospitals have demonstrated an unwavering dedication to patients and to the Southwest Florida community. We congratulate the board, staff and clinicians whose efforts made this honor possible."

To qualify for the Top Hospitals distinction, hospitals must rank top among peers on the Leapfrog Hospital Survey, which assesses hospital performance on the highest standards for quality and patient safety, and achieve top performance in its category. To see the full list of institutions honored as 2020 Top Hospitals, visit www.leapfroggroup.org/tophospitals.*

other areas depending on individual circumstances. Compassionate care visitation is at the discretion of hospital leadership.

"Visitation is an important part of a patient's recovery, and we understand these restrictions are a hardship. We ask the community for their understanding as we implement necessary measures to keep people safe during this critical time," said Larry Antonucci, MD, MBA, Lee Health president and CEO. "We are taking every precaution to ensure the safety of patients, visitors and healthcare workers."

In outpatient facilities, adult patients are allowed one visitor to accompany them to their appointments. For surgeries, a visitor can accompany a patient to registration and then reunite with them in the recovery room.

Golisano Children's Hospital visitation hours will remain the same; one parent/guardian at the bedside 24 hours per day and one additional visitor over age 12 during normal visitation hours of 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. For children admitted to the hospital with COVID-19 or while in the Pediatric Emergency Department, one parent/guardian is permitted to stay with their child at all times.

During the visitation restriction, frontline healthcare workers will be able to utilize technology to help patients interact with their loved ones virtually. Virtual visitation will remain an option for patients who are unable to have in-person visitors or want to connect with other loved ones besides the designated visitor.

For more information, visit www.leehealth.org.*

Superior Interiors

Complete Rooms With Window Treatments



by Trinette Nelson

Using simple blinds in your windows may offer a sense of privacy from your neighborhood, but custom window treatments can go beyond that by providing extra comfort while

bringing style and sophistication into your home. Supplying not only a functional factor, window treatments are an accessory that can completely transform a room, giving it more depth and character. Their addition is the perfect opportunity to express your personal style and make a room feel more complete.

Choosing the right option for your windows takes time, thought and effort. Just as you shouldn't install sheers into just any room, you certainly don't have to limit yourself to honeycomb shades as your only option for the entire house. To complete each room with a set of window treatments, consider each room's theme, purpose, style and level of acquired privacy.

Window treatments cannot be specified solely by the way they look. You should first assess all windows in

your house and make treatment decisions based on the purpose of each room. All the spaces in your home function differently, so you'll need to explore different types of window treatments as well. For instance, you likely want the bedroom to be dimly lit or darkened for resting, so room-darkening curtains may apply here. A room that has beautiful natural light, such as the home office or living room, can use a breezy set of sheers. Shade options which block little light but offer total privacy can be utilized in the bathroom.

Just as we should consider the purpose of the rooms before purchasing your window treatments, the style and color should complement the room's existing theme. If you're a fan of pattern and texture, this is your opportunity to go wild and make a statement. On the opposite side of the spectrum, choose a neutrally toned window treatment that balances the room out and provides interesting texture. Keep in mind that the correct drapery hardware for the specific application must be used and be mindful of style here as well.

While selecting window treatments based on the purpose and character of each room in your home seems like a simple task, there are many details to consider so they enhance your space correctly. Consider consulting a design professional, he or she will be able to assess your needs and offer creative solutions.

Trinette Nelson is an interior designer on Sanibel/Captiva Islands and can be reached at trinette@coindceden.com.*

Visitation Changes For Lee Health Facilities

Lee Health has made changes to its hospital visitation hours to protect the safety of patients and staff from the recent surge of COVID-19 cases in the community. Visitation hours are noon to 6 p.m. until there is a reduction in the number of COVID-19 cases.

At the adult acute care hospital campuses, patients will now be allowed to designate up to two visitors upon admission, but only one may visit the patient at a time. No visitors under age 12 are permitted. Exceptions will be made for compassionate care reasons.

All visitors are required to practice physical distancing, complete a health screening, temperature check and thoroughly sanitize their hands with alcohol-based gel before visitation. Visitors are also required to bring their own mask or face covering, and wear it all times while in a Lee Health facility. Ventilated masks are not allowed as they let expelled breath into the air.

Visitation to any COVID-19 units or patients requiring airborne precautions (in an isolated room because they are potentially infectious) will continue to be restricted to compassionate care. Compassionate care generally refers to end-of-life situations to give family members the opportunity to say goodbye to their loved ones, but can cover

Merry Christmas FROM CARING MEDICAL!

Danielle Matias, MMS, PA-C *Brian Hutcheson, DC* *Ross Hauser, MD*

Wishing you a pain-free 2021!

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Frankly Speaking

by Howard Prager



Prayers and wishes for a full recovery to Florida basketball player Keyontae Johnson, the SEC Preseason Player of the Year, who collapsed on the court last Saturday after a dunk against

FSU. Scary. In football that same day, the Gators were stunned by LSU. Was it due to the penalty or a spectacular kick? There's never just one reason a team loses. After a great tackle, Florida's Marco Wilson found himself with the shoe of the wide receiver he tackled and threw it down the field in a bit of a celebratory fashion. The refs did not see it that way, and an unsportsmanlike conduct penalty brought LSU just close enough for their kicker to hit a game-winning field goal from 57 yards. Not a chip shot. I'm always pulling for that last minute miracle. Not this time. With over a minute left, Florida drove down the field and tried a game-tying 51-yard field goal and missed. They face No. 1 Alabama this weekend in the SEC championship and are big underdogs. Also huge underdogs are my No. 14 Northwestern Wildcats facing No. 4 Ohio State in the Big Ten Championship, even though the Buckeyes did not have the required six games played. The Big Ten changed the rules so that OSU can have a chance to get to the FBS championship. Or should I say the Big

One conference. I'm pulling for big upsets from the Gators and the Cats this weekend. And speaking of Northwestern, their terrific athletic director, Jim Phillips, is the next commissioner of the ACC. He starts in February. We'll miss him in Evanston. He did a good job of turning the perennial "Mildcats" to Wildcats as well as building some spectacular new training facilities/recreation gym on campus. *Sports Business Journal* named him Athletic Director of the Year in 2018

Other good news last weekend from college football includes the ongoing records for soccer star Sarah Fuller on Vanderbilt's football team. She kicked two extra points last Saturday and continues to build her stats as the first woman scoring points on an FBS school football team. Vandy's last game is against No. 9 Georgia next week, and here's hoping she adds more points to her total. Another first is No. 13 Coastal Carolina achieving their first undefeated season at 11-0, after beating Troy last weekend. They should be attractive to one of the remaining bowl games being played this season after nearly a dozen bowls cancelled their games due to COVID-19.

