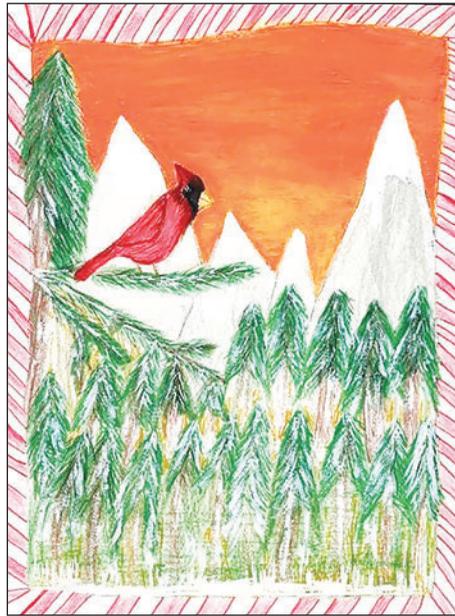
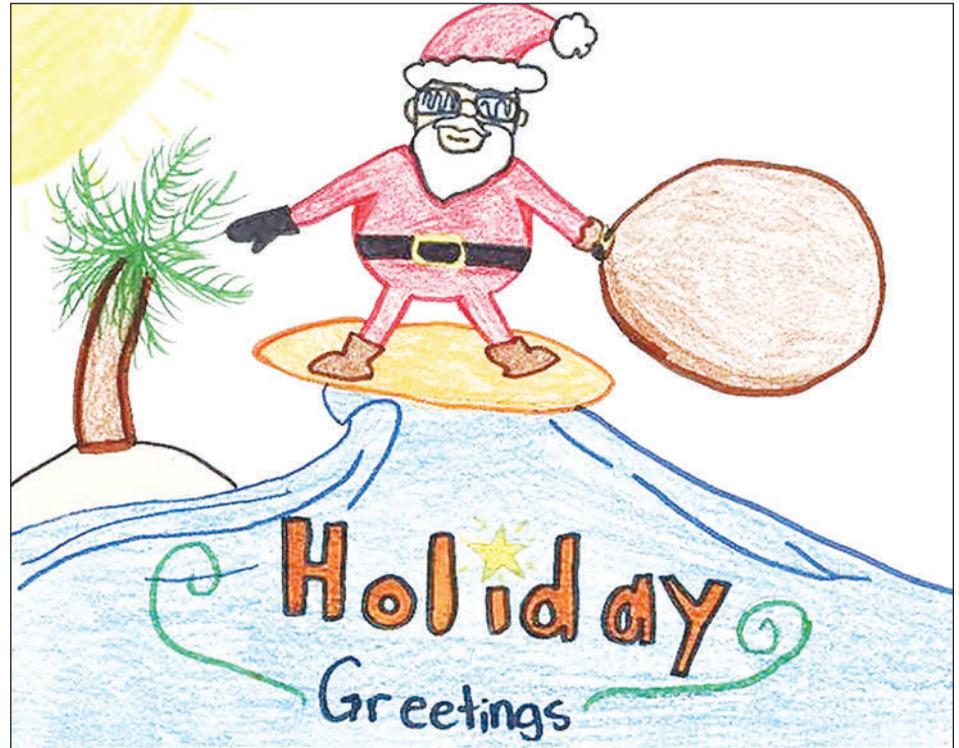


Greeting card by Angela Dowds
images provided



Winter cardinal by Jack Schoenrad



Florida Santa by Natalie Vo

Student Holiday Cards On Display

The lobby of the Lee County Public Education Center is in the holiday spirit thanks to the work of some very artistic elementary school students. The six winners of the 31st annual Holiday Greeting Card contest are currently on display.

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

This year's winners, in no particular order, are:

- Emily Rosales, Gateway Elementary, fifth grade
- Angela Dowds, Rayma C. Page Elementary, fourth grade

- Gracelyn Welch, Hancock Creek Elementary, fifth grade
- Natalie Vo, Patriot Elementary, fifth grade
- Scarlett Oliva, Hancock Creek Elementary, fifth grade

Jack Schoenrad, North Fort Myers Academy for the Arts, fourth grade
Each student received a congratulatory letter from Superintendent Greg Adkins and will be honored by their school for their winning 2020 holiday card.✪



Artwork by Danielle Branchaud
image provided

Alternate Realities At Davis Center

The Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center will hold an opening reception for the exhibits Visions of the Underworld by Danielle Branchaud and Sanctus Carnem by Ndola Pency on Friday, January 1 from 6 to 10 p.m.

After a lifetime of exploring the inner worlds of the mind, Branchaud has built a tremendous body of work that brings personal and universal dreamscapes to life. For the first time, each of her series will be represented in the same space, filling the main gallery of the center. Visions of the Underworld is not only intended as a retrospective of past works, but also the debut of a new painting series not yet

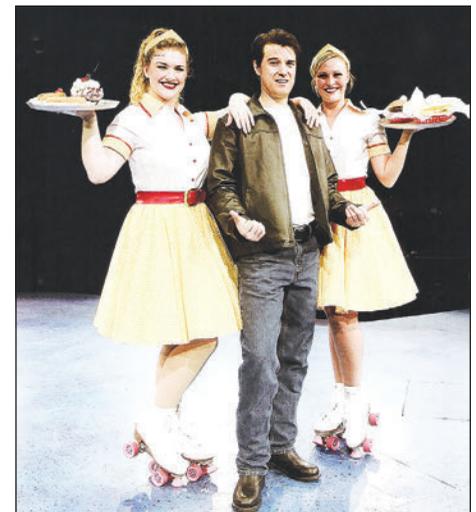
continued on page 11

Flashback To The '50s At Broadway Palm

Happy Days, A New Musical is sock-hopping its way onto the Broadway Palm stage from December 31 through February 14. Based on the hit television series, Happy Days, this new musical will bring you back to 1959 complete with varsity sweaters, hula hoops and jukebox fun.

The musical involves the gang – including Richie, Potsie, Ralph Malph and the unforgettable “king of cool” Arthur “The Fonz” Fonzarelli – coming up with a plan to save the famed drive-in malt shop and hangout, Arnold’s, which is in danger of demolition. The plan features a dance contest and a TV-worthy wrestling match. Even Pinky Tuscadero, Fonzie’s childhood sweetheart, returns to help and, what do you know, they rekindle their old flame. With delightful music from Oscar-winner Paul Williams and a book by the TV series original creator Garry Marshall, this is one trip down memory lane you will not want to miss.

Broadway Palm is continuing to follow CDC guidelines while providing meals and entertainment in a safe and socially



Actors in Happy Days, A New Musical
photo provided

distanced environment. For a list of the health and safety measures being taken, visit www.broadwaypalm.com. Guests are required to wear masks while not eating or drinking. In addition, a temperature check will be performed on everyone that enters the building, and admittance will not be allowed to anyone with a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher.

Performances are Tuesday through Sunday evenings with select matinees.

continued on page 16

Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

Moose Organize In Fort Myers

by Gerri Reaves, PhD



Organizations such as the Elks (BPOE), Rotary Club and Kiwanis Club were but three in a wave of fraternal and social organizations that blossomed in the early 20th century in Fort Myers.

The Elks were one of the first to organize, in 1912, the latter two in 1922.

There were plenty of clubs with less staying power, sometimes fading out completely or intermittently reorganizing over the years. Count among them the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF), the Knights of Pythias, or the Fifty Thousand Club, for example.

The Moose Lodge was another that started off swimmingly only to sputter, fade away in the early years, and later reorganize, despite the fact that the Loyal Order of Moose had such a long history, having been founded nationally in 1888.

All the organizations had principles of community service and were opportunities for socializing and business networking, but maybe the town just wasn't big enough to sustain the number of organizations that popped up – especially with the distractions of World War I and the Great Depression.

In March 1914, the national director of the Loyal Order of the Moose (LOOM) visited Fort Myers in hopes of establishing a lodge. Within a couple of weeks, a sufficient number of members were recruited, and the lodge was instituted as Royal Poinciana No. 634.

Like many organizations, it would meet in borrowed quarters, in this case, the Masonic Hall, which at that time was on the upper floor of the Bank of Fort Myers building at First and Jackson.

The oddly named top offices were past dictator, dictator and vice-dictator. PA Ruhl, CA Greer and Charles Hewson were elected to those offices, respectively.

The lodge rang in the New Year of 1915 with a grand New Year's Eve party featuring lots of live music, dancing and recitations.



The building at the Main Street entrance to Patio de Leon still stands. Today, it has an exterior metal landing and staircase instead of the balcony that was standard in the early 20th century.

photo by Gerri Reaves

In June 1915, the organization was officially chartered, with the objective of “striv[ing] for the mutual benefit and welfare of the members of the association to promote charity, and to furnish literary, scientific, and other amusements for their entertainment welfare and instruction.”

That same month, their new lodge was dedicated with an elaborate dance party. Among the entertainers were local legendary vocal soloists Effie Winkler Henderson and Nettie Pearl Menge (Battey). The new location was the second story of the new brick building at the Oak Street entrance of Tonnelier Court.

If those names aren't familiar, it's because they have changed. In today's terms, the location was the east side of the Main Street entrance to Patio de Leon.

The early 1920s photo shows a glimpse of the building (underneath star) in an eastward view from Broadway down Main.

In August, the lodge sponsored a cruise to Boca Grande for more than 100 people. They traveled on the yacht *Nepenthe* and were entertained by a live band onboard.

January 1917 was probably the young lodge's heyday. That month, it brought the Sibley Superb Shows to town for a week-long carnival held on “the left bank [east side] of Billy's Creek” (how very French). It was a rousing success.

In April, the U.S. entered World War I and weekly Moose meetings, like a lot of other things, lessened in importance as things like the draft, Liberty Bonds, volunteering for the Red Cross and Victory Gardens became priorities.

The Moose faded away again but, in September 1926, a meeting was held to organize a new lodge. However, several years later, as the Great Depression settled on the town, Moose activity again subsided.

The group did reemerge in the post-World War II years, and even had a lodge right on First Street in the main business district circa 1950.

Stroll through downtown and imagine all the events sponsored by clubs over the decades – parades, carnivals, dances, charity fundraisers and more, and appreciate their contributions to community life.

Then learn more about the contributions of the many organizations that helped shape Fort Myers by visiting the following two research centers.

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

continued on page 4



In June 1915, the Moose Lodge Royal Poinciana No. 634 moved into a new lodge on the second floor of the building under the star (center). This eastward view of Main Street from Broadway was probably taken in the early 1920s.

photo courtesy Fort Myers Plan

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From left, Allen Abbott and Darlene Smith of the Cypress Cove Office of Philanthropy, Cypress Cove Executive Director Mary Franklin and Resident Council President Betsy Russell. photo provided

Hundreds Of Toys Donated To Heights Center

Cypress Cove residents and staff celebrated their 10th year of support to The Heights Foundation/The Heights Center's annual holiday gift drive by donating over 500 toys and gifts for children of the Harlem Heights community.

