



THE RIVER WEEKLY NEWS

FREE
Take Me Home

Vol. 20, No. 20

From the Beaches to the River District downtown Fort Myers

MAY 14, 2021

Country Music Star To Perform At Players Circle

Popular country music star Paul Overstreet will perform with Billy Dean at the Players Circle Theatre on Friday, May 14 at 8 p.m. Overstreet has written and co-written 27 top 10 songs, his first being George Jones' *Same Ole Me*. Artists recording his songs include Randy Travis, Tanya Tucker, The Judds, Kenny Chesney, Blake Shelton, Brad Paisley and Carrie Underwood.

Tickets range from \$35 to \$200.

The theater has been converted into a nightclub cabaret-style facility, which has limited and spaced seating. Temperature checks and sanitizing measures will be in place, and masks must be worn by all audience members until seated. The theater is in compliance with all CDC guidelines.

A special food and drink menu will be available for VIP nightclub patrons, serving shareable plates and drinks in the theater 45 minutes before performances and during shows. A full dinner and bar will be available at the adjacent Southern



Paul Overstreet photo provided

Grill; call 995-3999 for reservations.

The Players Circle Theatre is located at the Shell Factory and Nature Park, 16554 North Cleveland Avenue in North Fort Myers. For tickets, call 800-3292 or visit www.playerscircletheater.com.

Touring Exhibit Promotes Reef Conservation

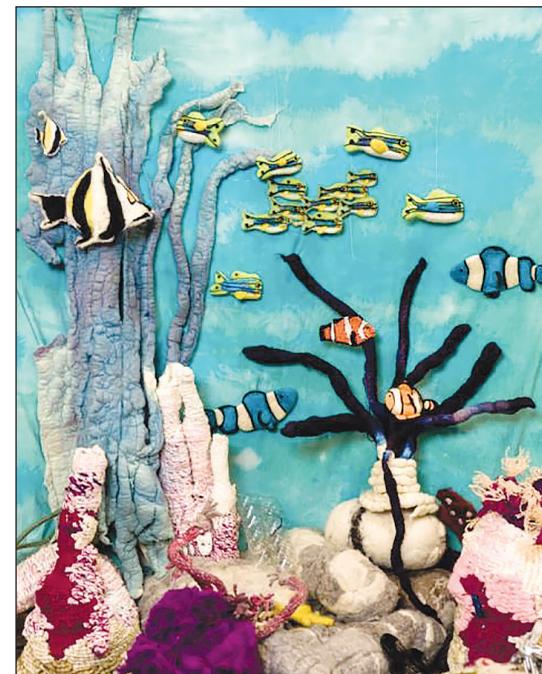
SAVE the REEF, an immersive fiber art touring exhibition of 35 international artists, returns to Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center from June 4 to 24. The opening reception will be Friday, June 4 from 6 to 10 p.m.

SAVE the REEF is an interactive three-dimensional experience surrounding attendees with texture and color to stimulate discussion and promote action to save the dying coral reef systems of the world.

The installation represents the three zones of interdependent coral reef ecosystems: mangrove forest; sea grass; and coral reef. Each zone is comprised of free-standing fiber sculptures and wall-hung tapestries.

This textile exhibition with a conservation message is slated for a global tour for the next five years.

The Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center is located at 2301 First Street in downtown Fort Myers. For more information about SAVE the REEF, contact Doris Florig at dorisflorig@gmail.com, visit www.sbdac.com or call 333-1933.



Artwork by Doris Florig, Susie Kossman and Susie Yin image provided



STREET HEROINES
A FILM BY ALEXANDRA HENRY

image provided

Street Art Documentary At The Alliance

The Alliance for the Arts will screen the award-winning, feature-length documentary *Street Heroines* on Saturday, May 22 at 6 p.m. Viewers can either stream the film from the comfort of their couch or head over to the Alliance for the Arts GreenMarket lawn for an outdoor viewing.

Street Heroines celebrates the courage

and creativity of women who, despite their lack of recognition, have been an integral part of the graffiti and street art movement since the beginning. Authentic vérité storytelling woven between an interview-driven narrative, *Street Heroines* juxtaposes the personal experiences of three emerging Latina artists from New York City, Mexico City and São Paulo as they navigate a male-dominated subculture to establish artistic identities within chaotic urban landscapes.

The onsite, outdoor screening will feature live graffiti and mural paintings by local artists, refreshments for purchase

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Bluegrass Concert Next Friday



David Mayfield Parade

photo provided

In celebration of Bluegrass American roots music, the David Mayfield Parade will perform at the Sidney and Berne Davis Art Center on Friday, May 21 at 7:30 p.m.

The David Mayfield Parade features Grammy and Emmy nominated producer David Mayfield on guitar, mandolin and vocals; two-time National Bluegrass Banjo Champion Steven Moore; Christine King, a former member of The Railsplitters, on fiddle and vocals; and multi-instrumentalist

Andrew Bonnis, a former member of Cadillac Sky, on bass and vocals. The band parades into town for a light-hearted, fun-filled night of harmony, hot licks and laughs the whole family can experience.

The David Mayfield Parade was once described as "...a dynamic combination of music and comedy worthy of a traveling vaudeville act" by *The Boston Globe*.

David Mayfield grew up playing bass and touring with his family's bluegrass

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Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

New Iron Lung For Fort Myers

by Gerri Reaves, PhD



The COVID-19 pandemic isn't the first time Fort Myers has faced restricted travel and quarantines.

In 1887, the town mobilized to protect itself from the deadly yellow fever epidemic emanating from Key West. The Southwest Florida coast was guarded as far north as Tampa with vessels in and from the Florida Keys quarantined and orders to "shoot to kill" anyone violating the law.

Local quarantine regulations went into effect, and guards with shotguns patrolled entrances to Fort Myers and turned back those seeking refuge.

A vaccine was decades in the future.

One of the most notable epidemics, of course, was the 1918 influenza pandemic, which killed millions across the world.

And then there was the polio threat of the mid-20th century.

Starting in the late 1940s, polio struck an increasing number of people, with an approximate 35,000 people disabled each year.

Before the successful development and distribution of vaccines, polio resulted in many people having to rely on crutches, wheelchairs, leg braces, or iron lungs for the rest of their lives.

The first polio vaccine was injected, but later an oral one was developed. Baby boomers might remember taking the sugar-cube vaccine in the early 1960s. How pleasant could a vaccine be?

In the 1960s, cases fell to less than 100 and, in the 1970s, to fewer than 10.

That successful vaccination program has made the United States polio-free since 1979.



Today's view on Central Avenue across from the former fire station is similar to that of 1946. However, the former railroad depot is now the Collaboratory. photo by Gerri Reaves

This 1946 photo illustrates a valiant effort by local volunteers to aid those in dire need because of polio or other conditions that paralyzed or severely compromised the respiratory system.

This iron lung, as it was called, was bought with funds raised by the Fort Myers Fireman's Club.

It is pictured onboard a float ready to appear in the 1946 Edison Pageant of Light Parade. The float is hitched to the Fort Myers Fire Department's First Aid Wagon, another purchase made possible with funds raised by the club.

During the parade, the apparatus was in full operation and contained what *The News-Press* described as "a pretty blond patient," who was, in fact, Mrs. Madge Norton, who had volunteered during the parade preparations.

The float and wagon are pictured on Central Avenue across from the fire station. In the background is the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad passenger depot, now the Southwest Florida Community Foundation's Collaboratory.

By today's standards, this breathing machine was enormous and somewhat primitive, but it saved countless lives.

It enclosed a person up to the neck, and bellows did the breathing for the patient. It could be operated electrically or by a hand crank.

The club continued to raise funds for several more years to buy other up-to-date equipment, including three other iron lungs and two 90-pound portable lungs the following year.

Fundraising involved simple donations, as well as events such as the All Star Boxing Bouts held at Terry Park in March 1947. Additionally, the apparatus was put on display at high-traffic spots such as the post office (now the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center) to increase interest and donations.

The portable machines, as club treasurer Reace Smith told *The News-Press*, would be used in cases of suffocation, infantile paralysis, electrocution, newborn babies, uremic poisoning, shocks, carbon dioxide poisoning, and others.

In 1950, for example, a 13-year-old boy benefitted from the iron lung after his respiratory system was paralyzed because he was poisoned with the insecticide Parathion while working in a grove.

It wasn't long after this historical photo was taken that both Lee Memorial Hospital

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This iron lung on the float pulled by the Fort Myers Fire Department First Aid wagon appeared in the 1946 Edison Pageant of Light Parade. Both iron lung and wagon were purchased with funds raised by the volunteer Fireman's Club. In the background is the ACL passenger depot. photo courtesy Genevieve Smith Bowen

THE RIVER WEEKLY NEWS

FROM THE BEACHES TO DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS

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Edison Mall entrance

photo provided

Edison Mall To Host Job Fair

As spring turns to summer, Edison Mall stores are looking to hire additional part-time and full-time associates to join their respective teams during the Edison Mall Job Fair on Saturday, May 22 from 1 to 4 p.m.

Many retailers will be in attendance including, but not limited to, Aeropostale, JCPenney and Carters. Guests can expect on-site interviews, store information and fill out applications with participating retailers.

"We're really excited to bring this job fair to Edison Mall," said General Manager Brad Lunn. "Not just for our retailers, but also the community. We think it's a great way to give our retailers exposure where they need it and job-seekers a chance to see what is available in their neighborhood."