As typical near the end of the season, several coaches were shown the door including Lovie Smith of Illinois, Gus Malzahn of Auburn, Kevin Sumlin of Arizona, Blake Anderson of Arkansas State (resigned), Matt Viator of UL-Monroe, Steve Campbell of South Alabama, and earlier this season Derek Mason of Vanderbilt, Will Muschamp of South Carolina and Gary Andersen of Utah State. Speaking of which, Utah State players voted not to play last weekend against Colorado State, and not

due to the pandemic. The team made the decision following some negative comments reportedly made by Utah State University President Noelle Cockett regarding the religious and cultural background of the team's interim head coach, Frank Maile. "We thought it would be best by not playing the game to make this kind of statement," Garrett Larson, a quarterback on the team, said to CNN affiliate KUTV. "On Tuesday, December 8th, the Utah State University Football Leadership Council held a zoom meeting with Noelle Cockett, president of USU, and John Hartwell, the athletic director. The purpose of the meeting was to have a say in the search for our new head coach. During the meeting, we voiced our support for Interim Head Coach Frank Maile. In response to our comments, their primary concern was his religious and cultural background. Players, stating their diverse faiths and backgrounds, then jumped to Coach Frank Maile's defense in treating everyone with love, equality and fairness." If Maile is not embraced at USU as the next head coach, may he find a better place to coach, as do all the coaches now out of work.

According to *The New York Times*, "Following years of protests, the Cleveland Indians have decided to change their team name, moving away from a name and image that has long been criticized as racist." This past summer, Cleveland did away with the cartoon image of Chief Wahoo as they started the process of deciding what to do with their name. As you know, the former NFL Washington Redskins have been playing this year as Washington Football Team to stop using a name long

considered a racial slur. "The transition to a new name involves many logistical considerations, including work with uniform manufacturers and companies that produce other team equipment and stadium signage. One source said Cleveland planned to keep the Indians name and uniforms for the 2021 season while working to shift as early as 2022. The Cleveland baseball franchise has been known as the Indians since 1915, but Native American groups and others have for decades opposed the use of indigenous names, mascots and imagery for sports teams, insisting they are demeaning and racist. Cleveland's name and Washington's old name were considered among the most high-profile examples and were the targets of widespread campaigns for change." My favorite alternative name: Cleveland Rocks, proposed by Paul Sullivan. The song's already written.

The good news story this holiday season is all about a simple way you can help others in need. Wells Fargo Bank has a special campaign this month until December 27. For every post using the hashtag #WFGivesThanks on FaceBook, Instagram or Twitter, they will donate \$5 to the American Red Cross up to \$1M. Your social media posts must be set to public. What a nice way to give thanks to frontline workers and others from the comfort of your own home. Stay safe this holiday season, 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@islandsunnews.com. ✨

Mussels To Continue As Twins Affiliate

The Fort Myers Mighty Mussels have been invited by the Minnesota Twins to remain an affiliate of the club at the Low-A level, an affiliation that began with the Twins since the team moved to Fort Myers in 1992.

"The Minnesota Twins are ecstatic about the prospect of continuing our long-standing partnership with the Fort

Myers Mighty Mussels," Twins President and CEO Dave St. Peter said. "We applaud Mighty Mussels owner Andy Kaufmann and the entire organization for their collaboration on player development and ongoing commitment to baseball fans across Lee County and Southwest Florida."

The Fort Myers franchise has won two Florida State League Championships with the Twins organization (2014 and 2018) and has had numerous Twins players suit up for the club during their time in the Minor Leagues, including Torii Hunter, Joe Mauer, Justin Morneau, Miguel Sano, Max Kepler, Jose Berrios

and Byron Buxton.

"The Mussels organization is thrilled to be continuing the long-term partnership with the Minnesota Twins for many years and generations to come. We look forward to witnessing the development of future Twins players and Hall of Famers here at Hammond Stadium while continuing to bring affordable family fun and entertainment to the great citizens of Lee County. We would also like to thank Lee County for all of their support both historical and present," said Kaufmann.

The Mussels maintain a close partnership with Lee County. "Lee County is pleased to continue its partnership with the Mighty Mussels. Baseball has been part of Lee County's history for more than a century, and we know residents and visitors alike enjoy America's national pastime here," said Lee County Commissioner Brian Hamman, who serves as the liaison to the Tourist Development Council.

Season ticket and group packages are on sale now. Call 768-4210 for more information. ✨

SPORTS QUIZ

1. Mosi Tatupu, a special-teams standout for the New England Patriots from 1978-90, played football for what college team?
2. A state park in Wyoming's Laramie and Albany counties is named after what sportscaster?
3. What Pittsburgh Pirates legend was named NL MVP and World Series MVP in 1979?
4. What basketball Hall of Famer is the NCAA Division I all-time leading scorer with 3,667 points?
5. Name the silver medalist from Australia who stood on the podium with U.S. sprinters Tommie Smith and John Carlos at the 1968 Summer Olympics.
6. Throughout the 1960s, Los Angeles Rams defensive linemen Rosy Grier, Lamar Lundy, Merlin Olsen and Deacon Jones were collectively known by what nickname?
7. Parminder Nagra and Keira Knightley starred in what 2002 British sports romantic comedy film?

ANSWERS

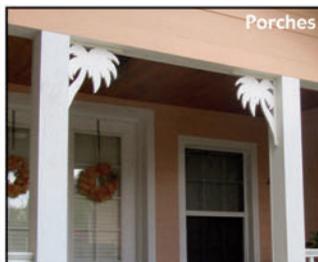
1. The USC Trojans. 2. Curt Gowdy. 3. Willie Stargell. 4. Pete Maravich. 5. Peter Norman. 6. The Foursome Foursome. 7. Bend It Like Beckham.



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dearPharmacist

Six Holiday Plants That Make You Sick



by Suzy Cohen, RPh

Dear Readers: Many families have young children and pets, and so today's article is aimed at keeping you safe. Today, you'll find out which holiday plants need

to be kept out of reach of children and pets.

Poinsettia – The poinsettia plant blooms with those stunning big flowers. The flowers aren't really "flowers," they're just leaves that turned a pretty color. Did you know that the plant's green leaves actually provide the color of the bloom you see, based upon the amount of light it gets? That's why some varieties have red, white or pink flowers. The sap causes oral irritation, cramps and stomach upset.

The Christmas Rose – Sometimes called *Helleborus niger*, the Christmas rose plant is dangerous to children and dogs due to the content of cardiac glycosides. That term is actually a drug category that includes the heart drug called digoxin. The plant also contains poisonous "bufadienolides." Symptoms can be dangerous, and include throat problems, weakness, nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, stomach upset and drooling.

Holly Berries – Boughs of holly offer homeowners some stunning holiday decor options, but the berries are toxic to pets and people. It can cause local irritation in your mouth as well as severe diarrhea, vomiting, dehydration, drowsiness, the jitters and physical weakness. The holly leaves are prickly so those aren't safe

either, but it's really the the berries that are the most harmful because they contain cyanogenic glycosides, as well as another toxin that acts similarly to theophylline.