The gifts, presented to representatives of The Heights Foundation/The Heights Center, will be a large addition to the hundreds of gifts distributed Saturday, December 19 to Harlem Heights parents for more than 800 children throughout the nearby community.

Cypress Cove has participated in The Heights Foundation/The Heights Center holiday event since 2011. Since the start of its program participation, Cypress Cove residents and staff have contributed approximately 5,000 gifts toward the annual children's giveaway.

Cypress Cove's Office of Philanthropy

offset residents and staff shopping concerns due to the pandemic by offering to do one's gift buying with their monetary contribution. Donations from residents to purchase gifts amounted to \$2,500 and assisted in the buying of bicycles, dollhouses, dolls, action toys, games and numerous other Christmas surprises. The total of all gifts are valued at \$10,000.

"This holiday season will be especially challenging for many families in the Harlem Heights neighborhood due to the impact of COVID-19," said Heights Foundation President and CEO Kathryn Kelly. "We are thankful for the generous support of our neighbors."

Toys gifted by Cypress Cove to the Heights Foundation/The Heights Center event covered the entire front portion of the Cypress Cove's Edison Hall stage. Executive Director Mary Franklin commended the program support from Cypress Cove residents and employees. "They are extremely generous," she said, "and we are delighted to be part of a program that brings great joy to the children of the Harlem Heights neighborhood."✽✽

Holiday Bike Build And Donation

Several team members with Suffolk's Florida Gulf Coast operations recently spent an afternoon building 15 new children's bikes to be donated to deserving children at Bonita Springs Middle School. In partnership with the Lee County School District, school children received the bikes based on need.

Adam Molloy, community engagement coordinator for the school district, worked with Suffolk to identify a school that would best benefit from the donation.

"Supporting the communities where we do business has always been at the foundation of who we are at Suffolk," said Josh Christensen, general manager of Suffolk's Florida Gulf Coast. "And it's amazing to see our employees come together to support the causes that are important to them – not just around the holidays but throughout the year."✽✽



The donated bikes photo provided

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Fort Myers Art:

One More Month For Submission To All Florida Show

by Tom Hall

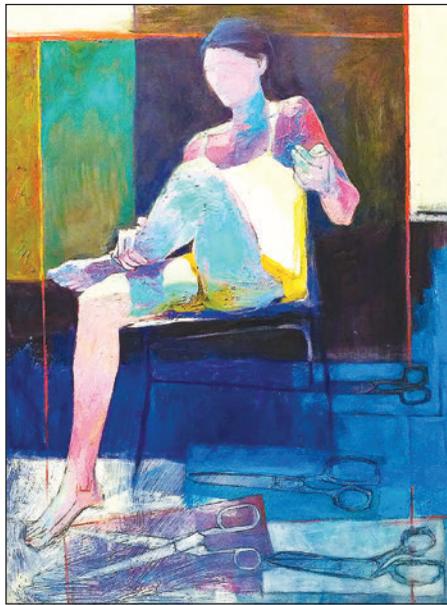


There's a call to artists for the Alliance for the Arts annual All Florida Exhibition, the most anticipated art show of the year. Deadline for entries is Monday, January 25.

As the name suggests, this exhibition features pieces created by artists working in a wide variety of media from all over the 65,000 square miles that make up Florida. The juried entries come together for an award-winning and exciting exhibition representing today's contemporary Florida artists.

The show is open to all artists residing in Florida, but only original artwork will be accepted. Categories are painting (including oil, acrylic, collage, watercolor and mixed media), drawing, photography, sculpture, ceramics, metalsmithing, glass, digital media, video, printmaking, fiber and textiles.

Awards include \$1,000 cash for Best in Show, \$250 gift certificate (to be determined) for second place, \$100 cash for third place and \$55 for Jurors Choice Award-Artist Membership.



Sit by Christine Di Staola image provided

For more information or submission, visit www.artinlee.org/event/annualallflorida or call 939-2787.

The 35th annual All Florida Exhibition will open Friday, March 5 and run through Saturday, March 27. Acceptance/rejection notices will be emailed on Friday, February 12.

Alliance's Off the Wall holiday exhibit runs through December 31

Each year, the Alliance for the Arts invites 100 members to submit two original 2D or 3D artworks for exhibition in the gallery beginning with the onset of the holiday shopping season. Called Off the Wall, this non-traditional art show

features works in all mediums priced at \$200 or less. All sales are "cash and carry," meaning purchasers will get to take the piece with them when they buy it, rather than waiting until the end of the exhibit.

Make supporting local arts tops on your list this year by giving a gift that gives back. Make plans to do your Christmas shopping at the Alliance for the Arts this year. Betcha there's 100 member-artists who would be delighted to

have their art under your tree.

This year's show runs through Thursday, December 31 at the Alliance for the Arts, located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers.

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. ❄️



James Stephens Pre-K Center

photo provided

Pre-Kindergarten Center To Open Next Month

The School District of Lee County is ready to open its first expanded pre-kindergarten (Pre-K) center in January, and applications are currently being accepted for students who wish to attend. More than 200 4-year-olds will be able to prepare for their K-12 education when the James Stephens Pre-K Center is fully operational.

Two buildings on the campus of James Stephens International Academy were renovated for the Pre-K center. In the process, 12 new classrooms and administrative offices have been created, while restrooms, a playground, tricycle

track and canopy were added. The parent pick-up and drop-off area is also brand new, and creates a single point of entry to match the same security feature at all other district schools. Total project cost was \$1.8 million.

Expanding Pre-K opportunities is a personal goal of Superintendent Dr. Greg Adkins. Lee County ranks 60th in the state when it comes to kindergarten readiness. At the start of the last school year, only 40 percent of 5-year-olds were prepared for school. Dr. Adkins envisions opening a new Pre-K center every year, so that 10 years from now, two-thirds of incoming kindergarten students will have participated in a district-affiliated Pre-K.

The James Stephens Pre-K Center, set to open in January, is located on the east side of the James Stephens campus at 1111 Clotilde Avenue in Fort Myers. ❄️

From page 2

Historic Downtown

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.moosintl.org. ❄️

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Elementary Teacher Chosen As County Best

Tortuga Preserve Elementary ESE Teacher Alyssa Smith is the School District of Lee County Teacher of the Year. Smith will now be nominated for Florida Teacher of the Year. The Florida Department of Education will announce the winner in the spring.



Alyssa Smith

all student levels are being met, and the three social functioning teachers are on track. Her attention to each student's individual academic needs has led to every student in her classroom meeting their learning goals. Smith's use of Zones of Regulation increased student compliance from 40 to 80 percent per day. Students are able to take control of their emotions by being asked if they feel either Green (ready), Blue (sad), Yellow (worried) or Red (mad), asked why they feel that way, and then given the tools and strategies they need if they are not in the green zone.

"Alyssa makes every effort to be a child advocate," said Tortuga Preserve Principal Jennifer Shonack. "Her beliefs and commitment to her students go above and beyond. While working with her and observing her with her students, I have been continually impressed with her driving commitment to excellence... for herself and her students."

As Teacher of the Year Smith wins a prize package valued at more than \$3,000.

Teacher of the Year candidates are nominated by their school principals. Applications are reviewed by a team of district administrators and former Teachers of the Year. Semi-Finalists are then interviewed and three finalists have a second interview. The judges say this year was extremely competitive. The two other finalists were Miguel Teixeira, the peer collaborative teacher of social science at Lehigh Acres Middle School, and Sara Wechter, fourth grade teacher at Edgewood Academy.✱

Smith is in her sixth year of teaching at Tortuga Preserve Elementary in Lehigh Acres. Her focus has always been on exceptional student education, and she is currently a special education teacher in a social functioning classroom.

"I grew up in a household with two sisters who have special needs on opposite ends of a need's spectrum," she said. "As long as I can remember, I have voiced that I wanted to be a teacher for children like my sisters. I believe that every student, no matter what their abilities, deserves every opportunity both in school and in life."

Smith is the ESE contact/grade level chairperson at Tortuga Preserve this year. She developed a K-5 Social Functioning Blended Scope and Sequence to ensure

Partners Prove Giving Spirit In Christmas Project

The Boys & Girls Clubs of Lee County, in partnership with FineMark National Bank & Trust, Mark Loren Design and the United Way, recently hosted a "Christmas Choice" event at their local clubs.

From each of their four clubs, two families were selected to participate in a Christmas project. The children were asked to write a short essay describing what was most important to them this holiday season.

Each child made a Christmas wish list for themselves and their parents. Through the generosity of the community partners, gifts such as an X-Box 360, cell phones and diamond earrings were purchased to give to the kids as a surprise.

As the children unwrapped the gifts, they were told there was a catch: They could only choose one gift to keep – either for themselves or for their family member. For some, the choice was hard; but for others they quickly selected the gift for their parent.

When asked why he chose the gift for his mom, Collin, a fifth grader said, "My mom has done a lot of things for me and is really special to me."

In the end, regardless of their selection, all of the kids went home with both presents for themselves and their family.

According to Denise Gergley, CEO of



Fifth grader Collin checks out his new Xbox 360 photo provided

the Boys & Girls Clubs, the goal of this project was to highlight the giving spirit that exists in our local youth and within our community through local businesses.

The Boy & Girls Clubs of Lee County believes that all kids have what it takes to be successful. Their mission is to enable all young people, especially those who need them most, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, and responsible citizens.

To get involved or donate, please visit loveleekids.org or call 334-1886.✱

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Literacy Parade at The Children's Learning Center

photo provided

Literacy Parade Brings Books To Young Students

Students at The Children's Learning Center waved and cheered as Fancy Nancy, Thing 1 and other Dr. Seuss characters circled the entrance before delivering a crate full of new books to the early learning center on December 16.

The unique, socially distanced Children's Literacy Parade was the result of a partnership between Humana, the

Early Learning Coalition of Southwest Florida and Child Care of Southwest Florida. As a community service initiative, Humana collects books for pre-school-aged children. Volunteers were unable to read to students this year, instead decorating their vehicles with plush storybook characters, balloons and inspirational messages to help spark children's interest in reading.

"Humana places a high priority on community health, and what better way to improve our community health than through literacy," said Dr. Lauri Kalanges, medical director for Humana's Central/

North Florida region. "We're bringing books to pre-schoolers so they can learn to read and enjoy reading over a lifetime."

Each student walked back to their classrooms after the literacy parade with a children's book tucked under their arms.

"This is a crucial period of development in their lives, the final year of preparation before they enter kindergarten," said Chris Hansen, CEO of Child Care of Southwest Florida. "That's why it is so important to keep books continuously in their hands. We're so thankful to Humana and the Early Learning Coalition for helping increase literacy levels among our students, as well as children across the region."

For information about literacy partnerships with Child Care of Southwest Florida, please call 278-1002 or visit CCSWFL.org.