Edison Mall remains focused on providing a safe and enjoyable experience for everyone. In the continued need to address COVID-19, the town center has proactively

implemented additions to the Code of Conduct, effective immediately and until further notice.

These additions include the following guidelines:

Practice social distancing and stay at least six feet (two meters) from other people;

Covering your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover is recommended.

Do not gather in groups;
Adhere to each individual tenant's COVID-19 policies; and

Adhere to all federal, state and local regulations, recommendations and mandates regarding COVID-19.

The Code of Conduct is posted at the town center and available online.

Farm & Flea embraces Edison Mall's role as a community partner to offer guests one-of-a-kind, local products, while encouraging genuine connections with those who provide them. This is just one example of Edison Mall's efforts to provide guests with safe, memorable experiences while supporting their community.

For more information on Edison Mall, visit www.shopedisonmall.com.✪

Summer Camps At Mound House And Newton Park

Summer camp at Mound House returns this year starting on June 14 and running through July 26. It will feature fun themes each week for children ages 6 to 10.

The camp is operated by Super Science and Amazing Art from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday. Three camp days each week will be held at Mound House, and two camp days will be at Newton Beach Park. Precautions due to COVID-19 will be taken, including masks and social distancing.

Campers will experience kayaking on the back bay from the Mound House launch and swimming in the Gulf at

Newton Beach Park. They will also experience theme-oriented organized camp activities, outside games and museum exploration. Each camp week has room for a minimum of six participants and a maximum of 15.

Cost is \$250 per camper per week. An application for scholarships will be available. Early drop off and late pickup may be possible based on instructor availability. Campers will need to bring masks and their snacks, lunch and water bottle each day in addition to towels and change of clothes.

Themes each week will include Robotics, Gamers, Build It and Kitchen Chemistry.

Mound House is located at 451 Connecticut Street. Newton Beach Park is located at 4650 Estero Boulevard on Fort Myers Beach. To register and for more information, visit www.supersciencefl.com/the-mound-house-2.✪

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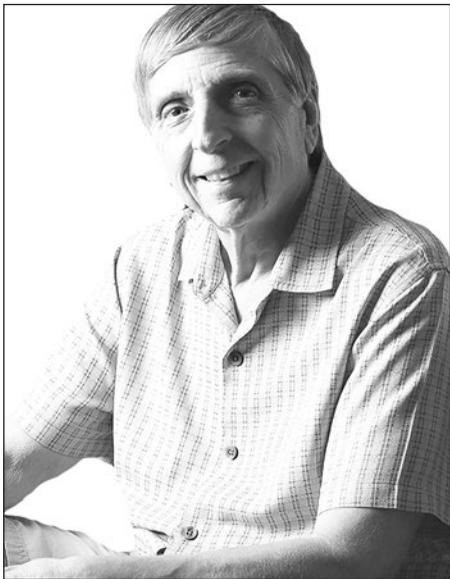
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William Ulrich photo provided

Founder Of Local Nonprofit Releases Film

The Rainbow Movement Foundation, a local nonprofit bringing awareness to organizations and groups doing good deeds in the community, announces the launch of the film *Rainbowland*, a documentary film produced by William Ulrich, founder of the nonprofit. The film, which can be viewed from the link www.rainbowlandfilm.com, was made to tell the origin story of the Rainbow Movement.

Framed as a letter to his granddaughter, the documentary follows Ulrich's journey to find meaning in an experience he considers a miracle and to his eventual pursuit of charity work. His passion grew after he witnessed an inspiring natural display. As the sun was setting on his riverfront condo, an amazingly bright and beautiful rainbow framed the river that opens to the gulf. "It was two miles away and four miles wide," Ulrich said. "Then it rushed towards me. It moved quickly across the river and stopped right in front of me. I almost fell over." So, it is not surprising that Ulrich experienced more than the beauty this rainbow offered to the eye, or why he felt there was more to the meaning of this rainbow than a basic scientific explanation might provide. To him, the rainbow appeared to be sending a message.

"I felt I was given the power of the world, that I could do almost anything," said Ulrich. "Let me rephrase that... I thought I was given the power of the universe, that I was sent something so special, so powerful, that I could do anything with it."

That's when Ulrich decided to devote his resources to build a worldwide movement. His journey began with helping others and promoting other organizations that were doing good deeds. But he wanted to go deeper. Ulrich wanted something that would involve each one of us. He launched www.globalconscience.com world to build a movement of people working together to advance awareness and understanding of the climate crisis

as well as to discover remedies that are essential to creating a healthier, greener environment for future generations.

"I think the message from the rainbow was that I was supposed to do things that I wanted to do when I was young. I wanted to be a hero. I wanted to save the world. I wanted to be appreciated," said Ulrich. "The legacy I want to leave is the Rainbow Movement. I want it to be the best organization in the world to help all people. I've always been a man of action, and when you have that energy that the rainbow gave me that day, you can create and make anything happen.

"The rainbow gave me the ability to

do things that I never thought I could. It inspired me to go beyond myself, beyond everything, to look at the goodness of the world and to try to help and fix things because we have a lot of problems right now. This is a time where we need to bring everybody together. I am so grateful to be able to do this. I'm doing this for the people of the world."

The Rainbow Movement Foundation stands with those who need a voice and supports projects that provide a better quality of life for those in need, including initiatives of their own. For more information, visit <https://rainbowmovement.world/> ✨

Animal Services Offering Checks On Microchips

Lee County Domestic Animal Services will host a Check the Chip event on Wednesday, May 19 from 9 a.m. to noon so that pet owners can be certain their pet's microchip is up to date or get one if needed.

May is national Chip Your Pet Month. Checking for a chip is one of the first things a shelter or rescue does when a pet is brought in. Studies show that microchipping greatly increases the chances an owner will be identified; about 74 percent of found dogs and 63.5 percent of cats turned into shelters were reunited with their owners.

The event is just in time for the upcoming hurricane season when there is a greater potential for pets to be separated from their owners.

During the Check the Chip event, pet owners will have the opportunity to have pets scanned to verify they are chipped and the information is current. Pets can be microchipped during the event for \$10. Call 533-7387 to schedule an appointment.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office will also be on-hand with information on its ReUnite Program, a community-based collaborative program between the Lee County Sheriff's Office and the United Way. The goal of this program is to assist first responders in search-and-rescue operations for at-risk individuals with cognitive and/or behavioral disorders who may be prone to wandering or getting lost. The program is free.

ReUnite makes use of Scent Evidence K9 kits, bloodhounds and technology. By registering those at high-risk, search times are reduced in comparison to programs that provide a singular process.

Lee County Domestic Animal Services is located at 5600 Banner Drive in Fort Myers. Visit www.leelostpets.com or call 533-7387 for more information. Owners must bring dogs on non-retractable leashes and cats in hard-sided carriers. ✨

From page 1

Bluegrass Concert

band. As a teenager, he established himself as a hot picker collecting national awards for his dexterity on guitar and mandolin. His knack for colorful performances was evident as a backing player in his sister Jessica Lea Mayfield's band, including their appearance on *The Late Show with David Letterman*. He radiates personality on stage – a trait that makes him a natural frontman. He joined the bluegrass outfit Cadillac Sky, playing sold-out shows with British folk revivalists Mumford and Sons.

Mayfield then began writing songs after hearing artists like Randy Newman and Simon & Garfunkel, and recorded his original material. Since 2010, he has toured almost non-stop. The strength of his songwriting and musicianship, combined with charm and personality, keep audiences consistently lining up to join the parade.

Tickets are \$30 in advance and \$35 at the door. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Seating is limited.

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

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Taste Of The Beach Doles Out Awards

The Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce recently hosted its 25th annual Taste of the Beach at Salty Sam's Marina and featured 12 restaurants plus promotional vendors and live music provided by Sounds of Steel and The Collaboration Band.

Local restaurants at the popular food festival served samples of their best

signature dishes available for purchase. They also competed for the top Taste of the Beach award honors in several categories.

- The winners were as follows:
- Best Appetizer – Sunset Beach Tropical Grill
 - Best Dessert – Doc Ford's Rum Bar & Grille
 - Best Meat Entree – Sunset Beach Tropical Grill
 - Best Chicken Entree – Dave's Neapolitan Pizzeria
 - Best Vegetarian/Vegan Dish – Red Roc Cravings

Ostego Bay Center Honors College Interns

The Ostego Bay Foundation Inc. recently recognized two interns from its Florida Gulf Coast University internship programs.

FGCU marine science students Alicia Sucher and Jordyn Lutzow, who both recently graduated from the local college summa cum laude, shared both their time and knowledge with visitors of the center with a commitment of demonstrating conservation through education.

Joanne Semmer, the President of the Foundation stated: "The Ostego Bay Marine Science Center is a unique facility with many exhibits designed by middle school, high school and college interns. We encourage visitors to pick up and closely examine artifacts, such as holding the shell to your ear and hearing the ocean."

"We are a place for learning, both formally and informally, inside and outside the science center, at every stage of life and ability. We work to facilitate this throughout the organization's activities and exhibitions to create a more scientifically informed community and inspiring future leaders. Our interns play an important role in fulfilling our mission."

Founded in 1991, the Ostego Bay Foundation Marine Science Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization. The mission of the Ostego Bay Foundation, Inc. is to promote the understanding, preservation and enhancement of our unique marine environment through education, research and community involvement. The Foundation provides interactive educational experiences to encourage stewardship of our natural resources

The Ostego Bay Marine Science Center is located at 718 Fishermans Wharf on San Carlos Island. For more information, visit www.ostegobay.org.