Christmas Trees – If you love the scent of a beautiful living spruce tree, and bring one home for the holidays, I recommend you feed it with plain water. Don't use the commercial preservatives because most brands can cause stomach upset, nausea, vomiting and eye irritation. Whether or not this causes sensitivity is really dependent on what your tree preservative contains. Pathogens like bacteria and fungus will grow in stagnant water, so make sure you keep the water fresh.

Mistletoe – The kissing sprig. If you pass beneath the mistletoe, you can get one planted on you. It's a well-known holiday tradition and symbol of love! American mistletoe (*Phoradendron serotinum*) is different and safer, compared to its European cousin known botanically as *Viscum album*. American mistletoe is not toxic like the European variety, but here in the states, it's come down to guilt by association.

Bulbs – There are many spring blooming bulbs that I had in my house such as daffodil, hyacinth and amaryllis. Some of you bring the bulbs indoors during winter, however these bulbs can be accidentally mistaken for garlic or shallots, or eaten by a pet or child. Many are quite poisonous and can induce mouth irritation, vomiting, diarrhea and other symptoms.

Many poisonings can occur during visits because if a family hosts you that isn't used to either pet or child-proofing their home, they may have decorated their home with these types of plants. It's important to seek medical advice if you are exposed to one of these plants. The number to the Poison Control Center is 1-800-222-1222 in case you need it.

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. ✨

From page 1

Holiday Nights

Delices, Coastal Dayz Brewery and Green Cup Cafe

December 22 – Food vendors: Aux Delices, Edison Restaurant and Green Cup Cafe

December 23 – Food vendors: Aux Delices, Edison Restaurant and Green Cup Cafe

December 26 – Food vendors: Aux Delices, Edison Restaurant and Flying Eagle Kombucha

Visitors can see the lights nightly through January 3 (closed Christmas Day). Guided Holiday Tradition Tours will be offered at 6 and 7 p.m. every night and visitors can also take self-guided tours of the site. A guided, Inside-the-Homes tour will be offered on Friday, December 18 for a special up-close look at the homes' interiors. The museum and lab will be closed during Holiday Nights. The event is sponsored by FPL, Sanibel Captiva Community Bank and Sunbelt Rentals.

Families can stroll through the

Children's Tree Trail, which features dozens of trees decorated with handmade ornaments from Lee County school children. This year, the tree trail will be displayed along the Ford property, where visitors will have room to adequately social distance. WGPU is the Children's Tree Trail sponsor.

The Ford Cottage Shoppe, Museum Store and Garden Shoppe will be open until 9 p.m. every night and will be stocked with unique gift items. Several vendors will be on site on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings and also on December 20 through 23 with refreshments available for purchase.

Holiday Nights tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for teens (13 to 19), \$2 for children (6 to 12) and no charge for Edison Ford members. Guided Holiday Tradition Tours are \$30 for adults, \$25 for teens, \$18 for children and \$10 for Edison Ford members. Inside-the-Homes Holiday Tours are \$50. Lee County residents with identification will receive \$5 off Holiday Nights admission on Monday nights. To purchase tickets or view the nightly schedule, visit www.edisonford.org.

Doctor and Dietician

Tips For A Strong Immune System



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

Why do we get sick in the winter? Even in Southwest Florida? When winter rolls around so do additional activities that can be stressful. Increased activities, higher sugary food and alcohol consumption, and self-imposed deadlines can wear us down, depleting our immune systems, allowing us to get sick.

We recommend trying to keep your immune system strong by using a preventative approach. Be conscious of what you eat, how much you sleep and how much activity you get. Try to stay in a normal, health-promoting routine to keep your immune system strong.

Reduce Unnecessary Stress – Assess what you find stressful and find ways to eliminate them. I know that I always felt that I had to carry on certain traditions – like sending Christmas cards, making dozens of homemade cookies, finding the perfect gifts for everyone and entertaining as the hostess with the mostest. Well, guess what? I got over it! No more cards. Only a few cookies. And much more casual get-togethers. Send e-cards or letters or post your card on social media. Get together with a friend who loves to bake and make a few items together. Go potluck for gatherings.

Get enough sleep – We cannot emphasize the importance of sleep. Make getting enough sleep a priority. Most

require seven or eight hours of sleep each night and even more during periods of extra stress.

Be selective in what you say yes to. You do not have to attend everything. Do not become overwhelmed with an overloaded list of things to do. Make your list, check it twice, then be done, sit back and relax with your Christmas lights on, your favorite tunes and a nice cup of tea or glass of wine.

Keep moving – Make it a priority to schedule regular daily physical activity. Not only does it relieve stress, but you can also burn off some of those holiday indulgences, as well as stimulate the immune system. Staying with a daily exercise routine is so good for you. Walk, run, box, swim, bike, lift, paddle. The sky's the limit here in Southwest Florida. What a blessing!

Eat fresh and dump the junk – Feeding your body healthy, organic, fresh foods is going to help you fight infection, stay strong and improve immunity. We have control over what goes into our bodies. Choose wisely! Dump the processed, chemical-laden, fake foods. Eat fresh.

Include immune-stimulating foods – Vegetables: green leafy, broccoli, cabbage, peppers, Brussels sprouts, onions, beets, tomatoes, carrots, asparagus, cauliflower, yams, pumpkin; Legumes: soybeans, garbanzo beans, kidney beans, lentils, navy beans, split peas, black-eyed peas, pinto beans; Fish: cod, halibut, salmon, tuna, trout, bass, sole, haddock, sardines; Oils: (cold-pressed and unrefined "extra-virgin") flax seed oil, primrose oil, borage oil, hemp oil, olive oil, sesame oil, fish oils; Other: brewer's yeast, garlic, vinegar, mustard, salsa, curry, cinnamon, ginger, green tea, cayenne, stevia, kelp, spirulina, bee pollen, wheat germ.

Here's to a happy, healthy, holiday season for all!

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@caringmedical.com. ✨

Hospitals Rated In Top Five Percent

Cape Coral Hospital, Gulf Coast Medical Center, Lee Memorial Hospital and HealthPark Medical Center are the recipients of several Specialty Excellence Awards and have been named among America's 100 Best Hospitals for Specialty Care for 2021 by Healthgrades, a leading resource that connects consumers, physicians and health systems. This designation recognizes hospitals that deliver superior quality and patient outcomes within a number of specialty service lines and focus areas.

All four hospitals earned superior performance ratings in the specialty areas of critical care, pulmonary care and stroke care, while Cape Coral Hospital and Lee Memorial Hospital also saw high performance ratings in the areas of gastrointestinal care and general surgery. Additionally, each hospital earned Specialty Excellence Awards for cranial

neurosurgery and neurosciences as well as bariatric surgery (LMH and HPMC).

A Healthgrades analysis of 2017-19 Medicare Provider Analysis and Review data found patients treated at top-rated hospitals have a lower average risk of death or complications than those treated at the lowest-rated hospitals for the same procedure or condition.

The list is based entirely on clinical quality outcomes for 32 conditions and procedures across 16 specialties. Healthgrades evaluates hospital performance for more than 4,500 hospitals across the nation annually based on Medicare inpatient data from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Medicare Provider Analysis and Review (MedPAR) database. No hospital can opt-in or opt-out, nor can they pay to be evaluated.