Symphony Holds Open House And Supply Drive

The Southwest Florida Symphony will host an open house on Thursday, January 7 from 4 to 7 p.m. to introduce the community to its new home, located in the Sanibel Captiva Community Bank building at 7500 College Parkway, Suite 200, in Fort Myers. There will be performances by several Southwest Florida Symphony musicians and youth orchestra students

throughout the afternoon and evening. Visitors are encouraged to bring donations of hygiene products for the Salvation Army of Lee, Hendry and Glades Counties.

To uphold this tradition of charitable service in these extraordinary times, Executive Director Amy Ginsburg continues to seek ways for the orchestra to give back to its community.

"We've been hosting a food drive at our opening Masterworks for several years, but the needs of local families must still be met after the holidays. Our community is still suffering from the effects of the pandemic. We've been hit particularly hard since Southwest Florida's service industry provides a living to so many people. Hygiene products tend to be overlooked when supply donations are sought, so we're hoping to fill that void at our 'housewarming party'."

Capacity is limited to 12 visitors at a time. Temperature checks will be done upon visitors' arrival, and masks are required for entry. For those who aren't comfortable dropping hygiene product donations off in-person at this time, donors have the option to participate online by ordering products and having them delivered to the Southwest Florida Symphony administrative office by Thursday, January 7 or to: The Salvation Army of Lee, Hendry & Glades Counties, 2400 Edison Avenue, Fort Myers, 33901.

Tickets to upcoming performances are available by calling the symphony box office at 418-1500 or visiting online at www.swflso.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.flgoarch.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.

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

SAINT COLUMBKILLE CATHOLIC
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Plant Smart

Start The New Year In The Pink

by Gerri Reaves

One way we find comfort is by surrounding ourselves with colors that have a particular psychological effect, be it stimulating bright reds and oranges or calming soft grays or blues.

This principle can be as relevant in choosing species for the garden as in choosing throw pillows or rugs.

Pantone, in its year-end tradition, has announced the Pantone Color of the Year 2021, and it is ultimate gray and illuminating, a soft medium yellow. (Who knows why two colors and not the usual one?)

Pantone says those colors offer a host of qualities, from optimism to fortitude.

But in terms of the garden, you might find yourself thinking of more cheerful colors than that.

Pink, for instance, to at least counter-balance the relentless brash red of Christmastime.

Some of the qualities associated with pink are youth, good health and playfulness. It is said to evoke feelings of peace and compassion, and promote nurturing and understanding.

Here are three of the many native pink flowers that might make the transition from 2020 to 2021 a kinder, calmer journey.

Hardy blazing star's (*Liatrix spicata*) fringed flowers attract butterflies and add dramatic vertical accents to the garden. Flower spikes appear on stalks as tall as five feet, blooming from the top down.

This member of the aster family grows in much of the state and tolerates adverse conditions, including poor soil, drought, heat and cold. Give it well-drained soil and full to partial sun. It will reseed, but can also be propagated with seeds or by dividing the roots.



Blazing star's stalks of fringed flowers attract butterflies photos by Gerri Reaves

Rose-of-Plymouth (*Sabatia stellaris*) produces star-shaped flowers throughout the year in South Florida but peaks in summer. A member of the gentian family, it pops up in coastal marshes, low pinewoods, wet prairies and vacant lots.

The five- or six-petaled flowers range in color from pink to white and measure up to an inch and a half across. They appear singly atop stems a foot or two tall.

A close look at the flower's yellow center explains the term "stellaris," which means star-shaped. In a striking contrast, a jagged red line separates the yellow-green center and the blush of white at the base of the pink petals.

Give this hardy low-maintenance wildflower moist rich soil and full sun. Propagate it with seeds or with cuttings.

The sprawling vine baybean (*Canavalia rosea*) produces long erect spikes of rose-pink flowers year-round. As with many members of the pea family, the showy one- to two-inch flowers are remarkably beautiful.

Two-lipped with a "hood" and white



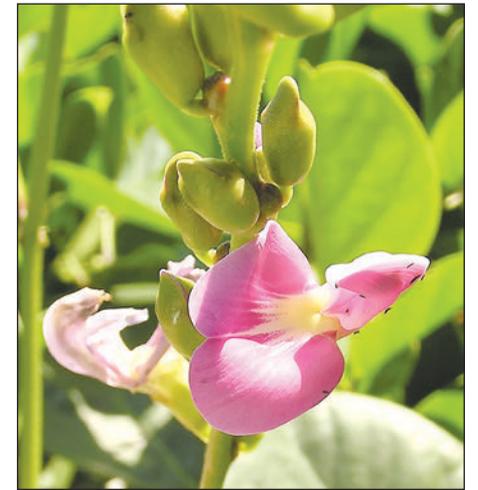
Rose-of-Plymouth's center is a study in color contrast, with a jagged red line dividing yellow-green from white and pink

throat, they are often described as "upside-down" or hooded because the large lobed petal, or banner or standard, which is usually at the top, is below the wings (two petals) and keel (two fused petals).

It isn't fussy about soil type and will tolerate full sun, drought, salt and salt spray.

Hardy and resilient, it can grow on dunes and beaches, as well as inland. On beaches, its rooting nodes stabilize dunes and the seed pods are dispersed on ocean currents.

Use it for a groundcover or on a



Baybean's flowers have the elaborate beauty that is typical of the pea family

trellis or fence. Propagate it with seeds or cuttings.

Sources: *Everglades Wildflowers* by Roger L. Hammer, *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants* by Rufino Osorio, *Growing Native* by Richard W. Workman, *The Guide to Florida Wildflowers* by Walter Kingsley Taylor, *Native Florida Plants* by Robert G. Haehle and Joan Brookwell, *The Shrubs and Woody Vines of Florida* by Jaret C. Daniels and Stan Tekiela, enature.com, www.fnps.org, www.regionalconservation.org, and wildflower.org.

Plant Smart explores the diverse flora of South Florida. ✨

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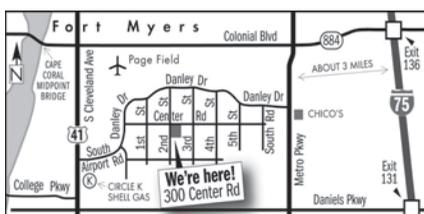
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Winter Weather Rollercoaster



by Capt. Matt Mitchell

Weather conditions kept anglers on their toes all week. Warm temperatures and shiner fishing quickly turned into cold water shrimp

fishing. The ups and downs of winter fishing require you to change your game plan to get the most out of the day's trip.

When we get these big drops in temperature along with super low minus tides, the playing field of places to fish gets really small. Finding deep water that is somewhat out of the wind makes even the most frigid 60-degree day very fishable. The passes and docks around the passes fill up with boats. Deeper mangrove channels offer clients my favorite option during cold windy days.

Some creeks close to home that have offered great action in less than favorable conditions include Tarpon Bay, Shell Creek and Jewfish Creek.

Getting to know these creek systems and how to navigate in them only comes from doing it. Google Earth is a great place to get started, too. Find the deeper holes and channels to fish during even the lowest tides. Many of the creeks that are four foot or deeper

water are the places the fish go during cold water periods.

Directly after the passing of our last cold front, I opted to go out and take only shrimp, and we had an amazing day's worth of action while hiding from an extremely cold day for south Florida. After starting our trip deep in a mangrove creek system, we caught snook, trout and redfish all in one favorite hole. While slow-bouncing live shrimp on a jig head during a low incoming tide, we noticed the bite was almost nonstop. Though none of these fish were trophies, there is simply not a better way to start off a charter than with everyone on board hooking up.

We changed it up later in the trip as the wind laid down, and I made the run further north down the sound heading to the pass. The plan was fishing shrimp chunks on a jig head to catch a few sheepshead for dinner. With the tide screaming in the pass, I opted to target some of the many docks on the inside. After setting up on an open dock, it did not take long to catch a few upper slot-sized redfish. As we continued to cast to each individual piling on the dock, we put a few respectable sheepshead into the box during the last hour of the trip.

Although we continue to hear about red tide, I have only experienced a few small patches of low levels around the east end of Sanibel. Over the past week, it's had very little effect on where I've been fishing. I did have an issue a few days ago while catching shiners on the causeway with the bait dying in the live well. With cooler water temperatures and a northerly



Highlights while fishing in mangrove creeks with Kemper and the boys this week

photo provided

wind pattern, everyone's fingers are crossed that it will quickly continue its movement south and break apart.

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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Inaugural Benefit For LARC Scholarship Fund

LARC (Lee Association of Remarkable Citizens) will hold an inaugural fundraiser to benefit The Lori Carroll-Collins Scholarship Fund at Misty Morning Barn on Saturday, April 17. Guests will experience gentle breezes flowing through the barn doors, among a backdrop of natural arching oaks, tropical pines and sun-kissed cypress trees.

The evening will include a five-course dinner created by celebrated local chefs Mike and Karen Gavala of G3 Catering, and Gloria Jordan of La Trattoria Cafe

Napoli. Renowned chocolatier Norman Love of Norman Love Confections will provide handcrafted desserts. Kellie Burns of NBC-2 will emcee.

Guests will meet sixth-generation winemaker Clay Mauritsen, founder and owner of Mauritsen Wines in Healdsburg, California, and sip family-crafted wines paired with each course. In 1998, Mauritsen produced his first bottling of Dry Creek Zinfandel under the Mauritsen label and, in 2002, he began devoting his efforts full-time to the Mauritsen Family Winery project.

The Lori Carroll-Collins Scholarship Fund was established by her family in memory of Carroll-Collins. A resident of

Fort Myers for 35 years, she cared deeply for her community and people in need, and she led her life by example, when it came to generosity and philanthropy. The fund will help bridge financial gaps and allow individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities to access innovative services offered by LARC.

"Lori was an inspiration to many, as she lived her life to the fullest, despite living with a disability," said her husband, Marc Collins. "She never saw herself as different and fought for equal access for herself and others. Lori spent her life in a wheelchair, but the limitations of her body did not define her life."

"This fund will light the way for people

of all abilities for generations to come," said Angela Katz, director of development and communications at LARC. "It will allow individuals with disabilities and economic limitations to access services designed to help them reach their full potential."

Limited tickets are available. COVID-19 safety guidelines will be followed. Sponsorship packages are available.

Misty Morning Barn is located at 18810 Misty Morning Lane in Fort Myers. For ticket or sponsorship information, visit www.larcleecounty.org, call Angela Katz at 334-6285 ext. 229 or email angelakatz@larcleecounty.org.*

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From left, Michelle Stevens-Hollenbeck, Sharon MacDonald, Kenneth Walker, Dennis Bruens, Tammy Zinn and Chris Simoneau photo by Caronchi Photography

Quarter-Century Of Fundraising Celebrated

Lee Health Foundation is celebrating 25 years of philanthropic support for lifesaving health and wellness care in Southwest Florida. Since 1995, the foundation and its supporters have made it possible for Lee Health to serve its growing community with comprehensive medical resources close to home.