Handle It Vendor

Best Seafood Entree – Sunset Beach Tropical Grill

People's Choice – Doc Ford's Rum Bar & Grille

Best Decorated Booth – Yucatan Beach Stand

The Taste of the Beach brought back the beloved Vendor Village, which featured local artisans and vendors of all kinds.

The fan-favorite server competition pitted a dexterity rivalry between the participating restaurants.

Parrot Key Caribbean Grill captured the event, while Yucatan Beach Stand

came in second place and Sunset Beach tropical Grill took third place.

Sponsors for the 2021 Taste event included Your CBD Store, Fort Myers Beach Observer, Fred's Award World, Snug Harbor Waterfront Restaurant, Gavin's Ace Hardware, Salty Sam's Marina, The Shrimp Dock Grill, Keller Williams Realty, Kuztum Designs and Lee County Elections

The Fort Myers Beach Chamber sends out thanks to everyone who attended the event, participating restaurants, vendors and the volunteers who make all of the business organization's events possible.✱

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Fort Myers Art:

Love Affair With Edison Films Dates Back To 1908



by Tom Hall

At sunset on Friday, May 14 (8 p.m.), the Edison and Ford Winter Estates will host the Fort Myers Film Festival, screening four films on the lawn of the Henry Ford Estate. Seated outdoors

along the picturesque Caloosahatchee, guests will watch movies under the stars. The films will include an Edison silent picture, a production about the late Sam Galloway, and two feature films, *Stay Wild* and *A Greenlander*. The site is one of several locations hosting the film festival occurring May 12 to 16.

It's an appropriate partnership given Fort Myers' long love affair with pictorial storytelling and the man who invented much of the technology that made filmmaking possible.

The town's fascination with film dates back to September 1, 1908. On that date, an enterprising young man by the name of John Towles Hendry introduced Fort Myers to the realm of motion pictures in a tiny one-room affair with bench seats and a hunk of canvas



Thomas Edison looking at film

photo courtesy www.artswfl.com

tacked up on one wall. The premiere was so heavily attended that Hendry had to play the film over and over again for three solid hours while his wife provided musical accompaniment for the silent movie on an upright piano for the standing-room-only crowds who crammed into the Royal Palm Theatre.

It wasn't just the novelty of this new form of entertainment that captured Fort Myers' fancy. Moviegoers were predisposed to love photoplays because of Thomas Edison. The town loved everything Edison. Residents, young and old, celebrated the inventor's birthday and arrival back in town each winter with

a zeal surpassed only by Washington's Birthday, which was the biggest event each year (topping even the Fourth of July, Christmas and New Year's Eve). And it was Thomas Alva Edison and experimental staff member William Dickson who invented a motion picture camera and a peephole viewing device called the kintoscope in 1891, which he upgraded within a handful of years with technology capable of projecting moving images on a screen that could be viewed by an entire room full of people.

Of course, projectors are nothing without the films they play, so beginning in 1896, Edison turned his attention to filmmaking, building a tarpaper-covered black filmmaking studio at his West Orange, New Jersey lab that he tongue-in-cheek called "The Doghouse." Dickson and his co-workers gave it another name – the Black Maria – because the studio's cramped quarters reminded them of the paddy wagons the police used at that time.

Over the next eight years, Dickson and his cohorts made hundreds of films at the Black Maria and, as word spread, performers from across the country began showing up in West Orange looking for work. Never one to miss a photo op, Edison posed with dozens of the actors, dancers, boxers, magicians and vaudeville entertainers who made it into his films for newspaper articles promoting the films and Edison's pioneering efforts to promote and expand the industry.

The studio had a special fondness for westerns, filming two of the earliest of this genre ever made in 1899. With a run time of under a minute, *Cripple Creek Bar Room Scene* featured not only a prototypical western saloon, but a barmaid played by a man. Set during the Alaska Gold Rush, *Poker at Dawson City* revolved around a crooked poker game and the industry's seminal barroom fight.

Edison closed the Black Maria in 1901 and built a glass-enclosed rooftop movie studio in New York City, but continued to make westerns from this new location including Edwin S. Porter's groundbreaking silent short (at 12 minutes long), *The Great Train Robbery*, considered to be the first American action

film in history.

Porter was a former Edison Studios cameraman, but with *The Great Train Robbery*, he stepped up his game, writing, directing, editing and producing the film. Porter used a number of innovative techniques, including composite editing, on-location shooting (at the South Maintain Reservation in Milltown, New Jersey and along the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad) and frequent camera movement. The film is one of the earliest to employ cross cutting, in which two scenes are shown to be occurring simultaneously but in different locations. Some prints were also hand-colored in certain scenes. And the final scene (occasionally played at the beginning) in which the leader of the bandits empties his pistol point-blank at the camera is believed to have inspired the gun barrel sequence that opens each James Bond film.

Boasting a modest budget of just \$150 (less than \$5,000 in today's money), the film became a blockbuster by modern standards and remained one of the most popular films of the silent era until the release of *The Birth of a Nation* in 1915. Starring Alfred C. Abadie, Broncho Billy Anderson and Justus D. Barnes (although there were no credits), *The Great Train Robbery* was selected in 1990 for preservation in the United States National Film Registry by the Library of Congress as being "culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant."

And fittingly, *The Great Train Robbery* was played for guests during the 9th annual Fort Myers Film Festival in 2019.

Neither the Fort Myers Film Festival nor Edison & Ford Winter Estates has identified which silent film it will screen for guests this year.

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.✪

From page 1

Street Art

and a question-and-answer session with the artists and filmmakers. On site festivities begin at 6 p.m. on the GreenMarket lawn. The documentary will begin at dark. Online streaming will start at 6 p.m. Pre-registration is required.

Seating is limited and attendees will purchase a pass for a six-foot by six-foot square space on the GreenMarket lawn. In order to maintain social distancing, all lawn spaces will be six feet apart. For safety reasons, all reservations must be made in advance and masks are required indoors of the Alliance, for bathrooms and when social distancing is not possible.

Cost for both on site and online viewing is \$25 per person for Alliance members or \$35 for non-members.

The Alliance for the Arts is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. For more information and advance registration, call 939-2787 or visit www.artinlee.org/streetheroines.✪

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Fort Myers Technical College and community partners donated a car to a family in need photo provided

Partners Donate Car To Help Family In Need

What do you get when you combine the United Way, the Migrant Education Program and Fort Myers Technical College? The answer is a cleaned up, safety inspected, and ready to be driven 2002 Buick Park Avenue for a family in need of reliable transportation.

Thanks to a generous vehicle donation from the United Way, the students and faculty at Fort Myers Tech

were given hands-on experience to make sure the car was in tip-top shape. They installed new brakes and new tires, serviced the front axle and intake gasket and performed a full air conditioning overhaul. They also refurbished some areas of the hood and side molding that needed a little updating.

"The ability to partner effectively with other organizations is something that we pride ourselves on here at Fort Myers Tech," said Fort Myers Tech Director John Roszell. "It is absolutely essential that we contribute to and focus on making positive changes within our community."

Once repaired, the car was donated

to Marissa Diaz, the parent of a student in the migrant education program in the School District of Lee County.

"This year was especially tough for her family, falling on hard-hitting times due to COVID, and they were forced to move in with family members," said Migrant Program Administer Stacia Winfree. "On top of this, the family vehicle was unreliable, and Marisa would often have to call into work. She says the donated car is a blessing to her and she is just beyond grateful. She felt truly overwhelmed with this generosity when receiving the car, especially as she saw all the students and staff who dedicated their talents to make it happen."✱

Estero Island Garden Club To Honor Veterans

The Estero Island Garden Club will honor veterans with a Blue Star Memorial Marker, which will be unveiled next to the entrance of the Fort Myers Beach Library on Saturday, May 22 at 10 a.m. Service members, veterans and family and friends are welcome to the ceremony.

The blue star was used on service flags to denote a service member fighting in the war. The program has since been expanded to include memorial markers and memorial by-ways. Since 1994, these markers have been used in national cemeteries, parks,

veteran's facilities and gardens.

The National Garden Club honors veterans and active service members by installing these signs throughout the country. The first Blue Star Memorial in Florida was dedicated in May of 1949 in Key West.

The Estero Island Garden Club, a member of The National Garden Club, will sponsor the memorial marker dedication, which is based on the ceremony at Gettysburg, where President Lincoln gave his historic address. As part of the ceremony, there will be a brief history of the Blue Star markers followed by the unveiling and dedication of the marker. There will be an invocation and benediction, a color guard and patriotic music performed by Brass Music Elements that will conclude with echo taps.

Fort Myers Beach Library is located at 2755 Estero Boulevard on Fort Myers Beach. Facemasks and social distancing is required at this outdoor event.✱

College Graduates

Cameron Stephen Guay of Fort Myers and Anandi Ehman of North Fort Myers recently graduated from the University of Mississippi in Oxford, Mississippi.

Guay graduated with a bachelor's degree in pharmaceutical sciences, while Ehman received a doctor of philosophy (PhD) in the graduate program.✱

Churches/Temples

ALL FAITHS UNITARIAN CONGREGATION

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

ALL SAINTS BYZANTINE RITE CATHOLIC

Sunday 10:30 a.m., 10291 Bayshore Road, 599-4023.