To learn more about how Healthgrades determines the specialty excellence recipients, visit www.healthgrades.com/quality/specialty-excellence-americas-best-care-2021-recipients.

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

ARTS
 Alliance for the Arts 939-2787
 Arts For ACT Gallery & Studio 337-5050
 Art League Of Fort Myers 275-3970
 Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall 481-4849
 BIG ARTS 395-0900
 Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre 278-4422
 Cultural Park Theatre 772-5862
 Edison Festival of Light 334-2999
 Florida Repertory Theatre at the Arcade 332-4488
 Florida West Arts 948-4427
 Fort Myers Harmonica Band 610-653-7940
 Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers 288-2535
 Gulf Coast Symphony 489-1800
 Harmony Chorus, Charles Sutter, Pres 481-8059
 Naples Philharmonic 239-597-1111
 The Schoolhouse Theater 472-6862
 SW Florida Symphony 418-0996
 Theatre Conspiracy 936-3239
 Young Artists Awards 574-9321

CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS
 American Legion Post #38 239-332-1853
 Angel Flight 1-877-4AN-ANGEL
 Animal Refuge Center 731-3535
 American Business Women Association 357-6755
 Audubon of SWFL <https://www.audubonswfl.org/>
 Caloosahatchee Chapter DAR 482-1366
 Caloosahatchee Folk Society 321-4620
 Cape Chorale Barbershop Chorus 1-855-425-3631
 Cape Coral Stamp Club 542-9153
 duPont Company Retirees 454-1083
 Edison Porcelain Artists 415-2484
 Embroiderers Guild of America - Sea Grape Chapter 239-267-1990
 FM UDC Chapter 2614 728-3743
 Friendship Force Of SW FL 561-9164
 Garden Club of Cape Coral 239-257-2654
 Horticulture and Tea Society 472-8334
 Horticultural Society 472-6940
 Lee County Genealogical Society 549-9625
 Lee Trust for Historic Preservation 939-7278
 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@islandsunnews.com

PUZZLES

Answers on page 23



"I hate the idea of _____
 my wife would never let me take this many
 coffee breaks."

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!

Entice

PARENT

Fable

GLEEND

Entering

DARWIN

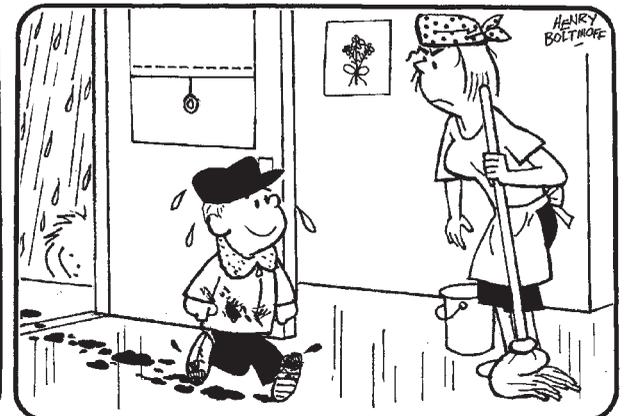
Impede

HERDIN

TODAY'S WORD

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Bandanna is backward. 2. Picture has been added. 3. Shade is lower. 4. Bucket has no water. 5. Boy's hat is taller. 6. Broom handle is taller.

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.