Millions of dollars have been raised to support Lee Health's programs and

innovations that bring leading-edge healthcare services to the community, including providing life-saving care to under and uninsured community members. At the same time, philanthropy has supported Lee Health's efforts to enhance wellness and prevention programs to keep people healthy and out of the hospital. Philanthropy made programs possible that otherwise wouldn't exist, including Golisano Children's Hospital, the only children's hospital between Miami and Tampa. In addition to the building, programs funded by donors include Golisano's Child Life program, which isn't covered by insurance, but provides music



From left, Bill Skidmore, George Hamilton, Phil Simon and David Rosenberg at the 2020 Secret Garden Gala photo provided

therapy, schooling and technology to help children better understand and cope with medical treatment. The donor-supported Sharon MacDonald Breast Health Fund (and similar funds for other types of cancers) covers the cost of treatment for indigent breast cancer patients in need of lifesaving cancer care. This year, the Richard M. Schulze Family Foundation created a \$200,000 challenge grant to establish a pediatric hematology and oncology infusion clinic at Golisano Children's Health Center in Naples, which will allow up to 30 children a week to receive chemotherapy treatments and see their Golisano Children's Hospital pediatric oncologist without needing to drive out of Collier County.

"We are so grateful for every person and donation that has supported Lee Health's ongoing mission to empower healthier lives through care and compassion," said Chris Simoneau, Lee Health's chief foundation and development officer. "It takes a lot of people giving all they can to improve and save lives. Since 1995, Lee Health Foundation has helped by raising awareness about the needs of our community and distributing the funds necessary to best serve and support our family, friends and neighbors in Southwest Florida. Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, Lee Health has expanded and enhanced care throughout our seven-county region."

Donors small and large, major league baseball teams, numerous area foundations, two area wine festivals

and many innovative fundraisers have invested in meeting the growing and evolving healthcare needs of the region and bringing leading-edge medicine and medical procedures to the community. For a timeline of significant milestones in Lee Health Foundation's 25-year history, visit www.leehealthfoundation.org/25years.

Thanks to the generosity of the Southwest Florida community, Lee Health Foundation's fiscal impact for 2020 includes: more than 4,000 donors raised over \$27.5 million; and more than \$150,000 was donated by Lee Health employees to support patients. In addition, Lee Health raised more than \$700,000 in 2020 to combat the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and teamed up with NCH Healthcare System (NCH) to create the SWFL Together campaign to ensure critical resources, equipment and supplies needed to support doctors and nurses in our region are delivered.

In recognition of Lee Health Foundation's contributions to Southwest Florida, the Association of Fundraising Professionals Collier-Lee Chapter honored four of its representatives on National Philanthropy Day on November 17. Simoneau, who joined Lee Health in March 2019, was recognized as Fundraising Executive of the Year. This year, he was instrumental in creating the unprecedented collaboration SWFL Stronger Together with NCH for a regional approach to the pandemic.

continued on page 12

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From left, Bill Semmer, Marilyn O'Dea, Allen Fiske, Steve Romaine and Joanne Semmer photo provided

Sailing Regatta Profits Distributed

Members of the Caloosahatchee Marching and Chowder Society (CMCS) recently distributed checks from profits obtained from their 55th annual Summerset Sailing Regatta held last October.

"In addition to great racing and camaraderie for the sailors and crew, the real beneficiaries to this event are the youth in the same communities where the sailors came from," said Allen Fiske, Summerset vice commodore. "Boats pay entry fees, and we solicit sponsorships to offset costs so that we can end up with a profit. This profit is distributed back to the communities in the same percentages as where the entries and sponsorships came from."

Due to the pandemic still raging during the fall months, CMCS members debated whether or not to hold the regatta or not. They did proceed but

without social events and without sponsorship. The regatta featured 32 boats in four classes and, due to an unforeseen response from sailors and unsolicited sponsors, \$7,200 in profits were distributed.

- The breakdown is as follows:
- \$6,000 to the Fort Myers/Cape Coral area
 - \$1,000 to the Ostego Bay Foundation for youth marine education
 - \$5,000 to the Edison Sailing Center for youth Learn-to-Sail scholarships
 - \$600 to Punta Gorda and Port Charlotte area
 - \$200 to Charlotte Harbor Youth Sailing
 - \$200 to Learn-to-Sail Inc.
 - \$200 to Charlotte Harbor Community Sailing
 - \$600 to Naples/Marco Island area
 - \$200 to Naples Community Sailing
 - \$200 to Marco Island Community Sailing
 - \$200 to the Freedom Waters Foundation
- For more information, visit www.summersetregatta.com.✪

From page 1

Alternate Realities

fully witnessed. Branchard has the ability to manipulate acrylics into realistic figurative paintings. They are further mesmerized by the intense introspection and imagination behind every one of them.

Pensy, who will be showing Sanctus Carnem in the Capital Gallery on the second floor, utilizes watercolor, ink, gold and silver leaf. Since spending time in Russia as a child, she has been fascinated by the power light has to transform a moment from ordinary to fearful awe. Exterior facades, rizas or oklads are usually highly embellished and often

multi-dimensional. The precious metals illuminated by candles and as momentary phenomena become distorted, gleaming lures for the imagination. With influences from the Macedonian and Palaeologan age, new stories are crafted from both constructed and discovered references. Within this work, what starts out as triumph soon becomes corrupted into a manifesto of grief, desperation and heartache, leaving only a sense of nihilism and the possibility of a new beginning.

Both shows will be on display through Wednesday, January 27.

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

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Book Review

The Law Of Innocence



by Di Saggau

Defense attorney Mickey Haller is celebrating a big win, and as he steps outside the celebration to go home, he is pulled over by police. To make matters

worse, they find a body of a former client in the trunk of his Lincoln. Haller is immediately charged with first degree murder and a \$5 million bail set by a vindictive judge, that he can't pay.

Haller represents himself and prepares for his defense in his jail cell in the Twin Towers Correctional Center in downtown Los Angeles. Being an officer of the court, he is an instant target. He pays for protection from a fellow inmate named Bambadjan Bishop, an interesting character who later becomes Haller's driver.

Connelly writes, *The law of innocence* is unwritten. It's not a true legal term, can't be argued in a court of law and doesn't exist on the books.

In the law of innocence, for every man not guilty of a crime, there is a man out there who is. And to prove true innocence, the guilty man must be

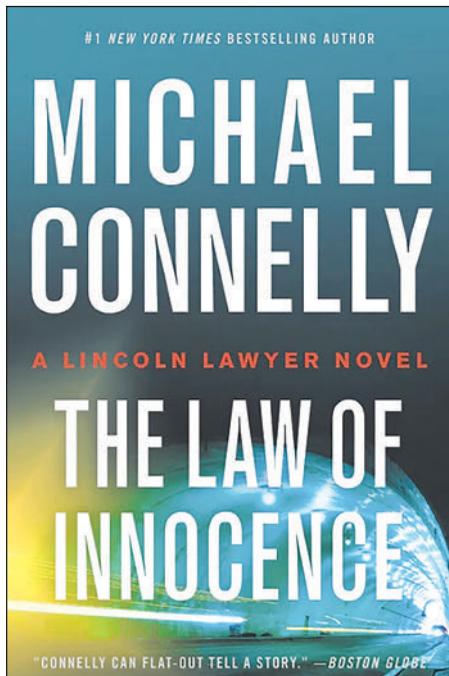


image provided

found and exposed to the world."

Haller knows he's been framed, but proving it isn't easy. His half-brother Harry Bosch joins the investigative team. They use all their skills to find out who really committed the murder and why. The case leads to the port of Los Angeles and a biofuel company run by a criminal who has mob ties, whom Haller put away years earlier.

Bosch suspects the company of running a complex scam and double-dipping on government subsidies

payouts. Meanwhile, 2020 is off to a weird start with reports of a deadly virus from China that threatens to spread worldwide. *The Law of Innocence* is a well-paced legal thriller by a master writer.✳

School Smart



by Shelley M. Greggs, NCSP

Dear Readers, I've presented these positive phrases to you for quite a few years, and 2020 is no exception. It's been a very tough year, and all of

us would benefit by saying and hearing positive words, our kids especially. So, here's a holiday gift for you to give to your children, some positive phrases. Using supportive vocabulary and language that expresses your belief and support for them is a powerful way to communicate. It's vital for your children to know that they are loved, understood and accepted because sometimes the usual pat on the back isn't enough.

Here's a list of highly expressive and meaningful phrases that child psychologist Yekaterina Kes has put together to use with your children. This language will help your kids to understand the depth of your love and affection for them. What could be more important than that?

Expressing belief in your child:

I trust you
I believe in you
I respect your decision
It won't be easy, but I'm certain you'll do it
You're doing everything right
You understand this perfectly
How did you manage to do this so well?

Teach me how you do it, so I can succeed like you

You can do it better than I can
You're better at this than me

Crediting their hard work:

I can see how much work you put into this
I can see how hard you tried
You worked so hard on this, and you achieved it perfectly
You're making fantastic progress
I can see you spent a lot of time on this
I can imagine how much effort you had to put in to achieve this
You must have worked so hard to get this result

All that hard work paid off

Being thankful for the time you spend together:

I really appreciate you spending time with me
I can't wait to play with you tomorrow
It's so interesting to do this with you
I really enjoyed playing with you
I'm so glad you're at home with me
I'm having so much fun being with you

Helping them evaluate their own performance:

What do you think about this?
You must be so proud
What's the thing your most proud of?
What's your opinion on this?

How would you evaluate your own work?

And what do you think of the result?
How do you wish it had gone?

Being thankful for their help:

Thank you so much for doing this
I'm so grateful that you helped me with this

You really helped me out

Thanks for understanding
I don't know what I would have done without you

Without your help I wouldn't have succeeded

You helped me to get through this quicker

The house is so tidy thanks to you

Describing what you see:

Your bedroom is so clean
Wow, you've made your bed... fantastic
There are so many beautiful colors in this picture

I can see that you really tried hard

I noticed that you cleared the table yourself... well done

Describing how you feel:

I just love spending time with you so much

I'm so happy when you're at home

I love being part of your team

I love hearing your opinion

I'm so incredibly grateful that I have you

It makes me so happy when you're around to help me

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.✳

From page 10

Lee Health Foundation

Distinguished fundraising volunteers honored were Duane Chaney, a financial advisor at Raymond James in Fort Myers, who created the pro-class tennis fundraising event Madisen's Match in 2008 that has raised more than \$1.3 million for Lee Health and Golisano Children's Hospital and garnered national recognition by Invest in Others. Kristy Gudobba for six years has chaired the Boston Red Sox Celebrity Classic event that raises more than \$500,000 per year, is a member of the Lee Health Heritage Circle of Friends Giving Society, and knits shawls and helps create Project Pink bags that are given to every newly diagnosed cancer patient at the Lee Health Regional Cancer Center. George Hamilton joined the Golisano Children's Hospital Kids' Minds Matter committee in 2019, bringing a wealth of fundraising, event and marketing knowledge and helping to increase fundraising at the annual event from \$1 million to \$2.8 million. He joined the Lee Health Foundation Board of Trustees.