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX

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

BETH YESHUA MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE

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

BIBLESHARE

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

CHABAD LUBAVITCH ORTHODOX

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

CHAPEL OF CYPRESS COVE

Sunday 10 a.m., www.revtedalhouse@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 9 and 11 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.fpcforymyers.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.peacefortmyers.com, peace@peacefortmyers.com. 15840 McGregor Boulevard, 437-2599.

REDEEMER LUTHERAN

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

RIVER OF LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

8, 9:45 and 11:30 a.m., 21580 River Ranch Road, 495-0400.

SAMUDRABADRA BUDDHIST CENTER

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

SAINT COLUMBKILLE CATHOLIC

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

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC

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

SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE METROPOLITAN

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

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN

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

SAINT NICHOLAS MONASTERY

Sunday 9:30 a.m., www.saintricholasmonastery.org, 111 Evergreen Road, 997-2847.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC

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

SOUTHWEST BAPTIST

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

TEMPLE BETH EL SYNAGOGUE

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

TEMPLE JUDEA (CONSERVATIVE)

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

THE FAITH CENTER

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

THOMAS A. EDISON CONGREGATIONAL

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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

UNITY OF FORT MYERS

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

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

WORD OF LIFE

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

ZION LUTHERAN

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

Email changes to press@islandsnews.com or call 395-1213.✱

Autism Acceptance Award Honorees

Family Initiative officials recently announced honorees of the first annual Autism Acceptance Awards at a celebration held on May 1 at Oxbow Bar & Grill in downtown Fort Myers. The festivities top off April as Autism Acceptance Month and were emceed by WINK News anchor Lois Thome with entertainment provided by The Rosada Project.

The event was underwritten by David and Linda Lucas. Intech Printing and Direct Mail provided community sponsorship.

“It was a tremendous honor to celebrate such a special group of people who work day in and day out for so many of our children and families impacted by autism spectrum disorder,” said David Brown, MSW, president of Family Initiative. “These new annual awards reflect our commitment to build a more vibrant and inclusive community for those with autism.”

Autism Acceptance Awards accolades



From left, Family Initiative Vice President Anjali Van Drie, Believer Award winner Donna Djerf and Family Initiative President David Brown photo provided

include:

Champion Award – Honoree: Ray Rodrigues, Florida State Senate. Awarded to an individual who uses their resources or influence to advance the well-being of those on the spectrum or further

understanding and acceptance of autism in the community.

Partner Award – Honoree: Alliance for the Arts. Awarded to a professional or organization in the field of autism who has provided exceptional impact to

individuals with autism.

Believer Award – Honoree: Donna Djerf, Lee County Public Schools parent liaison. Awarded to an individual or organization that effectively uses its resources to positively impact individuals and families with autism.

Dylan Award – Honoree: Stephanie Busin, Hendry County District Schools board member, District 4. Named for a remarkable young man who served as an inspiration for casting a bold vision of what is possible for individuals on the autism spectrum, the award recognizes an individual who has gone above and beyond for the Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) community and has served as an inspiration to others.

Established in 2021 by Family Initiative, the Autism Acceptance Awards is an annual celebration of everyday champions of children and families impacted by ASD. These individuals and organizations contribute to a more inclusive and vibrant Southwest Florida community. Winners are selected by a panel of Family Initiative executives from among dozens of nominations contributed by people throughout the community.

To learn more or donate, visit www.fi-florida.org.

Collaborative To Help Homeless Families

The Lee Board of County Commissioners recently voted to authorize the Family Transition Collaborative program to provide temporary hotel stays and connection to permanent housing for families who are experiencing homelessness.

Families, already identified, will be assigned a case manager who will work with them to identify permanent housing. After placement in permanent housing, case management will continue for up to 12 months to ensure families are connected to the resources and supportive services necessary to ensure long-term housing stability.

On March 2, the board directed staff to present options for temporary shelter for persons who are experiencing homelessness and waiting for placement in permanent housing, resulting in the recent vote.

The board approved agreements with The Salvation Army and Centerstone for elements of the program. Centerstone will provide connection to temporary shelter in a hotel setting and case management during the hotel stay. The Salvation Army will provide rapid re-housing and case management once families are placed in permanent housing.

For this program, families are defined as households with more than one adult, with or without children.

About 96 households are expected to receive shelter and connection to permanent housing through this program, which has a budget of up to \$1.9 million.

The budget includes:

- Hotel stays;
- Basic needs, such as food and clothing;

- Rental assistance for permanent housing;
 - Case management staff dedicated specifically to this initiative;
 - Access to mental health services; and
 - Onsite security.
- Lee County Human and Veteran Services serves as the co-lead agency for the Continuum of Care (CoC) and coordinates housing, services and special initiatives to ensure that homelessness in Lee County is a rare, brief and one time experience. The CoC includes local governments, agencies and persons with lived experience who collectively plan and implement programs to serve persons who are homeless and at risk of homelessness.

Anyone experiencing homelessness with housing needs should call the 24/7 coordinated entry phone line at 533-7996.*

Foundation Awards College Scholarships

For the sixth consecutive year, the Boston Red Sox honored 14 local public high school seniors, presenting them each a \$5,000 college scholarship by the Red Sox Foundation.

The 2021 scholarship recipients are as follows:

- Gabriella Dominicis, Bonita Springs High
- Julia Lin, Cape Coral High
- Ashley Walters, Cypress Lake High
- Corbria Crawford, Dunbar High
- Jonathan Hernandez, East Lee County High
- Maria Hernandez, Estero High
- Abner Wilhelm, Fort Myers High
- Olivia Barcenas Ortiz, Ida Baker High
- Jose Rojas, Island Coast High

continued on page 16



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Remove Food Attractants To Deter Bears

As spring temperatures warm, bears are becoming more active, increasing opportunities for conflicts with people. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) reminds Florida residents and visitors to remove food attractants to reduce negative interactions with bears and other wildlife.

“Bears are coming out of their winter dens, and they’re searching for food,” said Dave Telesco, who directs the FWC’s Bear Management Program. “Secure trash, pet food, birdfeeders and other food items that could attract a bear to your yard or neighborhood. If you don’t give them a reason to stay, they’ll move on.”

Female bears give birth to 12-ounce cubs near the end of January and are beginning to travel with their young, which could now weigh 5 to 10 pounds. As the cubs continue to grow, the family unit will roam farther and likely be observed by people more often.

While black bears generally are not aggressive, they have injured people in Florida. Never intentionally approach any bear. When walking dogs, keep them close to you – preferably on a non-retractable leash – and be aware of your surroundings. Dogs can trigger defensive behaviors from bears, especially females with cubs.



Florida Black Bear

photo provided

To keep bears away from your home and neighborhood, follow these simple tips:

- Secure household garbage in a sturdy shed, garage or a wildlife-resistant container;

- Put household garbage out on the morning of pickup rather than the night before;

- Modify your existing garbage to make it more bear resistant;

- Secure commercial garbage in bear-resistant dumpsters;

- Protect gardens, beehives, compost and livestock with electric fencing;

- Encourage your homeowner’s association or local government to institute bylaws or ordinances to require trash be kept secure from bears;

- Feed pets indoors or bring in leftover food and dishes after feeding outdoors;

- Clean grills and store them in a secure place;

- Remove wildlife feeders or make them bear-resistant; and

- Pick ripe fruit from trees and bushes, and remove fallen fruit from the ground.

It is illegal in Florida to harm, intentionally feed bears, or leave out food or garbage that will attract bears and cause human-bear conflicts.

As bears increase their movements this time of year, they also increase the number of roads they cross. For the safety of yourself and bears, remember to slow down when driving, particularly on rural highways at dawn or dusk. Watch for road signs that identify bear crossing areas. Each year in Florida, an average of 240 Florida bears are killed after being hit by vehicles.

Having conflicts with bears? Call one of the FWC’s five regional offices. Visit www.myfwc.com/contact, and click on

“Contact Regional Offices” to find the phone number for your region. If you feel threatened by a bear or want to report someone who is either harming bears or intentionally feeding them, call the FWC’s Wildlife Alert Hotline at 888-404-3922.

For more information, www.myfwc.com/bear and access the “Guide to Living in Bear Country” brochure. Help us help bears and other wildlife by purchasing the Conserve Wildlife tag at www.wildlifeflorida.org/cwt.*

Storm Season Starts June 1

Although the last thing on your mind is the start of storm season after fighting long and hard against COVID-19, June 1 will be here before we know it. Now is the time to prepare yourself and your family in the event that any storms come our way.

Keep the following in mind when making your plans for the start of storm season:

- Make an emergency plan and share with family;

- Know your risk for wind, rain and flood;

- Know your evacuation zone;

- Put together a disaster supply kit. Visit www.ready.gov for planning tips;

- Have a backup source of power ready for anyone requiring life-support equipment;

- Get your finances in order;

- Strengthen your home by ensuring your yard stays debris-free and trees are pruned;

- Help family, neighbors and coworkers plan; and

- Remind everyone you know to stay away from downed power lines.

Rest assured that Lee County Electric Cooperative (LCEC) is ready for anything that Mother Nature brings to Southwest Florida. Between maintaining our electric system and improving upon our restoration planning year-round, all LCEC employees are ready to jump into action if and when the time comes.

For more information on preparing for storm season, download a copy of the LCEC Hurricane Guide on www.lcec.net.*

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From page 2

Historic Downtown

and the fire department had iron lungs, and there was no charge for using them.

Free mass vaccinations began in April 1955, when an over-whelming majority of parents of first- and second-graders approved of their children being vaccinated at public schools.

As the effort progressed, vaccinations were given at schools and the county health department.