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

PUZZLES

Answers on page 23

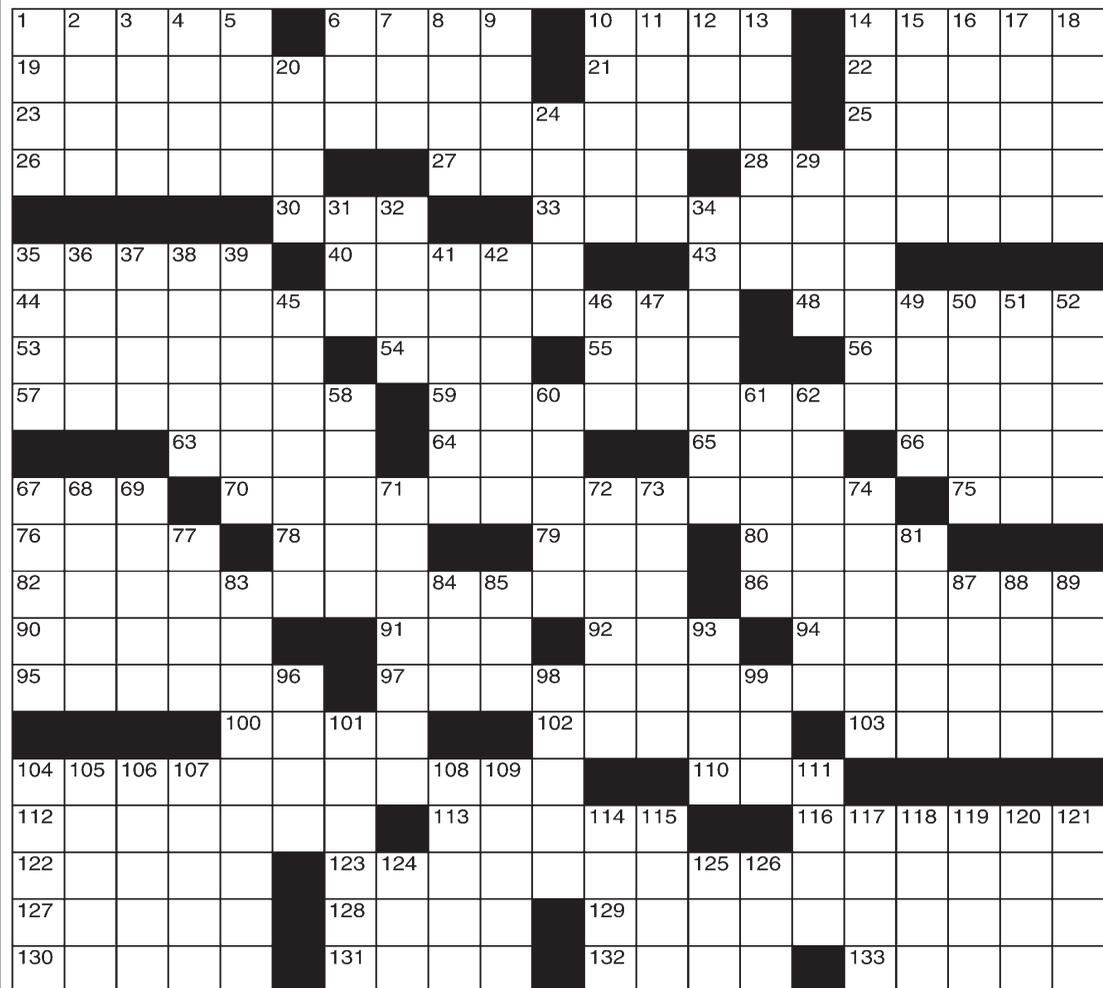
Super Crossword

FILM CLASSES

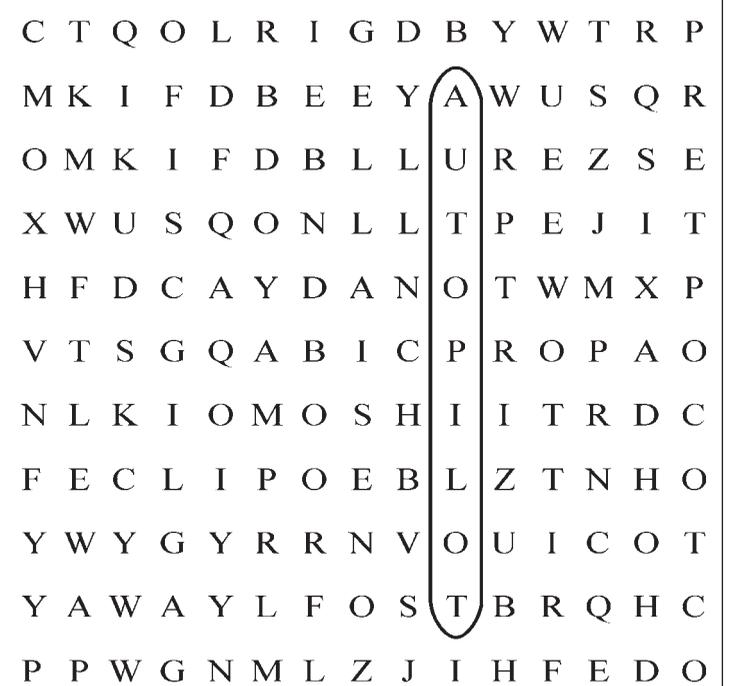
- ACROSS**
- 1 Store away
 - 6 "Out of Africa" author
 - 10 TV "angel" player
 - 14 Bus costs
 - 19 Equestrian arena
 - 21 Puccini song
 - 22 Trump's first wife
 - 23 Case yet to be cracked
 - 25 Rocker
 - 26 Honked
 - 27 Major port of Japan
 - 28 Ocean's main body
 - 30 — Jose
 - 33 Quality Inn alternative
 - 35 April 1 gag
 - 40 Supple
 - 43 Tons
 - 44 Flinch from fear
 - 48 Roving sorts
 - 53 Danish port city
 - 54 Hockey's Bobby
 - 55 Internet automaton
 - 56 Freshen
 - 57 Central California city
 - 59 What may develop between
 - 63 Ballet attire
 - 64 Minuscule
 - 65 In the dumps
 - 66 Reebok rival
 - 67 Gift label
 - 70 Carry out
 - 75 Psychic gift
 - 76 Other, to Gabriela
 - 78 Flimflam
 - 79 Top-secret govt. group
 - 80 Not colorful
 - 82 1980
 - 86 Second half of an LP
 - 90 "It's the end of —"
 - 91 Vetoes, e.g.
 - 92 Defunct
 - 94 Boxed
 - 95 Part of FDR
 - 97 Six Flags amusement park in New Jersey
 - 100 Capped body part
 - 102 "Morning Joe" ailer
 - 103 Lessens
 - 104 Specialty of Sophocles
 - 110 Flub
 - 112 It's south of Rwanda
 - 113 Issues a ticket to, e.g.
 - 116 Minuscule
 - 122 Stan's old film partner
 - 123 Its first part is "Inferno"
 - 127 Has to have
 - 128 Wiggly fishes
 - 129 Lists one by one
 - 130 Slalom curves
 - 131 "Nuts!"
 - 132 Fish snarers
 - 133 Tasty tidbit
 - 9 Florida islets
 - 10 Hanukkah menu item
 - 11 Geometry calculations
 - 12 "Cut!" caller: Abbr.
 - 13 Diurnal hooting bird
 - 14 Raging blaze
 - 15 — -garde
 - 16 Give a boost
 - 17 Be admitted
 - 18 "The father of lies"
 - 20 Potential binge-watching buys
 - 24 Heavy sword
 - 29 Lowly laborer
 - 31 Ring legend
 - 32 El — (Pacific current)
 - 34 Most sour
 - 35 Grad's gala
 - 36 Start all over on
 - 37 Got 100 on
 - 38 Three trios
 - 39 Toady (to)
 - 41 Like tossed dice
 - 42 Kind of wasp
 - 45 Part of BLT
 - 46 MLB stat
 - 47 Ending for bass or ball
 - 49 Unkind
 - 50 "Dumb Dog" musical
 - 51 52-card sets
 - 52 Win every game of
 - 58 Not just short on
 - 60 Helmsley of hotels
 - 61 Invasions
 - 62 Add scent to
 - 67 Salutation on a June greeting card
 - 68 Do penance
 - 69 Liquid oatmeal food
 - 71 While furious
 - 72 Valuable qualities
 - 73 Caribbean's — Islands
 - 74 Chuck Berry title girl
 - 77 "— -Ca-Dabra" (1974 hit)
 - 81 Popular fishbowl fish
 - 83 Gaunt quality
 - 84 Neither fish — fowl
 - 85 Chinese thinker
 - 87 As a result
 - 88 Had life
 - 89 Tram's load
 - 93 "— delighted!"
 - 96 How much 1990s music was released
 - 98 Fine, rare violin
 - 99 TiVo predecessor
 - 101 Got ready for print
 - 104 Hearty steak
 - 105 Governments
 - 106 City on the Rhone
 - 107 Tour leader
 - 108 High-speed Amtrak train
 - 109 In the — of (amongst)
 - 111 Derby, e.g.
 - 114 Not odd
 - 115 Trig ratio
 - 117 Legal wrong
 - 118 Sharif of "Lawrence of Arabia"
 - 119 Allot
 - 120 Conception
 - 121 Certain sac
 - 124 That vessel
 - 125 Cashew, e.g.
 - 126 Ambulance gp.

King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Vagrant
 - 4 Poke
 - 7 Femur or fibula
 - 8 Elaine's last name on "Seinfeld"
 - 10 Cook by direct heat
 - 11 Silvery
 - 13 Smooth-coated pooch
 - 16 1/20 ton (Abbr.)
 - 17 Humdinger
 - 18 Moving truck
 - 19 Narnia's Aslan, e.g.
 - 20 Antitoxins
 - 21 Munchie
 - 23 Enthusiasts' emotions
 - 25 Roe provider
 - 26 Group of quail
 - 27 Debtor's letters
 - 28 Muslim maiden
 - 30 Thee
 - 33 High-backed chairs
 - 36 Earthling, in sci-fi
 - 37 Flavor
 - 38 Go over the books
 - 39 Spud's buds
 - 40 Always, in verse
 - 41 Two, in Tijuana
 - 8 Conductor's wand
 - 9 Whine
 - 10 English channel?
 - 12 Signs of sorrow
 - 14 Kindle competitor
 - 15 Genetic stuff
 - 19 Young fellow
 - 20 Put into words
 - 21 Try for a two-pointer
 - 22 Queasiness
 - 23 Nil
 - 24 Ousted
 - 25 Bro or sis
 - 26 Beyond well-done
 - 28 Throng
 - 29 Where the elated walk
 - 30 Affirmatives
 - 31 Uneaten morsels
 - 32 Work with
 - 34 Verifiable
 - 35 Boxer's successful blow
- DOWN**
- 1 Give a leg up
 - 2 One
 - 3 Tuneful
 - 4 Spanish wine town
 - 5 Mad
 - 6 Tavern offering
 - 7 Forehead