For more information about the role of philanthropy at Lee Health or to donate, visit www.leehealthfoundation.org or call 343-6950.✳

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

Chambers Unite To Help Businesses Thrive

The Above Board Chamber of Florida and the Greater Naples Chamber will ring in the new year with a webinar titled Thriving in Uncertain Times on Wednesday, January 13 from noon to 1 p.m.

Executive coach Andy Robinson and Michael Wynn, president of Sunshine Ace Hardware, will discuss action steps to help you thrive personally and professionally in 2021. Participants will learn important behaviors and ways of thinking that will give them the agility and resilience to find success in an increasingly complex and uncertain world. The webinar will review commitments and leadership best practices that you and your team can adopt to find focus and opportunity, regardless of the challenges 2021 may bring.

Wynn, board chair and Naples native, leads his family's chain of Ace Hardware stores and is chairman of the Wynn Family board of directors. Robinson has been an advisor and strategic advisor to executives, business leaders and business owners for over 25 years.

This webinar will be moderated by Jeanne Sweeney, CEO and founder of the Above Board Chamber of Florida and Michael Dalby, president and CEO of the Greater Naples Chamber.

Sponsors for this event are CONRIC PR & Marketing, Sunshine Ace Hardware and Conditioned Air. To register for this Zoom webinar, visit <https://tinyurl.com/yakpja8s>.

Gift Drive Yields Hundreds Of Toys

Officials from the Southwest Florida Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association (FPRA) collected over 200 toys and gift cards to benefit Children's Advocacy Center of Southwest Florida (CAC) as part of a holiday gift drive honoring a late member.

The toys will be donated to the gift room at CAC, where children and families can choose gifts for siblings and themselves for the holidays. CAC works with families and children who are victims of abuse and neglect, providing therapeutic counseling, parent education and prevention programs

to children in Lee, Hendry and Glades counties.

The toy drive was in memory of Janet Wilson, a longtime FPRA member, public relations professional and media representative in Southwest Florida who died in 2019.*

Drivers Eligible To Save Millions In Overdue Toll Fines

Drivers who can save millions of dollars collectively on overdue toll fine citations filed with the Lee Clerk of Courts office prior to January 1, 2021. These overdue toll fines are now reduced to \$10 per citation. This represents approximately 36,268 citations as many drivers have multiple citations. The toll amnesty program, which has already helped thousands of drivers get their licenses reinstated, is a partnership between Clerk of Courts Linda Doggett and the honorable Lee County judges.

The effort was launched last month, closing 9,300 citations within the first two weeks and saving drivers more than \$1.55 million.

"This is an excellent opportunity for anybody who has an overdue toll citation to save hundreds of dollars. Paying these overdue toll fines in full may make these individuals eligible to reinstate their driving license," Doggett said.

In addition to the toll fine reduction, all collection, delinquency and payment plan fees are waived. However, the Florida Department of Motor Vehicle's license reinstatement fee is still required to be paid. Customers who cannot pay their overdue fines in full may be eligible to set up a payment plan. Only overdue toll violation citations filed with the clerk prior to January 1 are eligible for the program.

The toll amnesty program was launched in tandem with Operation Green Light, a statewide event that gave customers with overdue court fines a break on their collection fees. Toll violation customers comprised approximately 85 percent of all customers during Operation Green Light.

Contact the clerk's office. To make a payment, customers can visit www.leeclerk.org to schedule an appointment or connect with a representative via TeleClerk, a new video conferencing system. Payments can also be made by calling 533-5000. For more information, visit www.leeclerk.org.

Program On Public Relations Affecting Business

The Southwest Florida Chapter of the Florida Public Relations Association (FPRA) will hold a hybrid event titled The Intersection of Earned and Paid Media (AKA, How Your Paid Digital Marketing Supports Your PR) on Tuesday, January 12 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

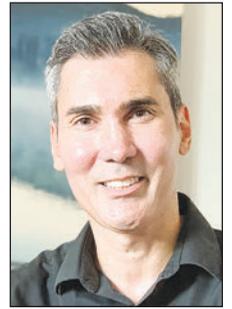
At the chapter's first-ever hybrid in-person/virtual event, attendees will hear from two speakers – one in-person and one virtually – discussing how to build relationships with the media to tell your story, and then how to use digital marketing methods to amplify it even further.

Hear from veteran editor David Plazas, currently the opinion and engagement editor at USA Today Network Tennessee and longtime editor at The News-Press Media Group, on his tips for providing content that journalists want to write about.

Then, learn from digital marketing expert Kevin Johnson, digital marketing director at Priority Marketing, on how



Kevin Johnson



David Plazas

you can truly make your message go further using the PR you've earned mixed with paid digital media strategies for any budget.

The in-person portion of the event will take place at TWO39 Work, 24301 Walden Center Drive, suite 300, in Bonita Springs. The program is limited to 15 people attending in-person. Social distancing and a mask requirement will be in place. There is no limit on virtual attendance which will take place via Zoom.

Cost to register for this event is \$15 for members, \$20 for future members and \$5 for students. To register, visit www.fprawsfl.org/the-intersection-of-earned-and-paid-media-aka-how-your-paid-digital-marketing-supports-your-pr.

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Will Power

Merry Christmas And Happy New Year



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

This column should first appear on Christmas Day, so from me and everyone at my law firm, we wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy 2021! Given COVID-19, it appears that many of us won't be with family as we might normally otherwise celebrate. So, the holiday might be bittersweet.

Thankfully, we do have modern technology, so we can FaceTime, Zoom, or use Teams as the case may be. Not too long ago, Patti and I enjoyed dinner at our kitchen table while our daughter, Courtney, a doctorate student in the physical therapy program at the University of Florida, joined us from her apartment in Gainesville. We engaged in a normal conversation despite being

separated by 250 miles.

I'm thankful that we have the opportunity to keep in touch that way.

Our daughter, Gabi, and her fiancé, Benji, will be driving down from New York City, where, as I write these words, a nor'easter blizzard consumes the city dumping more than a foot of snow. They don't want to brave airports or airplanes, especially with the numbers rising but did want to spend some time with us and enjoy the warm weather.

Holidays give us all a time to reflect on the past year (and what a year it has been, eh?). When the sun sets at its early hour, I tend to slow down, sit on my back porch and read. It's quite peaceful. It's nice to take a walk around the neighborhood and enjoy the lights and decorations many homes sport.

When Gabi and Benji are here, we plan to take the boat out to watch a sunset, enjoy a glass of wine and some hors d'oeuvres. If you live here and have never had the experience, I highly recommend. Last time a dolphin jumped clear out of the water, silhouetted by the setting sun.

Currently, it's also important to recognize that many families are suffering. Some have lost their jobs, their livelihoods and businesses, not to mention their lives. Hopefully, those of us who are most fortunate will assist those suffering. Our community tends to be especially good at helping the needy, of which I'm proud.

A few things that I've learned over the past year:

Mother Nature is powerful, but man's knowledge, persistence and ingenuity can temper her volatile nature;

Our nation, despite its division and differences, includes many who truly care about

those in need;

Politicians from both sides of the aisle better realize that it's not whether Republicans or Democrats come out on top, their duty is for Americans to survive and prosper;

It's difficult to have adult children move back into your home when they've been away at college and graduate school;

I feel lucky to be a Florida resident in that we can boat, bicycle, walk the beach and live a fairly normal life even during a pandemic;

Locally owned businesses and restaurants certainly need our support, now more than ever;

I miss going to sporting events, concerts and public festivals. All things I just took for granted before the pandemic.

Here's to a healthy and prosperous 2021!

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Medical Research To Be Discussed At Luncheon

The emergence of Fort Myers-based NeoGenomics as a leading international research and medical services company will be presented at the Real Estate Investment Society's (REIS) luncheon meeting at Pelican Preserve on Tuesday, January 12 at 11:45 a.m.

Helen Edenfield, global director of operations excellence at NeoGenomics, will discuss the firm's scope of activities and outlook for future expansion.

Established in Southwest Florida in 2002, NeoGenomics is a premier cancer diagnostics and pharma services company serving oncologists, pathologists, pharmaceutical companies, academic centers and others with innovative diagnostic, prognostic and predictive testing. The business includes a network of CAP-accredited, CLIA-certified facilities in the U.S. and laboratories in Switzerland and Singapore.

Cost of the meeting which includes lunch is \$30 for members and \$40 for guests. Reservations are required by Thursday, January 7. The program will also be provided as a live webcast at 12:10 p.m. that day at no charge.

The meeting will be held in the Osprey Room at Pelican Preserve's Clubhouse, 9802 Pelican Preserve Boulevard, in Fort Myers. For more information and reservations, visit www.reis-swfl.org.✪

also recognized the outgoing board.

Founded in 1950, the auxiliary recently celebrated its 70th anniversary and legacy of love and assistance to Lee Health patients, their families, staff and the community.

New officers include: Sue Lester, president; Jim Andrews, president-elect/secretary; Sandy Heise, immediate past president and vice president of fundraising; Ketki Shah, vice president of HealthPark Medical Center; Jean Perkins, vice president of Lee Memorial Hospital; Bob Lotz, vice president of Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida; Karen Endersbee, vice president of membership; and Phil Fortin, treasurer. Board members-at-large include Ron Currie, Cathy Miller, Mary Jane Rockas, Tommie Schott and Patrice Swift.

As part of Lee Health, the Lee Memorial Auxiliary continues its mission by supporting healthier lives through care, compassion, volunteer service, funding, education and advocacy.✪

Sidewalk Projects For Access/Safety

The Lee Board of County Commissioners recently approved plans to add sidewalks along sections of Tice Street and Hancock Bridge Parkway as part of a commitment to pedestrian access and safety.

The projects approved were:

Construction engineering and inspection services for sidewalk improvements on the north side of Hancock Bridge Parkway from Moody Road to U.S. 41. The contract is with HighSpans Engineering, Inc., for \$158,000. Construction is expected to begin in January. Total estimated cost of the project is about \$1.8 million.

Design of sidewalk and drainage improvements on the south side of Tice Street from New York Drive to Ortiz Avenue. The contract is with Fort Myers-based David Douglas Associates Inc. for \$254,839. Construction is expected to begin summer 2022. Total estimated cost of the project is about \$1.8 million.✪

Lee Memorial Auxiliary Installs New Board

The Lee Memorial Auxiliary celebrated the installation of its 2020-21 board of directors at an outside ceremony in the garden at Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida. Officers donned masks and practiced social distancing while Chief Human Resources Officer Mike Wukitsch did the honors and

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Superior Interiors

Designing A Forever House



by Jeanie Tinch

According to the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), 87 percent of adults over the age of 65 want to stay in their current home and community as they age. However, having been

homebound for so long, many, of all ages, are re-evaluating features of their home and considering changes.

One of the most important considerations is deciding how long one desires to stay in the home.

Another consideration is the stages of life the home must accommodate. Will there be strollers rolling? Remote cars roaming? Craftwork or homework, or even schooling being done? Working from home? Multi-generations involved? Is aging-in-place a goal?