Mass administering of the Sabin oral vaccine for Lee and Hendry counties began in August 1962. The campaign was termed SOS for “Oral Sabin Sunday.”

The charge of 50 cents was waived for anyone who couldn’t afford it.

Walk down to the “old” fire station on Central Avenue at MLK, Jr. Boulevard and imagine a life-saving iron lung poised for a parade appearance.

Then visit the following research centers

to learn more about the history of major disease threats in Fort Myers.

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

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

The Lee County Black History Society is located at 1936 Henderson Avenue, adjacent to the Williams Academy Museum at Roberto Clemente Park. Hours for the nonprofit organization are Wednesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturday by appointment only. For more information, call 332-8778 or visit www.leecountyblackhistorysociety.org.

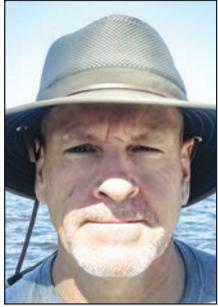
Visit the IMAG History & Science Center at 2000 Cranford Avenue or at www.theimag.org.

Sources: Archives of the Southwest Florida Historical Society, *The News-Press* and www.cdc.gov.*

CROW Case Of The Week:

Anhinga

by Bob Petcher



The anhinga (*anhinga anhinga*) is a large water bird with an S-shaped neck and a long tail that fans out to resemble a turkey's tail. In fact, this bird has picked up the nickname "water turkey" due to this rear appendage. It is also called "snake bird" because it can be seen slithering through the water with only its snakelike head protruding

the water surface.

Anhingas differ from other water birds as they do not possess oil glands to waterproof their feathers. These wet feathers, along with dense bones, are helpful in allowing anhingas to slowly submerge their bodies under water so that they can cleverly stalk fish. On the flip side, since they do not have water resistant feathers, anhingas must air dry after each submersion. That is why you usually see these birds standing on a rock with their wings spread out wide.

Another bird – the cormorant – shares similar characteristics with the anhinga, like the lack of oil glands, S-shape neck and inclination to perch along waterfronts. They differ from the shape of their bills (cormorant has a curved, hook bill while the anhinga has a straight dagger-like bill) and their preference for water body type (cormorants prefer salt water while anhingas favor fresh water). They do cohabitate in brackish waters sometimes.

While it is a water bird, the anhinga has a great ability to soar through the sky, usually at great heights and leaving behind a distinctive cross-shaped silhouette. Although they do not migrate, they are known to travel



Patient #21-2274 is recovering nicely from its collision with a sliding glass door photo by Haillie Mesics

some distances through the air.

At CROW, a juvenile anhinga was admitted after it was found in Lehigh Acres. The young bird was having

trouble flying and, reportedly, flew into a sliding glass door.

Upon presentation, the patient was emaciated and missing some head feathers. Veterinarians placed the bird in a cage for monitoring to see if its mentation improved. The cause for its mental condition was unclear.

"We do not know why for sure, but it is possible the bird got into some form of toxin – cyanobacteria or brevetoxin – or it may have flown into something and had some disorientation due to mild head trauma," said Dr. Sasha Troiano, CROW veterinary intern, when asked why the anhinga lost mental activity.

The day after intake, the patient had blood drawn and was anesthetized for full radiographs. After hours in the clinic's care, the bird's status was upgraded.

"The patient's mentation has improved significantly," said Dr. Troiano. "The blood test and complete blood count was within normal limits. The x-rays showed no obvious abnormalities."

The anhinga continues to receive supportive care and remains under close monitoring.

"The bird is receiving force feeds to ensure it does not lose weight, oral fluids to maintain hydration and tub time," said Dr. Troiano.

After a few more days at the clinic, the patient is close to being ready to return to its freshwater habitat.

"The patient is steadily improving," said Dr. Troiano. "Hopefully, we will be able to move it to an outdoor enclosure in the next couple of days. Once the bird is eating and flying on its own, it will be ready for release."

CROW (Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife, Inc.) is a non-profit wildlife hospital providing veterinary care for native and migratory wildlife from our local area. The hospital accepts patients seven days a week from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mail donations to P.O. Box 150, Sanibel, FL 33957. Call 472-3644 or visit www.crowclinic.org.*

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Closing The Deal Isn't Easy



by Capt. Matt Mitchell

We had great success chasing tarpon this week and getting that bite most days. Getting a fish to the boat for a release though was a different matter. On our best morning, my clients had four fish hooked up and we still just could not get that face grab. No matter how much you explain the importance of bowing to a jumping tarpon, it's just not a natural response for most anglers. Once that 100-pound fish goes airborne, all pre-bite direction is often forgotten. Your heart sinks when you watch a client pull against the jumping fish because you know it's probably going to be all over.

The first 30 seconds to a minute of a tarpon fight is wild, crazy and unpredictable. Multiple jumps, fast changes of direction and powerful runs make keeping an angry charging tarpon hooked up tough. If you can make it through this first part of the battle, your odds have greatly increased. Even after the fish begins to settle down, they still have moves that can break your heart more than a half hour in. We had one such fish on for 10 minutes this week and chased it trying to put line back on the spool. While still out over 100 yards, this fish came right at the boat. While reeling as fast as possible, we began to think we had lost the fish until the line came tight right at the bow and the fish started jumping again. This was a game-over move.

Having lots of shots at rolling and laid-up fish with very few bites was the other way our tarpon trips seemed to play out. During one memorable morning this week while on the flats skiff, I followed a pod of hundreds of tarpon across the intercoastal. During the slick calm conditions, you would pitch a bait at what you thought was the lead fish of the chain only to spook another group of tarpon you did not know were there. This massive amount of tarpon that we had fished for a few days simply picked up and moved down the sound. It was wild.

We had multiple shots at these fish. At times, chains of 30 or more fish would push right next to the boat. Seeing these fish laid up with fins above the slick water is an amazing thing. We casted live baits on floats to the outside edges of these fish. We did have one fish inhale the bait, but after one jump going away, it changed direction and came right towards the boat. It was impossible to stay tight as we stared down its throat as it jumped right towards us before throwing the hook.

Over the past week, it seemed most of the large groups of tarpon were located in the southern sound. Even during windy conditions these fish just stayed put. Then a small cold front and northerly winds happened over the weekend, and there were very few tarpon to be found. Tarpon do not like north wind. The hunt began again today with only a few fish showing here and there. As conditions improve and get back to warm sticky humid mornings, these fish will reappear.

When it comes right down to it, tarpon can be extremely frustrating and hard to catch. It's the challenge of these fish that makes releasing one such an accomplishment. Every tarpon battle is different and stays fresh in your mind until you manage to land that next fish.

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.*



Wave goodbye on this last tarpon jump of the battle photo provided

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A least tern and its chicks on a rooftop

photo provided

Rooftops Are Nesting Sites For Florida Shorebirds

Making concessions for wildlife is not always easy but it is extremely important for the long-term survival of rooftop nesting birds, such as least terns and black skimmers. The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) thanks building owners for hosting shorebirds and seabirds that nest on their roofs from March through August.

Florida is home to unique shorebirds and seabirds that typically nest on the ground of open beaches, but as more people visit these destinations, these birds are increasingly using gravel rooftops to nest and raise chicks.

Most shorebirds and seabirds that nest on rooftops are state-threatened species. For example, more than 50 percent of Florida's least tern population relies on rooftops for nesting grounds. Any harassment or harm, even unintentional, is considered "take" and is therefore unlawful.

What can you do to help rooftop nesting birds?

Thank building owners – If you are staying at a hotel or visiting a business that has rooftop nesting birds, thank management for accommodating these

fellow guests.

Volunteer – You can help the FWC monitor rooftop nesting locations for evidence of nesting activity and for fallen chicks that need to be returned to the rooftop. For opportunities in your area, email shorebird@myfwc.com.

Building owners and managers play an important role – If you own or manage a building where birds are nesting on the roof, you can help by giving the nesting birds space and contact an FWC regional shorebird biologist for assistance.

"Rooftops can play such an important role in the nesting season for these birds," said Melissa Tucker, director of FWC's Division of Habitat and Species Conservation. "We want to recognize all the building owners and managers who accommodate these birds, helping the long-term survival of these species."

"These 'islands in the sky' are essential to ensuring the future of our iconic coastal species," said Julie Wraithmell, executive director of Audubon Florida. "Every roof counts as Florida loses ground nesting sites to sea level rise and disturbance."

For more information, go to www.myfwc.com/shorebirds and click on Rooftop Nesting.

Spring is an active time for many of Florida's wildlife species. For more information on wildlife in spring, visit www.myfwccom.com/news and click on Spring Wildlife News.✪

Plant Smart

Queen's Delight

by Gerri Reaves

Queen's delight (*Stillingia sylvatica*) is a member of the spurge (Euphorbiaceae) family that grows throughout the state in dry habitats such as pinelands, flatwoods and sandhills, as well as hammocks, fields and open woodlands.

In South Florida, it is typically evergreen and shrubby.

The Institute for Regional Conservation lists this native's status as "rare."

The alternate leaves are one to three inches long and quite narrow with finely toothed edges and prominent midveins.

The erect terminal flower spikes bloom all year long on stalks up to four feet tall.

Each yellowish or reddish spike contains both male and female flowers, the male on the upper portion and the female on the lower. Both flowers are petal-less.

The male flowers have two conspicuous stamens, and the female flowers are three-lobed.

The flowers' large nectar glands attract a variety of insects. Browsing wildlife, such as rabbits and white-tailed deer, eat the foliage.