MAGIC MAZE ● DRONE TERMINOLOGY



Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
Unlisted clue hint: NO FLY —

- Autopilot
- Controller
- Gyroscope
- Roll
- Axis
- Fly away
- Octocopter
- Throttle
- Bind
- Gimbal
- Payload
- Waypoint
- Camera
- GoPro
- Pitch



Strawberry Pop Pastry

photo courtesy Fresh From Florida



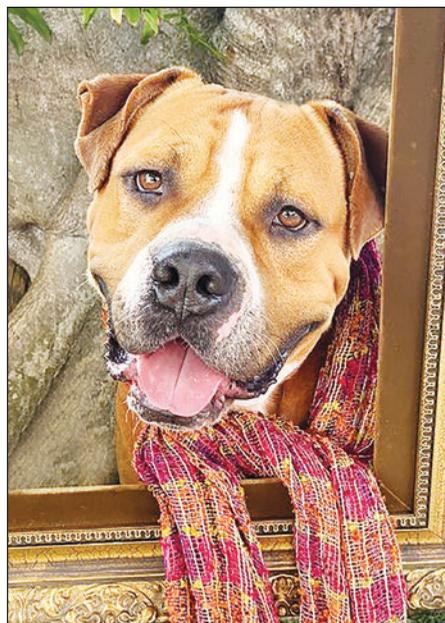
Strawberry Pop Pastry

2 1/2 cups fresh strawberries, diced
 2 tablespoon sugar
 1 tablespoon cornstarch
 1 tablespoon fresh squeezed lemon juice
 1 tablespoon lemon zest
 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
 1 egg
 1 teaspoon water
 1 cup confectioners sugar
 1 box pie dough, store bought

In a small sauce pot over medium-low heat, combine 2 cups diced strawberries, corn starch, lemon juice, sugar, and vanilla extract. Cook, while stirring, until a sauce has formed, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat and cool. Reserve 1/4 cup of the strawberry mixture to make

the glaze. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Unroll the pie dough and cut out 4 matching rectangles. In a small bowl mix the egg and water to create an egg-wash. Place an even amount of the strawberry mixture to the center of half of the rectangles, and do not overfill. Leave a clean edge around the dough to seal properly. Place another piece of the cut pie dough on top of the mixture and use the tines of a fork to seal. Transfer the pastries to a parchment lined cookie sheet. Use a pastry brush to apply a thin layer of the egg-wash. Sprinkle each pastry with the remaining sugar. Bake for 7-10 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from oven and let cool to room temperature. In a small bowl mash the reserved berry mixture with a fork. In another bowl, add in 1 cup confectioners' sugar and a small amount of the strawberry mixture, stir until completely combined. Adjust consistency with more confectioners' sugar or strawberry sauce. Drizzle each tart with the glaze.✱

PETS OF THE WEEK



Salvador ID# A834140 photos provided

Lee County Domestic Animal Services

Salvador And Rosa

Hello, my name is Salvador. I have been patiently waiting for a home in time for the holidays. I am a 4-year-old male mastiff mix who's calm, well-mannered and very huggable. I'm also a work of art. So what's the hang up? What's not to like about a handsome dog that allows you to dress him up for a photo shoot?! Come on over and see me.

My adoption fee is \$75.
 Hi, I'm Rosa. I am a 10-year-old female domestic shorthair who's not only practical but efficient. I have been



Rosa ID# A832493

observed dipping my tiny paw in the water bowl then using it to pick up the crumbs in my food bowl. Does it remind you of something your older relatives do? I would be a tidy addition to your household.

My adoption fee is \$10 and you can adopt another kitty at no additional fee.

Lee County Domestic Animal Services is located at 5600 Banner Drive in Fort Myers. Adoptions are available by appointment Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit www.leelostpets.com to complete an online application. As always, cats and kittens are adopt one and get a feline friend at no additional charge. For more information, call 533-7387.✱

My Stars ★★★★★

FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 14, 2020

Aries (March 21 to April 19) At this time you might want to resist that otherwise admirable Aries penchant for getting to the heart of a matter quickly. Keep in mind that a delicate situation calls for patience.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) Your aspects favor more diplomacy and fewer direct confrontations when dealing with a relationship problem. Avoiding hurt feelings can help in your search for the truth.

Gemini (May 21 to June 20) Positive aspects are strong this week. Although you might still have to deal with some problems caused by a recent period of turmoil, you are making progress, and that's what counts.

Cancer (June 21 to July 22) A family matter could benefit from your counsel. But don't come into it unless invited, and don't stay if you feel uneasy. Just remember to reassure one and all that you'll be there for them.

Leo (July 23 to August 22) As the truth about an ongoing situation emerges, you could find that you were right to defer judgment before you had all the facts.

Now would be a good time to move on to other matters.

Virgo (August 23 to September 22) Your plans to take control of a personal situation because you feel you are best qualified could create resentment. Best to hear what everyone else involved in the matter has to say about it.

Libra (September 23 to October 22) Uncovering some surprising background facts about that ongoing personal matter could make you reconsider the extent of your involvement. A neutral family member offers advice.

Scorpio (October 23 to November 21) Religious or spiritual themes start to dominate your aspect this week. This can serve as a counterweight to the mounting effects of the season's growing commercialization.

Sagittarius (November 22 to December 21) Taking on that recent challenge impressed a lot of important decision-makers. Meanwhile, proceed with your holiday plans, and don't forget to include you-know-who in them.

Capricorn (December 22 to January 19) Disagreeing with an opinion you can't accept could be dicey, and your motives might be questioned. Best to wait to mount a challenge until you have support

for your position.

Aquarius (January 20 to February 18) Getting involved in helping others in this increasingly hectic period not only makes the generous Aquarian feel good, but you could also gain a more substantive benefit from your actions.

Pisces (February 19 to March 20) The Piscean way of thinking clearly and objectively helps you resolve a complex situation without creating any ill will. Don't be surprised if your counsel is requested on another matter.

Born This Week: You have a way of persuading people to look at the positive possibilities that make up any choices they might face.

MOMENTS IN TIME

- On Dec. 23, 1620, one week after the Mayflower arrived at Plymouth harbor in present-day Massachusetts, construction of the first permanent European settlement in New England begins. The term "Pilgrim" was derived from a manuscript in which Gov. Bradford spoke of the "saints" who traveled to the New World as "pilgrimes."
- On Dec. 22, 1808, Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 in C Minor, Op. 67 made its world premiere. The

Fifth Symphony is instantly recognizable by its powerful four-note opening motif – three short Gs followed by a long E-flat.