The term "forever house" has become popular in recent years. An Internet search on that term will produce a host of results, including the term being discussed on some real estate agencies' websites. Having a forever house can make sense in many ways at many of life's stages... young parents, hosting grandparents with walkers, entertaining grandchildren. Be prepared for a medical situation so your home is a sanctuary, not your enemy.

The following are design tips for a forever house:

Let's start with doors – A front door that is 42 inches wide can accommodate a power wheelchair and sure make it easier to roll in that stroller. For inside doors, 36 inches is minimum for width. Sliding or pocket doors can be an advantage through all stages. Use lever handles instead of doorknobs.

Smooth floors are better – Try wood or tile with few changes in texture or interruptions. Avoid carpet that will be too thick for rolling on. Also use area rugs wisely. Think about all stages of life when planning traffic patterns.

Create at least one accessible bathroom with a wide-enough entry and roll-in or walk-in shower – If you use 3/4-inch thick plywood behind sheetrock or tile walls, this will enable you to place grab bars anywhere, not just on studs.

Re-think the height of certain things – Outlets, for example, will be better for more people if they are 22 inches off the floor rather than the normal 12 inches. Lower windows can make those outdoor views and light more accessible through a variety of life's stages.

Don't forget the motion advantage – Motorized shades are not only convenient and easy to use, but they also eliminate cords that can be a hazard for toddlers. Motion chairs are not your grandfather's huge recliner anymore. They come in all sizes with added features like cup holders, more position options and lifts to help one stand up.

Overall, the goal is to make your home adaptable to lifestyle changes. Doing ample research or working with a knowledgeable design professional can help you have more confidence in any changes you make, and make them lasting, functional and more enjoyable.

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

Food Bank Donates Wish List Items To Shelter

Inspired by a recent presentation given by Cape Coral Animal Shelter CEO Liz McCauley, Midwest Food Bank-Florida (MLB) sourced in and donated specific, much needed items from the shelters Christmas shopping wish list.

McCauley and a volunteer visited the MLB Fort Myers warehouse to pick up the donation that included items such as paper towels, office supplies and cleaning supplies. During their tour, they witnessed the impact of the food relief efforts first hand. At this weekly food distribution day, nonprofit partner agencies shop at the warehouse for what they need to support their community, 100 percent free of charge to them. Currently supporting 169 partner agencies (churches, shelters, soup kitchens, school backpacks, etc.), the Florida division has donated over \$37 million worth of food to 2.4 million unduplicated individuals.

"Community collaboration and helping other nonprofits is a core value of Midwest Food Bank-Florida," said Executive Director, Karl Steidinger.

Midwest Food Bank has 11 locations, including nine in the U.S., and one each in East Africa and Haiti. For more

information about Midwest Food Bank-Florida, visit www.midwestfoodbank.org.✱

Federal Grant For Homeless Prevention Plan

The Lee Board of County Commissioners approved a \$2.67 million federal grant for homeless-prevention programs – including some foreclosure and eviction prevention programs – amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The grant is funded by the CARES Act through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and will increase the capacity of existing homeless prevention programs administered through Lee County Human & Veteran Services.

That grant is in addition to the \$134.4 million in federal dollars allocated to Lee County from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES).

Lee County Human & Veterans Services serves as a collaborative hub for resources – federal, state, local, private and non-profit – designated to aid Lee County residents through supportive programs and services.

For more information, visit www.leegov.com/dhs or call the department's entry helpline at 533-7996.✱

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Frankly Speaking

by Howard Prager



No surprises in college football, just hard fought games by Florida and my team, Northwestern. Hard to come so close and to lose. These opportunities don't happen that often. Let's talk

about the Negro Leagues. MLB said last week they recognize the Negro Leagues as Major Leagues. My sources for this column include Wikipedia, a gem of a film called *Only the Ball Was White* that is on YouTube, and baseball historian Ralph Moses. The Negro Leagues started as barnstorming teams that often folded for lack of funds. In the '20s, Rube Foster, manager of the Chicago American Giants, organized the first viable league which evolved into the Negro Leagues in the '30s. Why were they formed? Because blacks were not allowed to play in the Major Leagues until Jackie Robinson broke the color barrier in 1947 with the Brooklyn Dodgers.

The Negro Leagues played the same game and rules as the Major Leagues and played in some of the same parks rented from the Major League teams when they were out of town. The fan base was similar to MLB during the Depression – very poor. However,

Sundays were different. Fans came in their Sunday finest clothing, often right after church, and filled the parks. The annual East-West All-Star Game at Comiskey Park in Chicago was Negro League Baseball's greatest attraction, drawing thousands of people from all over the country each summer beginning in 1933. That was the same year and same ballpark that the Major League All Star Game started.

The Negro League stars may have even eclipsed Major League stars. Cool Papa Bell was said to be "faster than Ty Cobb and able to score from first base on a bunt." Satchell Paige pitched 2,000 games with over 100 no hitters in his three-decade career. It's been reported that, "On town tours across the United States, Paige would sometimes have his infielders sit down behind him and then routinely strike out the side."

In 1971, Paige became the first Negro League athlete chosen by the Negro Leagues committee inducted into the Hall of Fame (HOF). In 2010, sportswriter Joe Posnanski of *Sports Illustrated*, named "Paige as the hardest thrower in the history of baseball. He based this, in part, on the fact that: 'Joe DiMaggio and Bob Feller said that Paige was the best he ever saw. Hack Wilson said that the ball looked like a marble when it crossed the plate. Dizzy Dean said that Paige's fastball made his own look like a changeup.'"

Buck Leonard was known as the black Lou Gehrig in the '30s and '40s. Even though he never played in MLB, he was elected in a special election to

the HOF in 1972. Josh Gibson, playing from 1930 to 1946, found an identity in baseball hitting historic home runs. Gibson was known as the greatest hitter in the Negro Leagues, perhaps all of baseball, and batted .359 in his career. Oscar Charleston hit .348. He did not have Willie Mays' arm but he had all of his other skills. He was often compared to Ty Cobb, Tris Speaker and Babe Ruth. He was awesome! Monte Irvin hit .293 in the MLB but in his prime years in the Negro Leagues, he hit .358. Besides Irvin, other Hall of Famers' records who would be enhanced with the addition of their Negro League days include Roy Campanella who hit .324 in eight Negro League seasons before he became a Brooklyn Dodger and Larry Doby who starred with the Newark Eagles before joining the Cleveland Indians as the AL's first black player three months after Jackie Robinson entered in 1947. Doby was the first black to hit a home run in the World Series and the first to lead the Major Leagues in home runs.

Negro League Baseball was not just "a summer game." Players went wherever they could to earn money. Blacks especially liked playing south of the border where they were treated with respect. Monte Irvin became the favorite player of a very young Puerto Rican fan named Roberto Clemente. Cool Papa Bell said it best: "I played 29 seasons. Plus 21 winter seasons in Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic. That makes 50 Seasons. Did I ever get tired of it? No, I only got old." Exhibitions did take place between black and white teams. Black teams won about 60 percent of the time. Commissioner Judge Landis stopped the games, probably out of embarrassment. The Negro Leagues ceased playing in the '60s with so many players fully entrenched in the Major Leagues.

Our good news story of the week comes from NBC. "In high school, point guard Jason Preston had come to rely on basketball as his sanctuary after the death of his mother his junior year. His biological father was never in the picture. But Preston's on-court maturation took too long, and he didn't even play in his final high school game. After averaging just two points his senior year at Boone High School in Orlando, he thought he was through. That summer, Preston enrolled in journalism classes at the

University of Central Florida. But he grew four inches to six-foot-four, added muscle and became faster since high school. Three weeks before the fall semester, a basketball acquaintance recruited Preston to play in an Amateur Athletic Union tournament since the team needed an additional player. Preston played well enough to draw the attention of various coaches, and left for Believe Prep Academy in Athens, Tennessee. Two weeks after he got there, that coach left. With the remaining coaches unfamiliar with Preston's game, he was relegated to the second team. The school had four prep teams. He chose to go to the third team so he could showcase his talent. "He wasn't playing how he could really play," said former prep teammate Isaac Hill, 21. He recalled the times when they would dominate three-on-three pickup games. Preston's request proved successful, including one outing where he notched a triple-double. Eager to show his college potential, on an eight-hour bus trip back to school, he screen-recorded all of his highlights and had a friend create a mixtape reel. Ohio University came calling with a scholarship and since then, he's started to really shine. His breakout performance came last month against eighth-ranked University of Illinois. Though it was a 77 to 75 loss, Preston surprised the basketball world by scoring 31 points, grabbing six rebounds and dishing out eight assists, resulting in ESPN projecting him as a second-round NBA draft pick." Good luck, Preston, your mother would be proud.

Happy holidays, 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.

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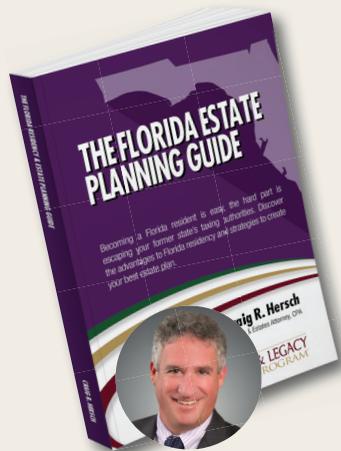
Broadway Palm

Tickets are \$48 to \$73, with the exception of New Year's Eve which is \$125 per person. Children and group prices are available. Tickets can be reserved by phone at 278-4422, online at www.broadwaypalm.com or at the box office, located at 1380 Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.

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by Craig R. Hersch
Florida Bar Board Certified Wills,
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SPORTS QUIZ

1. What regulation-size piece of sports equipment is 1 inch thick, 3 inches in diameter and weighs 6 ounces?
2. "How about that!?" was the signature on-air catchphrase of what legendary New York Yankees broadcaster?
3. Name the former NFL quarterback who served in the U.S. House of Representatives for North Carolina's 11th congressional district from 2007-13.
4. What St. Louis Cardinals outfielder was injured when Busch Stadium's automatic tarpaulin rolled over his leg before a 1985 NL Championship Series game?
5. Handsome Dan the bulldog is the mascot for what university's athletic teams?
6. What NC State center scored a tip-in dunk to seal the Wolfpack's win in the 1983 NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament championship game?
7. Of Ivan Lendl's eight career Grand Slam tennis tournament wins, how many were at Wimbledon?

ANSWERS

1. An ice hockey puck.
2. Mel Allen.
3. Heath Shuler.
4. Vince Coleman.
5. Yale University.
6. Lorenzo Charles.
7. Zero.

dearRPharmacist

The New Medications In 2020



by Suzy Cohen, RPh

Dear Readers:

It's time for my annual report about the novel medications that were approved in the year 2020. I've been writing this

yearly article for more than 20 years! Many drugs in 2020 were fast-tracked in order to come to market faster. While you read this, keep in mind that I'm read worldwide, but I am only listing the American brand names, so please ask your doctor what the brand name is in your country. Also, the two COVID vaccines from Modern and Pfizer are not yet FDA-approved, however an Emergency Use Authorization has been signed, and therefore distribution is occurring as we speak. FDA approval will come shortly.