When broken, plant parts exude a milky sap, or latex, that is typical of euphorbias and irritating to the mouth and eyes.

This species prefers dry sandy soil in full sun to light shade.

Propagate it by division or with the seeds. It will sometimes self-sow near the parent plant.

Although not usually sold as a landscape plant, it is appreciated by native plant enthusiasts and works well in a natural landscape or wildflower garden.

Check with a native plant nursery if you'd like to try this easy-to-grow



Native queen's delight's male and female petal-less flowers appear on the same spike
photos by Gerri Reaves

resilient plant.

Plant it in groups for a low-maintenance groundcover. It has a moderate growth rate and low salt tolerance and will grow in nutrient-poor soil.

Winning attributes include pest resistance and high drought tolerance.

The plant was once used to treat a variety of illnesses, including syphilis, and gallbladder and liver conditions. Ingesting it causes vomiting and purging. Despite medical warnings, it is still sometimes used.

Sources: *Complete Guide to Florida Wildflowers and Everglades Wildflowers* by Roger L. Hammer, *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants* by Rufino Osorio, *The Guide to Florida Wildflowers* by Walter Kingsley Taylor, <http://floranorthamerica.org>, <http://hawthornhillwildflowers.blogspot.com>, and www.regionalconservation.org.

Plant Smart explores the diverse flora of South Florida.✪

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Nonprofit Group Hires Executive Director

Our Mother's Home (OMH), an organization that helps transition teen mothers and their children from foster care to stable, productive lives, has recently filled its executive director position with the hiring of Viodelka Moreira.



Viodelka Moreira

Moreira has an extensive background in education administration, teaching and psychology.

Meeting Our Mother's Home criteria for the position was not an easy task. They sought a multi-talented person with executive director experience, experience with children, a business and education background, a master's degree and someone compassionate and comfortable with children.

To help find this uniquely qualified person, OMH initiated a national search using the expertise of a search firm. After several months and many interviews, Moreira was hired.

A New York native, Moreira worked several years as a legal secretary when she realized it wasn't her calling. Her desire to work with children and in the field of mental health led her back to school, where she received an education that would prepare her to work with, train and mentor children and young adults. Moreira earned her bachelor's degree in psychology and a master's degree in early childhood education.

"I didn't find education; it found me,"

said Moreira. Following college, she spent the next eight years teaching younger age children in Manhattan grade schools. From there, she served to oversee four schools on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. In these roles, Moreira focused on early childhood education and oversaw the early childhood program at three schools.

"We loved her background in our environment, her proven track record of success and her history in the education and curriculum arena. Also, she's bilingual, a skill that's been needed in our program as up to 40 percent of our girls are Spanish speaking," said Barbara Saxton, board president of Our Mother's Home.

"When I came across this opportunity, a spark lit," Moreira said. "It not only felt right, but this was also everything I wanted to do with my career. It was like this was meant to be." Coincidentally, when Moreira applied for the position, she had just moved to the Fort Myers area and was working remotely.

"I fell in love with Our Mother's Home when I saw what they were doing – helping girls with trauma, giving them an education, teaching young moms how to care for their babies, so they have the opportunity to raise them. It's an amazing mission. I love it. I love what I do – what we do – and where I work. I look forward to a future of continued growth and service."

Moreira has four primary areas of focus for Our Mother's Home. Her vision is to bring more education to the program, provide for the development of the whole child – educationally, emotionally and socially, help girls transition to independence and expand Our Mother's Home.

Moreira has been a foster mom for a year, caring for a 7- and 10-year-old, and has 12 godchildren.

To learn more about Our Mother's Home or schedule a meeting with Moreira, call 267-4663 or visit www.ourmothershome.org.

Donations Help Children's Hospital

For the entire month of May, miracles will be happening at Costco... but the miracles won't be in the store, they'll be in the care provided to children at Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida.

Since 1988, Costco employees and members have donated more than \$43 million for Children's Miracle Network hospitals as part of their May is for Miracles Campaign.

Costco invites every shopper to make a simple donation at the register. All funds raised stay local to benefit Golisano, which became a Children's Miracle Network partner hospital last year. Every dollar collected helps provide life-saving care to sick and injured children in the five county area of Southwest Florida.

"The incredible part of this campaign is that we can tell Costco employees and all the customers where the money goes – it goes right to the kids being treated every day at Golisano. The money donated funds the most critical needs of our growing children's hospital, including pediatric neurosurgery and ophthalmology – two of our newest program expansions," said Toni Primeaux, development director for Golisano and Children's Miracle Network. "We get so excited about this campaign because Costco, its associates and its generous customers really make a tremendous impact in funding."

This campaign helps to ensure Golisano can deliver life-saving patient care to all, especially the tiniest patients in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). Specialized treatment in the NICU helps kids like Vincent, who was born at 24 weeks weighing just one pound and four



Baby Vincent in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit photo provided

ounces. Vincent spent 164 days (about five months) in the NICU at Golisano Children's Hospital overcoming brain bleeds, a heart defect, stage 3 ROP (retrolental fibroplasia), hernias, a g-tube and several surgeries. This year, Vincent turned 4 years old. While he still has a few challenges, he is a happy, curious, healthy, active, sweet little boy.

"What kept me strong during our NICU stay was the incredible care we received," said Ashley Olszewski, Vincent's mom. "Our care team took the time to explain what was happening; they were there on our darkest days and were our biggest cheerleaders on our successes."

Thanks to the generosity of the community last year, the three area Costcos in Fort Myers, Estero and Naples raised more than \$139,000. Costco matches a portion of every donation.*

Homeless Coalition Gifts Nonprofit Groups

The Lee County Homeless Coalition (LCHC) has awarded member agencies a total of \$30,000.

Due to the impact of COVID-19, the allocation procedure changed from the previous process of making funds available through a community grant. In its place, the coalition distributed a simple survey inquiring about agency needs.

Thousands in the local area have been negatively impacted due to COVID-19, and member agencies have increased their services with the increase in needs.

The following member agencies received grant funding:

- Affordable Homeownership Foundation – \$2,000
- Beacon of Hope, Pine Island – \$2,000
- Better Together – \$2,000
- Cape Coral Caring Center, Inc. – \$1,500
- Community Assisted and Supported Living, Inc. – \$1,000

- Community Cooperative, Inc. – \$1,000
- Eternal Homes & We Care Outreach – \$2,500
- Goodwill Industries of SWFL, Inc. – \$2,000
- Island Coast Helping Hands – \$500
- Midwest Food Bank Florida – \$3,500
- Premier Mobile Health Services – \$1,000
- St. Martin de Pores Outreach – \$2,000
- St. Matthew's House – \$1,000
- St. Vincent de Paul CARES – \$1,000
- The Salvation Army Fort Myers Area Command – \$7,000

Lee County Homeless Coalition is an advocacy and education group made up of community and faith-based service providers, local businesses, people who are currently experiencing or have previously experienced homelessness, and other advocates committed to ending homelessness. The coalition works with members to identify potential gaps within the local continuum of care. This grant opportunity was made available only to members of the Lee County Homeless Coalition.*

Services Resume At Lee Clerk Branch

Lee County Clerk of Court's Cape Coral office has resumed recording services by appointment. Cape Coral residents and businesses may schedule appointments to record deeds, mortgages and other official records between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday.

At the Cape Coral branch, customers can also pay traffic fines, court case fees, probation and other municipal and county infractions. Appointments can be scheduled at www.leeclerk.org/ appointment.

"Ensuring easy, convenient access to our services is my primary goal," Lee Clerk Linda Doggett said. "Now our most popular services are once again available in our county's most populated city for those who can't access them online."

If customers are unable to visit the office in person, they can e-record documents online with an approved

vendor. Information about e-recording is available at www.leeclerk.org/erecord. Customers can also connect via TeleClerk video conferencing at www.leeclerk.org for select services during business hours without an appointment.

Notary services are also offered at the Cape Coral branch for a \$10 fee, but passport and marriage services are currently not available. Cape Coral residents may apply for passports at the post office across the street or at the County Administration Building in Fort Myers.

The Cape Coral branch office is located on the second floor of the Lee County Government Center at 1039 SE 9th Place in Cape Coral. In response to the governor's executive order, customers are no longer required to wear masks in county buildings. A drop box is also available outside the building to leave payments or documents for processing.

For more information on services offered at the Cape Coral branch, visit www.leeclerk.org or call 533-5000.*



Jennifer Balliet



Joe Ramsay



Rusty Smith



Julio Barina

Unique Ways That Companies Help The Community

The Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce will explore the unique ways companies are helping their communities in Southwest Florida during a luncheon at the Crowne Plaza at Bell Tower on Thursday, May 27 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Attendees of the chamber luncheon will hear from a dynamic panel of local business professionals, who have implemented creative ways to serve their community. The four guest speakers include Jennifer Balliet, chief culture officer of NeoGenomics Laboratories; Joe Ramsay, owner of Pit Stop Auto Repair; Rusty Smith, marketing manager of Pit Stop Auto

Repair; and Julio Barina, firm partner with Markham Norton Mosteller Wright & Company, PA.

During the panel, Balliet will discuss NeoGenomics' collaboration with the biomedical program at Dunbar High School and how it offers students an opportunity to get a jump start in their future careers. Ramsay and Smith will talk about Pit Stop's partnership with the Salvation Army to help provide auto repair assistance for people in need. Barina will share the important role of community service and helping others within the company culture at Markham Norton Mosteller Wright & Company.