- On Dec. 25, 1880, Layne Hall is born in Mississippi. When he died in 1990, Hall was the oldest licensed driver in the U.S. In nearly 75 years on the road, Hall never got a speeding ticket or citation of any kind.
- On Dec. 26, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson announces the nationalization of a majority of the country's railroads under the Federal Possession and Control Act due to World War I. Two days later, the United States Railroad Administration seized control.
- On Dec. 24, 1923, President Calvin Coolidge touches a button and lights up the first national Christmas tree to grace the White House grounds. The tree was the first to be decorated with electric lights – a strand of 2,500 red, white and green bulbs.
- On Dec. 27, 1932, at the height of the Great Depression, thousands turn out for the opening of Radio City Music Hall in New York City. Designed as a place where ordinary people could see quality entertainment, it remains the largest indoor theater in the world.

continued on page 22

 FRIDAY Cloudy High: 67 Low: 53	 SATURDAY Sunny High: 68 Low: 56	 SUNDAY Partly Cloudy High: 72 Low: 58	 MONDAY Sunny High: 73 Low: 61	 TUESDAY Sunny High: 77 Low: 63	 WEDNESDAY Sunny High: 75 Low: 64	 THURSDAY Cloudy High: 73 Low: 59
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Redfish Pass Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	1:55 am	9:55 am	6:00 pm	8:00 pm
Sat	2:47 am	10:40 am	6:33 pm	9:35 pm
Sun	3:47 am	11:25 am	7:03 pm	11:23 pm
Mon	5:04 am	12:09 pm	7:33 pm	None
Tue	6:45 am	1:05 am	8:03 pm	12:53 pm
Wed	8:32 am	2:24 am	8:31 pm	1:36 pm
Thu	10:06 am	3:24 am	8:59 pm	2:17 pm

Point Ybel Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	1:00 am	9:57 am	5:05 pm	8:02 pm
Sat	1:52 am	10:42 am	5:38 pm	9:37 pm
Sun	2:52 am	11:27 am	6:08 pm	11:25 pm
Mon	4:09 am	12:11 pm	6:38 pm	None
Tue	5:50 am	1:07 am	7:08 pm	12:55 pm
Wed	7:37 am	2:26 am	7:36 pm	1:38 pm
Thu	9:11 am	3:26 am	8:04 pm	2:19 pm

Punta Rassa Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	1:46 am	9:50 am	4:33 pm	9:30 pm
Sat	2:46 am	10:34 am	5:22 pm	10:26 pm
Sun	4:05 am	11:21 am	6:14 pm	11:49 pm
Mon	5:23 am	12:20 pm	7:02 pm	None
Tue	6:44 am	1:22 am	7:44 pm	1:21 pm
Wed	7:55 am	2:25 am	8:24 pm	2:10 pm
Thu	9:06 am	3:16 am	9:04 pm	2:53 pm

Cape Coral Bridge Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	4:05 am	1:11 pm	8:10 pm	11:16 pm
Sat	4:57 am	1:56 pm	8:43 pm	None
Sun	5:57 am	12:51 am	9:13 pm	2:41 pm
Mon	7:14 am	2:39 am	9:43 pm	3:25 pm
Tue	8:55 am	4:21 am	10:13 pm	4:09 pm
Wed	10:42 am	5:40 am	10:41 pm	4:52 pm
Thu	12:16 pm	6:40 am	11:09 pm	5:33 pm

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From page 20

Moments In Time

• On Dec. 21, 1975, in Vienna, Austria, Carlos the Jackal leads a raid on a meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, killing three people and taking 63 hostages. Carlos evaded capture until 1994, when French agents found him hiding in the Sudan.

NOW HERE'S A TIP

• Inexpensive gift idea: On the front of an empty photo album or scrapbook, print out and arrange color photos of your recipient in a collage. Glue the photos to the front of the album and cover with a decoupage glaze, like Mod Podge. Let dry and glaze again. You've just made a one-of-a-kind gift!

• If you are a re-gifter, always document from whom and in what year you received a gift. Then re-gift it to someone who will have little to no contact with that person. For example, if Aunt Emily from out of town sends you a lovely soap basket that you would never use, you could re-gift it for your office party.

• After-Christmas sales are a great time to buy not only gift wrap (look for

solid colors that you can use all year long), holiday cards and decoration, but also next season's winter wear. Things like scarves and gloves can be great bargains. And even coats can go on sale. Take advantage – especially if you have kids – and buy up.

• “Recycle in the new year by using wrapping supplies to help store your holiday decorations. The cardboard tube from gift wrap can be cut into smaller pieces, which you can wrap strands of tree or house lights around. Boxes can be put to use to hold ornaments or other decorations, and ribbon and bows that are still in good condition can be tucked away for re-use next year.” – EF in Oregon

• “Resolutions are a great idea, and, like a lot of people, last year I resolved to exercise more often. I keep a stationary bike in my living room, and I use it while I watch my favorite programs on television. It has helped me lose 8 pounds, and I feel much better. This year, I am going to resolve to volunteer to help others.” – IN in Nebraska

STRANGE BUT TRUE

• Pine cones have genders. Male pine cones shed pollen and female pine cones make seeds. When the wind blows pollen

into the female cones, the seeds become pollinated.

• Cats are believed to be the only mammals that don't taste sweetness.

• In 1978, DC put out a *Superman vs. Muhammad Ali* comic book. While the plot deals with hostile aliens, the book's main highlight is the whooping Superman gets in a sparring match with “The Greatest”!

• The first-ever fashion magazine was sold in Germany in 1586.

• Early cosmetic surgeons used a procedure known as paraffin wax rhinoplasty, in which they would inject hot liquid wax into a patient's nose and mold it into the desired shape. Not only was this dangerous, but, no surprise, it really didn't work.

• Canada eats more macaroni and cheese than any other nation in the world.

• A French general, the Marquis de Lafayette, gave John Quincy Adams a pet alligator. Our sixth president not only kept it in a White House bathtub, but enjoyed showing it off to visitors.

• There is a town in India called Santa Claus.

• Ever wonder how the tradition of leaving hand and footprints in front of

Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood got started? By accident – when silent film actress Norma Talmadge stepped on wet cement.

• Cellophane, invented in 1908, was originally intended to protect tablecloths from wine spills.

• Those old witch potions aren't quite as gross as you think: Eye of newt, toe of frog and wool of bat are actually archaic terms for mustard seed, buttercup and holly leaves.

• Selfies now cause more deaths than shark attacks.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“My father always said, ‘Never trust anyone whose TV is bigger than their bookshelf’ – so I make sure I read.”