Pizenz (Lactitol), Rx, Oral – This medication is used for constipation, especially the unrelenting type that has no obvious cause (termed “idiopathic”). Lactitol is the active (generic) ingredient name which is a common additive in many prescription drugs. It has been around and used as a sweetener for low-calorie foods. You may have heard of its cousins which are also used so sweeten foods... erythritol, sorbitol and xylitol.

Ayvakit (Avapritinib), Rx, Oral – This medication is for stomach tumors, and it's taken once daily on an empty stomach. The FDA fast-tracked approval for this medication based upon a nationwide test conducted on 204 patients with a metastatic

gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST), or one that could not be surgically removed. The drug seeks to shrink the tumor.

Tepezza (Teprotumumab-trbw), Rx, IV injection – This medication is given as an infusion to people with a specific eye problem caused by Graves' disease. The disorder sometimes causes a person's eyes to bulge out, and Tepezza helps over time. It does not stop the autoimmune process. It seems to flare up problems for people who have pre-existing inflammatory bowel disease.

Nurtec ODT (Oral Disintegrating Tablets), Rimegepant, Rx, Oral – These quickly dissolving pills work for a day or two and help with symptoms of a migraine. In a study of 1,351 people, those who took the drug experienced improvement from light and sound sensitivity, as well as nausea at the two-hour interval (compared to the placebo group). This is a treatment, not a preventative agent. If you have migraines, you would love my book *Headache Free* available on Amazon.

Sarclisa (Isatuximab), Rx, Injection – Used for the treatment of resistant multiple myeloma, this newer agent is slightly easier to administer because it's faster for patients. As part of its mechanism of action, it acts like a CD38 inhibitor, binding to myeloma cells and blocking growth or slowing spread. Before Sarclisa, one had to also take an FDA-approved CD38 inhibitor such as daratumumab along with other treatments. This new drug is not a first line agent, it is for people who have not responded to other meds.

Retevmo (Selpercatinib), Rx, Oral – This treats people with either thyroid cancer or non-small cell lung cancer. It's in a category of drugs called “kinase inhibitors,” and it's not like traditional chemotherapy. It is very targeted so there are fewer side effects.

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

Doctor and Dietician

Swallowing Or Speaking Difficulties



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

Some of the “strange sensations” we see at Caring Medical are swallowing and speaking difficulties, which most people associate with having a stroke. However, many patients have not experienced a stroke, just progressively worsening swallowing/speaking abilities. They report regularly getting food stuck in their throat or experience a “choking” or “suffocation” feeling, often with excessive secretions in the throat.

As you know, we strive to find the underlying cause of any condition, which we do by following the neurological aspects that gives rise to them. In cases of speech and swallowing problems, these originate in the neck so we must look there. Cervical (neck) spine instability is at the core of cervical, head, thoracic, TMJ, face, mouth, and hyoid bone relationships, stability, alignment and curves.

Some patients experience a weird clicking sensation in the neck and/or tongue. Others feel like they cannot push the food back for a complete swallow because they sense their tongues are not working. Interestingly

enough, the tongue is a muscle innervated by the hypoglossal nerve that originates on a bone called the hyoid bone. This hyoid bone, like any other, can become unstable, affecting nerve and muscle function. Sometimes, the muscles in the neck become extremely tight trying to compensate for the weak structures that are supposed to be supporting the bones. People will complain of pain in these areas of the neck as well.

Stability of the cervical spine is also essential for proper vagus nerve functioning. The vagus nerves are the longest and most important nerves in the human body. They border C1 and C2 (our upper cervical spine) and travel down the neck and through the body, innervating our vital organs as well as the laryngeal muscle which is necessary for swallowing and speech. Vagal nerve injuries can limit vocal nerve function and affect the pitch, quality and power of the voice. Symptoms of vagopathy affecting the larynx can be chronic coughing, difficulty swallowing, hoarseness and loss of singing ability, or voice power.

So, what we are saying is that loose head, neck and spinal structures could be causing your unusual speech and swallowing symptoms. Our approach to treating these symptoms is often a combination of chiropractic cervical curve correction in conjunction with reparative injections to the ligament-bone junctions. Until these structures are stabilized, they will not return to normal function, and the patient's condition typically continues to worsen. As many people sadly experience, speech problems do not present a benign situation – it is progressive and worsens over time.

*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.**

Beautifulife:

A Child



by Kay Casperson

When I became a mom, my life changed in many ways. The impact that a child has on many lives is amazing, to say the least. Children bring so much joy and happiness

and at the same time, we can all learn things from them as well.

We are designed to be examples for a child to learn and grow from. We are here to teach and lead our young children to ultimately become strong, solid individuals that can make good decisions in life and ultimately learn to care for themselves and others.

But children actually teach us more along the way than we will ever learn elsewhere.

A child can teach us patience and kindness as well as how to let go and focus on things that are important versus things that can wait. We can also learn how to be more humble, flexible, understanding and giving from a child. Children help us understand and connect with our emotions in order to help them navigate through their growing years.

Many sacrifices come from having a child enter your life. From lack of sleep and personal time, to setting aside dreams and goals for a while, to focus on the present. But, the blessings that come are plentiful and life changing. You take better care of yourself knowing that you need to stay healthy to care for someone else. You tap into a newfound strength and understand things at a deeper level than you could have ever imagined.

Regardless of whether you have had your own child or not, you have most definitely made an impact on a child somewhere at some point in your life. And, I believe that a child has made a difference in your life somewhere along the way as well; it is inevitable.

At Christmastime, we are reminded of the importance of “A Child” and the impact that this little child was designed to have on our lives. Isaiah 9:6 in the Bible reads: “For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

My hope is that you will continue to lead a child by example and allow yourselves to learn from the lessons a child can teach us along the way. Children can help us in many ways continue to live our best and most beautiful lives.

My affirmation for you this week is:

“I am living my life as an example for a child to learn and grow from, and will also embrace the lessons a child can teach me along the way.”

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

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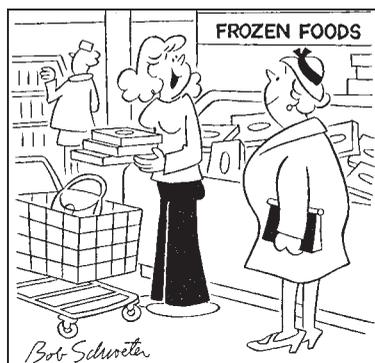
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 - Sanibel-Captiva Orchid Society 472-6940
 - United Way of Lee County 433-2000
 - United Way 211 Helpline (24 hour) 211 or 433-3900

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- Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum 395-2233
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PUZZLES

Answers on page 23



"I can't cook, but my husband says I'm the best little _____ in the world."

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!

Bent

WEAKS

Pop

TRUBS

Defend

DELISH

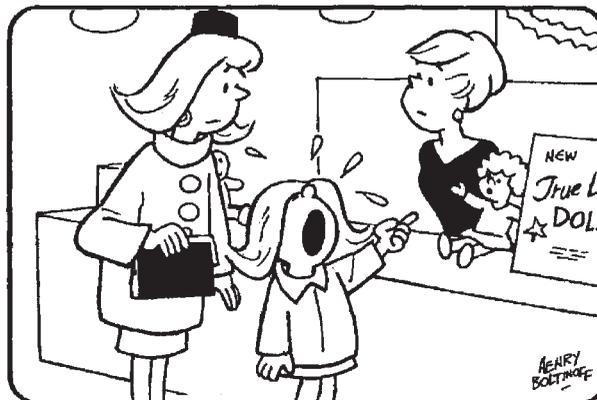
Bottum

NDURE

TODAY'S WORD

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Mom's hair is different. 2. Doll on left has been moved. 3. "Sale" sign is added. 4. Girl's skirt has ruffle. 5. Doll ad is different. 6. Girl has hair bow.

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.

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



Oysters Rockefeller

photo courtesy Fresh From Florida



Oysters Rockefeller

- 3 dozen oysters, shucked and on the half shell
- 2 cups spinach, cooked and squeezed dry
- 1 bell pepper (any color), diced small
- 3-4 slices of bacon, cooked and crumbled
- 1 cup mozzarella cheese, shredded
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- 1/2 cup panko (Japanese breadcrumbs)
- 2 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped fine

- 1 teaspoon of hot pepper sauce
- 1 lemon, juiced
- 2 lemons, quartered for garnish
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste

Preheat oven to high broil. In a bowl combine and mix together the spinach, bell pepper, bacon, cheeses, parsley, hot sauce and lemon juice. Taste and adjust with salt and pepper, if needed. Place one tablespoon or so of the spinach mixture on top of each oyster and top with a touch of panko. Place on a sheet pan and put under the broiler for two or three minutes. The cooking process will happen rather quickly, so observe the whole time. Oysters will start to curl around the edges and filling will be golden and bubbly. Remove and serve warm with quartered lemons.✪

PETS OF THE WEEK

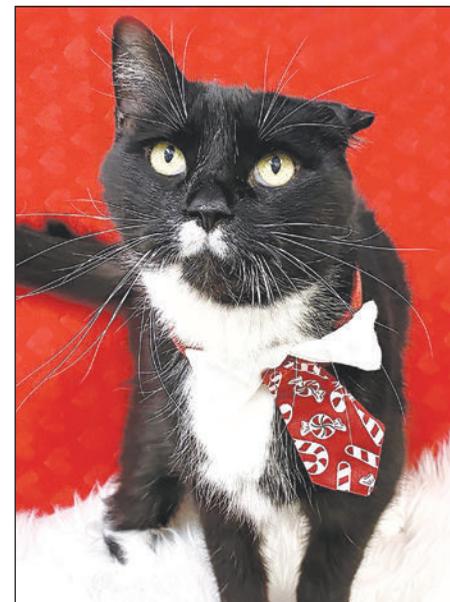


Cherry ID# A831267 photos provided Lee County Domestic Animal Services

Cherry And Bandit

Cherry is a 3-year-old femal pitbull mix who is all dressed up and needs somewhere to go; like a home for the holidays. She is one of the volunteer favorites because of her sweet nature. One look at her soulful eyes and you will no doubt fall in love. Cherry's adoption fee is \$75.

Bandit is an 8-year-old male domestic shorthair and a "Super Senior" who is quite debonair. He is a handsome fellow and like any true bandit, he will steal your heart, but no



Bandit ID# A836104

doubt pay it forward with unconditional love and loyalty.

The adoption center has dogs, cats, bunnies and guinea pigs looking for a home just in time for the holidays. Visit the website at www.leelostpets.com to see pets available for adoption.