Admission is \$25 for Chamber members and \$35 for future members. Registration in advance is encouraged.

The Crowne Plaza at Bell Tower is located at 13051 Bell Tower Drive in Fort Myers. To learn more or to register for the event, visit www.fortmyers.org or call 332-2930.*

Hospitals Earn Four Stars In Quality Ratings

High-quality care and patient safety are Lee Health's top priorities, and the health system is pleased to announce its hospitals have been awarded four stars by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Cape Coral Hospital, HealthPark Medical Center and Lee Memorial Hospital have all risen from three stars in the 2020 rating period to four stars in this period, and Gulf Coast Medical Center has maintained its four-star status. Children's hospitals are not included in this ranking system.

The four-star ratings reflect the continuous improvements Lee Health takes to provide the highest quality of care to the community it serves.

In the past four years, all Lee Health hospitals have risen from two-stars to four-stars by finding ways to constantly improve patient care.

"We are proud to be recognized by CMS for the high-quality care we provide to the Southwest Florida community," said Dr. Larry Antonucci, president and chief executive officer of Lee Health. "At Lee Health, we are committed to constant improvement and are always striving to provide the safest, highest level of care possible. Being awarded four stars for our hospitals by CMS is an honor, and I want to thank the entire Lee Health team for their dedication to excellent

patient care."

CMS's overall star rating is based on how well a hospital performs across different areas of quality, such as treating heart attacks and pneumonia, readmission rates and safety of care. The rating shows how individual hospitals perform compared to all hospitals across the country for the five groups or categories of quality measures that make up for the overall star rating.

CMS created the Five-Star Quality Rating System to help consumers, their families and caregivers compare hospitals more easily. The scores are based on previously reported quality and safety data points including: patient satisfaction, value and outcomes, among others.

Just last week, Lee Health was recognized by The Leapfrog Group in its Spring 2021 Hospital Safety Grades. Cape Coral Hospital, Gulf Coast Medical Center and Lee Memorial Hospital each earned an "A" grade for the fifth straight reporting period. HealthPark Medical Center earned an "A" grade for the fourth straight reporting period. The Safety Grade assigns letter grades of "A," "B," "C," "D," and "F" to hospitals across the country based on their performance in preventing medical errors, infections and other harms. Only 33 percent of the approximately 2,700 acute care hospitals Leapfrog graded received an "A."

Learn more about Lee Health's awards and recognitions at www.leehealth.org.*

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Superior Interiors

How To Design A Transitional Living Room



by Jeanie Tinch

Do you love the sophisticated elegance of the traditional design style? Maybe you've decorated your living room with rich, dark wood furniture to establish this

the elegant, traditional look, they match almost any furniture style or hue you may choose to introduce to the area in the future.

To effectively mix the traditional and modern styles, you must focus on what defines them. For example, contemporary furnishings consist of straight lines, defined edges and an all-around tailored look. Traditional furniture, on the other hand, is associated with ornate details, such as curved lines, turned feet and rolled arms. To achieve the transitional style, choose an equal amount of straight-lined and curved furniture... perhaps a sofa with a tufted back and out-turned feet paired with a sleek glass coffee table featuring smooth metal legs. There are a wide range of furniture selections available for you to choose from to ensure you have an even balance of classic and contemporary home furnishings.

Get creative and introduce a combination of textural elements to your living room, such as glass, fabric, metal, lacquer and wood. The lack of bright colors leaves plenty of room for intricate, head-turning textures. Consider incorporating a variety of unique fabrics, such as embroideries, suedes, chenille, velvet and pliable leathers to establish the eye-grabbing element that color usually achieves.

Layer your textures to bring depth and dimension to the space. This ultimately creates a sense of comfort and softness that will make your room warm and inviting, a key component to a functional living room. Choosing one statement furniture piece to establish a base for your layers play off of will work best for your gathering area. Consider layering one area rug over another, mixing shapes, patterns and materials to create a truly captivating appearance.

To establish more visual interest, select accessories, furniture and designs of different shapes and sizes. As the traditional design style often consists of square or rectangular furnishings for consistency, try mixing various furniture

shapes for a more contemporary feel. For example, arrange a circular coffee table alongside linear, striped window treatments. You may also want to choose a combination of three patterns varying in size and scale for a successful play on your fabric selections.

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

New Member For Florida Bar Committee

Lotus Solutions LLC Founder and CEO

Nirupa Netram was recently appointed to The Florida Bar's Diversity and Inclusion Committee. The committee's mission is to increase diversity and inclusion in The Florida

Bar so that the bar will reflect the demographics of the state, to develop opportunities for community involvement and to make leadership roles within the profession and The Florida Bar accessible to all attorneys, including those who are racially, ethnically and culturally diverse, women, members of the LGBTQ community and persons with disabilities.

Netram founded Lotus Solutions LLC, a Florida certified woman and minority owned enterprise, to help businesses create diversity and inclusion to ensure a fair and just workplace, through consulting, training and keynote speeches. She co-chairs the Immigration Law Practice Section of the Lee County Bar Association, serves on the Horizon Council, Inclusion and Diversity Committee and the Greater Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce



Nirupa Netram

Equity Committee, and is a member of the Inclusion Allies Coalition.

A 23-year attorney, mediator, arbitrator and social entrepreneur, Netram has worked in government, corporate, philanthropic and nonprofit sectors in Southwest Florida. Netram graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in business administration from Stetson University and with a juris doctorate from Stetson University College of Law.

For more information, visit www.lotussolutions.biz. ✨

Internal Medicine Physician Hired By Health Group

Dr. Jennelle Villafior has joined Physicians' Primary Care of Southwest Florida as an internal medicine physician.

Dr. Villafior earned her medical degree from Far Eastern University in the Philippines. She served her residency in internal medicine at Harlem Hospital Center in New York.

Dr. Villafior has 15 years of experience as a physician in the Philippines and as a hospitalist in the United States. She is board-certified in internal medicine by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

She will see patients at the Fort Myers family medicine and internal medicine office of Physicians' Primary Care at 7381 College Parkway. Her outpatient practice will include annual physical exams, comprehensive care and treatment, and same day appointments.

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



Dr. Jennelle Villafior

head-turning theme. However, have you considered sprucing up your living space with a few modern furnishings or accents to add a sense of chic flair to your room? If so, the transitional style is right for you, as it combines classic and contemporary designs to establish a unique, cohesive look.

The transitional style is all about evoking a sense of serenity and cleanliness. Therefore, rooms that flawlessly represent the design theme have a neutral color palette. This allows your furnishings' sleek lines and edges to take center stage, which is an important aspect of the contemporary side of the transitional style. We may recommend hues like a rich brown, which will add depth to the area when paired with light shades like tan, taupe, or cream. If you want to go neutral but stay bright and fresh, consider incorporating a few navy or soft blue and white furnishings, as these are classic pairings that never seem to go out of style (especially in our coastal location).

Even more classic is a white and black combo that would really pop when complemented by a bold accent that introduces an unexpected splash of color. The best thing about neutral color schemes is that, in addition to creating

Microenterprise Emergency Loan Program

Small, local enterprises will get help to recover from the COVID-19 slowdown and expand their businesses under the Fort Myers Community Redevelopment Agency's (CRA) Microenterprise Program.

The CRA will offer small businesses forgivable loans to help cover emergency costs created by the economic disruption during the public health crisis. The agency recognizes the unprecedented circumstances caused by the pandemic created the need for temporary help for struggling enterprises that otherwise may not be able to survive.

"We are finding that the micro enterprise program is still needed as many of the businesses within the CRA area did not get assistance through the

city's assistance program. This program will allow us to provide up to eight loans in at least three redevelopment areas," said Fort Myers CRA Executive Director Michele Hylton-Terry.

Under the program, owners of businesses are eligible to apply in three redevelopment areas: downtown, Cleveland Avenue and Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard. Businesses in those areas are eligible if they have been operating for two years and have a minimum of one other employee in addition to the owner but no more than 10 employees, including the owner.

Owners must be current with local, state and federal taxes and licenses and must demonstrate that their business has been impacted by the pandemic. They must agree to the option of one-on-one business counseling.

Eligible businesses can qualify for a loan for up to \$10,000 for eligible expenses. Those include paying staff salaries, rent and utilities; purchasing

inventory, supplies, business software, furniture, fixtures and equipment; making building improvements; and producing marketing materials.

Another eligible expense include any cost of businesses adding online delivery equipment and service. The loan can be forgiven after 12 months if the business shows it used the funds for approved COVID-related needs. ✨

From page 9

Scholarships

Yasmine Sahadeo, Lehigh Senior High
Morgan Russell, Mariner High
Halie Hornsby, North Fort Myers High
Carolina Biotel, Riverdale High
Michell Miranda, South Fort Myers High

Scholarship funds are raised from proceeds from the annual Swings For The Sox golf tournament held each fall to benefit the Red Sox Scholarship and other efforts. In the past nine years, the

Red Sox Foundation has raised more than \$446,160 for local nonprofits and scholarships.

"It truly is a privilege to be able to make a difference in a child's life by giving them a chance to potentially re-chart their family's path with a college scholarship," said David Doran, owner of DLD Builders LLC of Naples, who was the title sponsor of the Swings For The Sox for the sixth consecutive year. "To be able to help start a child's college career is gratifying beyond words."

"We are so excited to once again award promising local students who will be this community's future leaders scholarships to continue their education," said Brennan Whitley, senior manager of Florida business operations for the Boston Red Sox. "Education remains an area of focus for the Red Sox foundation. These students were chosen based on academics, community service and overall need."