– Emilia Clarke

TRIVIA TEST

1. **Movies:** What was the theme song for the 1997 movie *Titanic*?
2. **General Knowledge:** What is an espadrille?
3. **Firsts:** Which company was the first to use an assembly line to manufacture its products?
4. **Television:** What was Marge's

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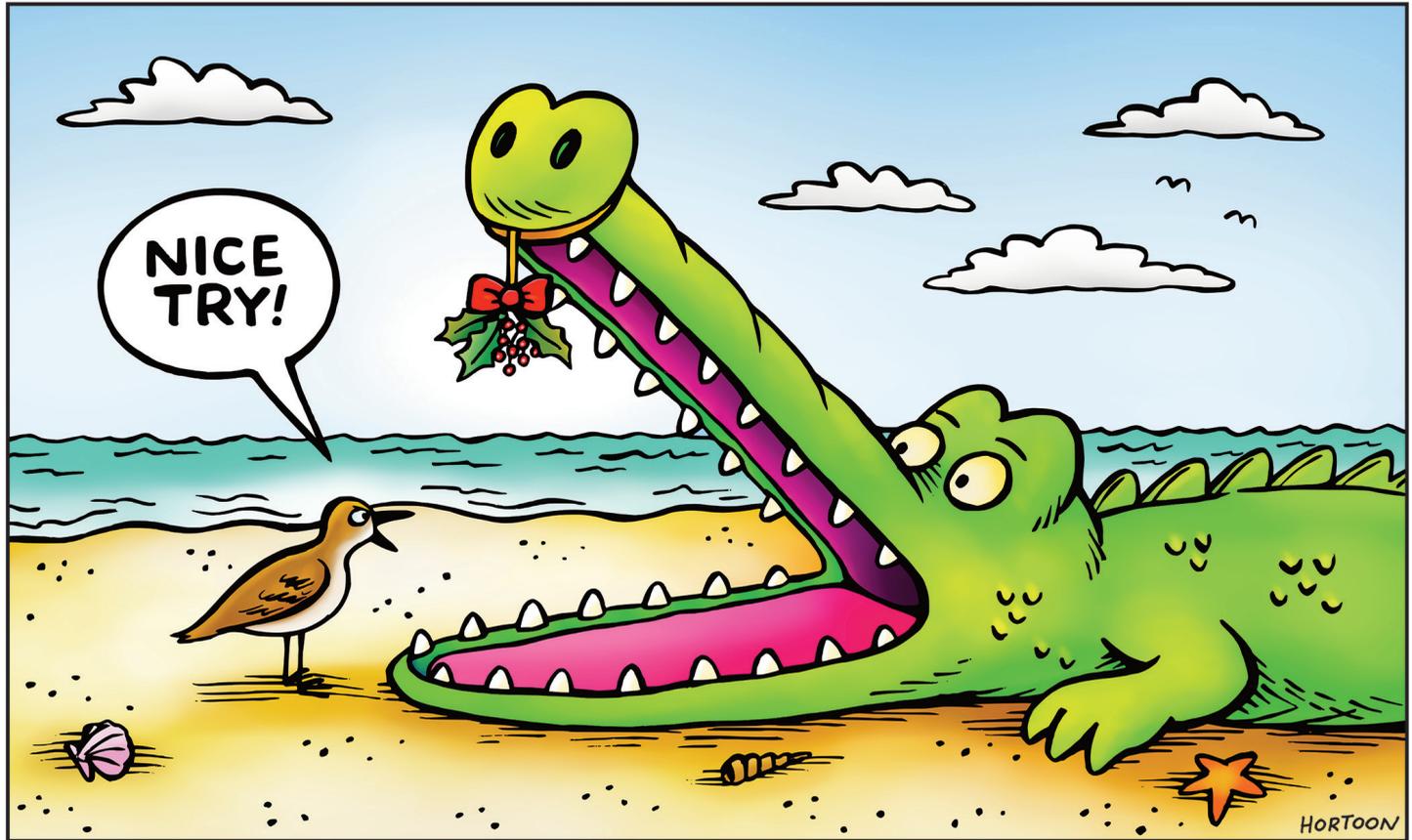
• White LG Dishwasher – Mint Condition
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maiden name on the animated comedy *The Simpsons*?

5. **Food & Drink:** What are the main ingredients in a modern mince pie?
6. **U.S. States:** This city has two prominent nicknames, and one of them is The Crescent City. What is the city and state?
7. **Animal Kingdom:** What is a baby puffin called?
8. **Advertising Mascots:** What product did Mr. Whipple represent for more than 20 years?
9. **Geography:** What is an old name for north China?
10. **Math:** What Arabic number is the equivalent of the Roman numerals MCMLX?

HORTOONS



TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. *My Heart Will Go On* 2. A rope-sole canvas shoe 3. Ford Motor Co. 4. Bouvier Louisiana. The other nickname is The Big Easy. 7. A puffin 8. Charmin bathroom tissue 9. Cathay 10. 1960

SCRAMBLERS ANSWER

1. Entrap 2. Legend;
3. Inward; 4. Hinder

Today's Word

RETIRING

PUZZLE ANSWERS

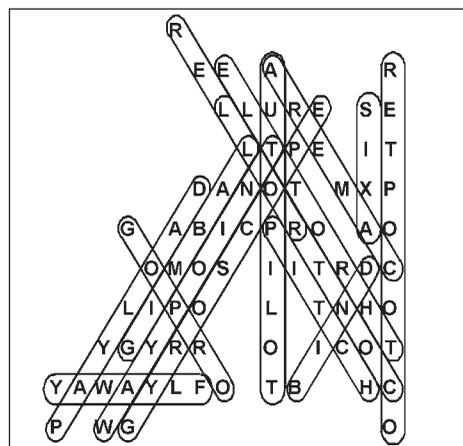
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1	8	7	4	5	3	9	6	2
4	3	9	7	6	2	1	8	5
2	6	5	9	1	8	7	3	4
5	9	1	6	7	4	3	2	8
6	4	8	3	2	1	5	7	9
3	7	2	5	8	9	6	4	1
9	2	6	8	3	5	4	1	7
7	1	4	2	9	6	8	5	3
8	5	3	1	4	7	2	9	6

Top 10 Real Estate Sales

Subdivision	City	Year Built	Square Footage	Listing Price	Selling Price	Days On Market
Barefoot Beach	Bonita Springs	2020	4,865	\$8,750,000	\$8,600,000	5
Creekside	Bonita Springs	1996	4,688	\$2,350,000	\$2,355,000	6
Metes And Bounds	Captiva	1997	3,262	\$2,250,000	\$2,049,000	290
Verona Lago	Miromar Lakes	2003	2,937	\$1,825,000	\$1,770,000	0
Little Hickory Shores	Bonita Springs	2004	4,590	\$2,040,000	\$1,750,000	57
Tidewater Island	Fort Myers	1995	5,716	\$1,599,000	\$1,520,000	111
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	2020	3,593	\$1,599,000	\$1,499,000	25
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	2017	3,417	\$1,575,000	\$1,480,000	289
Sanctuary At Wulfert	Sanibel	1995	4,017	\$1,525,000	\$1,475,000	12
Caprini	Miromar Lakes	2007	3,273	\$1,429,000	\$1,397,400	137

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