Lee County Domestic Animal Services is located at 5600 Banner Drive in Fort Myers. Adoptions are available by appointment Monday through Saturday from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Visit www.leelostpets.com to complete an online application. As always, cats and kittens are adopt one and get a feline friend at no additional charge. For more information, call 533-7387.✪

My Stars ★★★★★

FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 21, 2020

Aries (March 21 to April 19)

Although taking advice isn't always easy for the headstrong Sheep, you might want to consider what someone you respect says about an upcoming decision.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) A new offer is tempting, but don't be bullied into a quick decision. Rely on your keen Bovine business sense to alert you to anything that might be questionable.

Gemini (May 21 to June 20) Your Gemini Twin nature rallies to help you deal with this week's hectic schedules, both in your personal and professional lives. One caution: Watch your diet.

Cancer (June 21 to July 22) Avoid rushing to make up for time lost on a stalled workplace operation. Best to set up a schedule and pace yourself. Welcome the help of colleagues.

Leo (July 23 to August 22) Despite those glittering holiday distractions you love so well, be sure to keep your feline senses set on high to alert you to anything that might require fast action.

Virgo (August 23 to September

22) Making an effort to restore fraying relationships proves to be more successful than you dared hope. The holidays also bring new friends into your life.

Libra (September 23 to October 22) Private and professional matters compete for your attention. Be honest in your assessment of which should get more of it, and for how long.

Scorpio (October 23 to November 21) A seemingly endless list of must-do tasks is best handled by tackling them one by one, and taking energy-restoring timeouts between each job.

Sagittarius (November 22 to December 21) A vexing relationship seems destined to deteriorate no matter what each side tries to do. A third party's advice just might prove helpful.

Capricorn (December 22 to January 19) Reach out to ease any tensions caused by home or workplace pressures before they threaten the relationship-building progress you've made.

Aquarius (January 20 to February 18) You often go out of your way to show kindness to others. So, don't be surprised if other people want to do something nice for you this week.

Pisces (February 19 to March 20) People in your life respect your Piscean wisdom, so don't hesitate to speak up about a matter that you feel isn't being handled quite the way it should be.

Born This Week: Your personal warmth helps you make friendships, and your sense of fair play helps you keep them.

MOMENTS IN TIME

- On Jan. 1, 45 BC, New Year's Day is celebrated on January 1 for the first time as the Julian calendar takes effect. Julius Caesar enlisted the aid of Sosigenes, an Alexandrian astronomer, who calculated a year to be 365 and 1/4 days.

- On Dec. 30, 1862, the USS Monitor sinks in a storm off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina. Just nine months earlier, the ship had been part of a revolution in naval warfare when the ironclad dueled to a standstill with the CSS Virginia (Merrimack) off Hampton Roads, Virginia.

- On Dec. 28, 1895, the world's first commercial movie screening takes place at the Grand Cafe in Paris. The film was a series of short scenes from everyday

French life. Admission was charged for the first time.

- On Dec. 29, 1940, London suffers its most devastating air raid when German planes firebomb the city. The next day, a newspaper photo of St. Paul's Cathedral standing undamaged amid the smoke and flames seemed to symbolize the capital's unconquerable spirit.

- On Jan. 3, 1952, Sgt. Joe Friday's police drama *Dagnet* comes to television. A popular radio series, it became one of the first TV series filmed in Hollywood, instead of New York, and began a long line of crime and police dramas.

- On Dec. 31, 1972, Roberto Clemente, future Hall of Fame baseball player, is killed when the cargo plane in which he is traveling crashes off Puerto Rico. Clemente was on his way to deliver relief supplies to Nicaragua following a devastating earthquake.

- On Jan. 2, 1981, the so-called Yorkshire Ripper, Peter Sutcliffe, is finally caught by British police. For five years, investigators had pursued the serial killer who terrorized Northern

continued on page 22

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|--|
|  FRIDAY Mostly Cloudy High: 74 Low: 63 |  SATURDAY Sunny High: 73 Low: 64 |  SUNDAY Mostly Cloudy High: 69 Low: 58 |  MONDAY Sunny High: 72 Low: 63 |  TUESDAY Sunny High: 71 Low: 60 |  WEDNESDAY Sunny High: 72 Low: 62 |  THURSDAY Mostly Cloudy High: 71 Low: 61 |
|---|--|--|--|---|---|--|

Redfish Pass Tides

| Day | High | Low | High | Low |
|-----|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| Fri | 11:23 am | 4:14 am | 9:27 pm | 2:55 pm |
| Sat | 12:28 pm | 4:57 am | 9:56 pm | 3:28 pm |
| Sun | 1:24 pm | 5:37 am | 10:26 pm | 3:57 pm |
| Mon | 2:11 pm | 6:15 am | 10:59 pm | 4:23 pm |
| Tue | 2:51 pm | 6:52 am | 11:35 pm | 4:50 pm |
| Wed | 3:24 pm | 7:28 am | None | 5:23 pm |
| Thu | 12:14 am | 8:06 am | 3:52 pm | 6:05 pm |

Point Ybel Tides

| Day | High | Low | High | Low |
|-----|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| Fri | 10:28 am | 4:16 am | 8:32 pm | 2:57 pm |
| Sat | 11:33 am | 4:59 am | 9:01 pm | 3:30 pm |
| Sun | 12:29 pm | 5:39 am | 9:31 pm | 3:59 pm |
| Mon | 1:16 pm | 6:17 am | 10:04 pm | 4:25 pm |
| Tue | 1:56 pm | 6:54 am | 10:40 pm | 4:52 pm |
| Wed | 2:29 pm | 7:30 am | 11:19 pm | 5:25 pm |
| Thu | 2:57 pm | 8:08 am | None | 6:07 pm |

Punta Rassa Tides

| Day | High | Low | High | Low |
|-----|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| Fri | 10:20 am | 4:04 am | 9:46 pm | 3:33 pm |
| Sat | 11:14 am | 4:50 am | 10:25 pm | 4:13 pm |
| Sun | 11:52 am | 5:32 am | 10:59 pm | 4:50 pm |
| Mon | 12:26 pm | 6:13 am | 11:25 pm | 5:24 pm |
| Tue | 1:03 pm | 6:52 am | 11:46 pm | 5:54 pm |
| Wed | 1:44 pm | 7:33 am | None | 6:25 pm |
| Thu | 12:08 am | 8:13 am | 2:35 pm | 7:03 pm |

Cape Coral Bridge Tides

| Day | High | Low | High | Low |
|-----|----------|----------|----------|---------|
| Fri | 1:33 pm | 7:30 am | 11:37 pm | 6:11 pm |
| Sat | 2:38 pm | 8:13 am | None | 6:44 pm |
| Sun | 12:06 am | 8:53 am | 3:34 pm | 7:13 pm |
| Mon | 12:36 am | 9:31 am | 4:21 pm | 7:39 pm |
| Tue | 1:09 am | 10:08 am | 5:01 pm | 8:06 pm |
| Wed | 1:45 am | 10:44 am | 5:34 pm | 8:39 pm |
| Thu | 2:24 am | 11:22 am | 6:02 pm | 9:21 pm |

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From page 20

Moments In Time

England. Sutcliffe had been interviewed nine times but always convinced detectives that he wasn't involved. He finally confessed when confronted with evidence.

NOW HERE'S A TIP

• BB in Massachusetts writes: "I have a rubber disc (used for taking covers off jars) that I keep in my shower. When showering, I put the disc over the drain so the water can accumulate, then I soak my feet at the same time."

• To save yourself some time and aggravation, make a safety set of keys that match your current set exactly. You will never have to go looking for your keys when you are in a hurry, and you won't have to determine if the key you need is on the ring. It is!

• "Re: your recent tip about storing heirloom quilts in a cedar chest: No, no, a thousand times no! Nothing is worse for quilts – heirloom or otherwise – than storing them in cedar chests. Acids will not only stain them but break down the

fabric over time." – BR in Washington.

Thanks BR Although my grandmother did store quilts and other fabric items in her cedar chest, according to sources at the National Quilters Circle, the best place for an heirloom quilt may be on a bed. You can stack them, but rotate so that no quilt gets too much sun. – JoAnn

• "For squeaky door hinges, forget about graphite, WD-40 or any of those other messy lubricants that may last for only a few months. Pull the hinge pins, wipe them clean with a dry rag, and then apply a thin coating of Vaseline with your finger. Properly done, your hinges should remain free of squeaks for at least a year." – FB in Colorado

• "If you live in a cold area where you might experience icy sidewalks and you have a dog or cat, don't forget to protect your pet's feet from the salt and/or chemicals that are frequently used to melt ice. Be sure to wipe down your pet's feet after a walk outside." – FF in Alaska

STRANGE BUT TRUE

• Doc Martens come in all different colors and sizes now, but the first pair

was created using old tires.

• There actually aren't "57 varieties" of Heinz ketchup, and never were. Company founder HJ Heinz thought his product should have a number, and he just happened to like 57.

• March 3 is known as "What if Cats and Dogs Had Opposable Thumbs Day."

• The number of permutations within a deck of cards is mind-bogglingly large: an 8 with 67 zeroes after it. That means there are more card combinations than stars in the Milky Way, which amount to as many as 400 billion!

• Cataract surgery was possible as early as the 6th century BC.

• Barbie's physical appearance was inspired by a German doll named Bild Lilli, created in 1952 and based on a high-end call girl named Lilli who was featured in the comic strip *Bild-Zeitung*. She was sold as an adult novelty in bars and tobacco shops – definitely not as a children's toy. Barbie inventor Ruth Handler saw the doll while vacationing in Europe and brought it home.

• Sunsets on Mars are blue.

• The Gate Tower Building in Osaka, Japan, has a highway that passes

through the building, between the fifth and seventh floors.

• A Paris morgue needed help identifying bodies in the 1860s, so decided to open its doors to the public. They probably underestimated people's morbid curiosity, though, as soon 40,000 people a day were coming to look at corpses.

• Mob boss Vincent Gigante would wander around New York in his bathrobe to convince the police he was insane, and thus avoid capture.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Life is mostly froth and bubble. Two things stand like stone. Kindness in another's trouble, courage in your own."

– Adam Lindsay Gordon

TRIVIA TEST

- Measurements:** How many tablespoons are in 1 fluid ounce?
- Literature:** Which famous gothic novel features the beginning sentence, "Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again"?
- Geography:** What is the capital of New Zealand?

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11/27 * TFN

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at the Sanibel Historical Village, 950 Dunlop Road, Sanibel. Position available immediately. 20 hours per week; no benefits. Responsibilities include managing the donor database including mailings, budget and financials, managing state/city financials, audit and tax filings, day-to-day duties related to admissions desk and gift shop. Apply to info@sanibelmuseum.org or to request a comprehensive job description. Qualifications:
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12/18 * 12/25

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• White Kenmore oven with white cooktop – Mint Condition.
Non-smoking household. Single Mother, empty nester so not a lot of usage. Selling due to renovation in kitchen. Email for pictures or appointment to see them. LisaSanibel@centurylink.net
12/11 * TFN

From our family of restaurants to you

Happy Holidays!

Our Captiva location will be open Christmas Day.



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