According to Whitley, 211 applications were received this year for the 14 scholarships. ✨

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Book Review

Win



by Di Saggau

Windsor Home Lockwood III is one of my favorite characters, and he's the main character in Harlan Coben's latest book titled *Win*. Win enjoys a charmed life, he's handsome

and highly intelligent, with access to immense generational wealth. He's also a bit of a vigilante, and when a dead man's secrets fall into his hands, he is drawn down a dangerous road.

The heiress, Patricia Lockwood, was abducted over 20 years ago during a robbery at her family's estate. She was locked inside an isolated cabin for months but she eventually escaped. Her captors are also on the missing list along with items stolen from her family.

When the FBI calls Win to a murder scene in an Upper West Side penthouse, he sees two objects in the apartment: a stolen Vermeer painting and a suitcase bearing his initials, WHL3. Win doesn't know why the family heirlooms are in the apartment, he only knows they were stolen from Lockwood Manor over 20 years ago. It appears the new murder victim was not only connected to Patricia's terrifying ordeal, but to

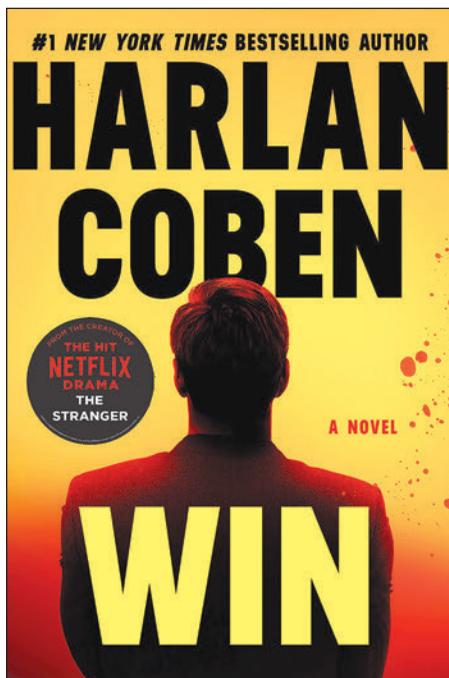


image provided

domestic terrorists who committed multiple as-yet-unsolved crimes 40 years ago.

Win must figure out the connection between two cases that have baffled the authorities for decades. He uses his wits and wealth to gain access and information. Coben raises moral dilemmas that readers will enjoy. In fact, I found myself laughing out loud at some of his dialogue and how he relates with readers. *Win* makes it clear that "Life is

lived in the grays," and he has his own unique brand of justice. I have enjoyed every Coben book I've read and so far, *Win* is my favorite.*

School Smart



by Shelley M. Greggs, NCSF

Dear Shelley, My 10-year-old son has recently been diagnosed with some neurological issues. Reducing screen time is one way we can help

him, but it's hard to do with so much of his learning online, looking at the computer screen. Do you have any suggestions?

Courtney C, Fort Myers

Courtney,

While we all should consider reducing our use of screen time, it sounds like your son has a significant need to do so quickly. One suggestion that comes to mind is for him to transfer some of his required reading assignments to an audio format. I'm sure he has required reading for both subject matter textbooks and for pleasure reading. Audiobooks or text-to-speech books may be formats he might enjoy and could serve to reduce his screen time as well as. And, there are free options for both audiobooks and digital text-to-speech books.

According to www.understood.org, "Bookshare is a leading source for free digital text-to-speech books. It's the largest online library of accessible reading materials. Through the service, kids can read textbooks and children's classics. They can also read current bestsellers and magazines. Kids who are members of Bookshare can access as many books as they want. They can use Bookshare on a computer or Chromebook, or on a smartphone or digital tablet using Voice Dream Reader or Bookshare's Read2Go(iOS) and GoRead (Android) apps.

To join Bookshare, you need to show that your child has a disability that prevents reading traditional print books. Students with learning differences like dyslexia may qualify. You can get documentation of your child's reading disability through an evaluation.

Bookshare is free for all qualifying U.S. students. That includes students in college and adult education programs. (For everyone else, it costs \$50 per year, plus a one-time \$25 setup fee.) Bookshare is funded by the U.S. Department of Education."

There are quite a few additional websites that provide free audiobooks and digital books. These sites don't require that documentation for learning problems, but the selection is usually limited to older classic books. Here are a few helpful sites.

Storynory offers free audiobooks for young children. Titles include fairy tales like *Little Red Riding Hood* and classics like *Alice in Wonderland*. Each audiobook includes the digital text.

Lit2Go provides free audiobook versions of books that are no longer protected by copyright laws. Lit2Go offers downloadable PDFs of books so your child can read along while listening to classics like *The Call of the Wild*. The site also categorizes books by reading level.

Project Gutenberg is another option. While this site does not have the recent bestsellers, you'll find more than 50,000 free classic books in digital format. The majority are digital books that can be read with text-to-speech. To have them read aloud, kids must first download the free digital book to a computer or mobile device. Then they can use text-to-speech tech to have the book read aloud.

Make sure to talk to your school and local library about what's available for your child from their resources as well. Libraries are a wonderful source of information, and librarians are very knowledgeable.

Audio books serve many purposes aside from reducing screen time. They are a wonderful way to expose your child to complex language, expressive reading and classic stories. Audio books also give kids an educational and enjoyable experience of using their own imaginations to visualize the people and places they're hearing about. Audio books are an additional resource to increase your child's learning opportunities.

*Shelley Greggs is former faculty at Florida SouthWestern State College, where she taught 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 or at www.schoolconsultationservices.com.**

Mighty Mussels To Broadcast 81 Games This Year

The Fort Myers Mighty Mussels are set to broadcast at least 81 games in 2021, with 2019 Florida State League Broadcaster of the Year John Vittas joining the organization as the play-by-play broadcaster.

The Mussels will stream all 60 home games and at least 21 road games live across Minor League Baseball's streaming service. Games can be accessed worldwide using Gameday Audio links on www.milb.com and www.mightymussels.com, as well as the MiLB First Pitch App. The season-long link is www.milb.com/fort-myers/fans/audio-listen-live.

All Mighty Mussels broadcasts will begin 15 minutes prior to first pitch. Mussels Pre-Game Live will feature interviews with players and coaches, scoreboard updates, Achieva Credit Union starting lineups and news from around the league and Twins organization.

Vittas enters his sixth year in Minor League Baseball and fifth in the state of

continued on page 24

EPIC FIRES OF FORT MYERS

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

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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

New General Manager Hired At WGCU

Following an extensive search, Corey Lewis will be WGCU Public Media's next general manager.

Lewis spent the first 18 years of his career in commercial TV in Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Connecticut and Rhode Island. In 2002, he joined WBUR, the public radio station on the Boston University campus, as director of corporate support and development, and then served as station manager for 15 years.

WBUR is the third-largest NPR member station in the country and has produced several nationally distributed programs, including Car Talk, On Point, Only A Game, Here and Now, and Radio Boston, in addition to a robust podcast portfolio. While there, Lewis grew annual revenues from \$15 million to \$40 million, and the station ranked first in the nation for net revenue per listener hour.

Lewis is passionate about growing underwriting, membership, development, distribution, community engagement, marketing and audience insights to advance public media's mission.

"Corey's references were unanimously admiring of his intellect, professionalism and drive, and also said that he is collaborative, fair, kind, transparent and respectful. I think he is the right person to help grow the excellent organization



Corey Lewis

that Rick Johnson has built," said Kitty Green, FGCU's vice president and FGCU Foundation's university advancement and executive director.

Lewis has a bachelor's degree in communications from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and a master's degree from Boston University in administrative services with a concentration in innovation and technology.

Lewis will be in Fort Myers on May 17 so that he can have a couple of weeks' transition time with Johnson, who will retire at the end of May.

Cheryl Forte, whose family lives in

both Massachusetts and Florida, has been a member of the WBUR Board of Overseers. "The ties between Southwest Florida and the Northeast are numerous including the support and appreciation for public media. Our family supports WBUR in Boston and WGCU because we live in both places. I have seen first-hand what Corey and his team can do with our investments in Boston to expand service and help our communities have a better understanding of the world. I have confidence that Corey can lead his new team to have the same success at WGCU."

"I knew that WGCU and Florida Gulf Coast University was the place for me when I learned more about the tremendous impact that the institution has on Southwest Florida," Lewis said. "The region is red and blue, old and new, yet WGCU is among the strongest NPR and PBS services in the nation. This success tells me that the entire country has the potential to celebrate our common ground and our differences in the same way as WGCU engages Southwest Florida."

WGCU Public Media Advisory Board chair Judy Bricker expressed her optimism about the future as well. "We are so fortunate to have someone of Corey's experience and leadership in the industry to carry forward WGCU's mission and vision. We look forward to working with him on the projects we have in process and those to come."

"We are very pleased to welcome Corey Lewis as the next general

manager at WGCU. With his impressive background, we all look forward to working with him as he leads an already highly successful organization to new heights in public media," said incoming Jim Hale, who will chair the board when a new term begins April 14.

For more information, contact Dayna Harpster, communications specialist, at dharpster@wgc.org.

Canned Food Drive At Edison Mall Until May 31

In partnership with American Legion Rabe O. Wilkinson Post 38, Edison Mall will be hosting a canned food drive to help combat hunger in the community. Located in Suite 1480, across from JCPenney, the canned food drive will be held from May 15 to 31. Edison Mall and the American Legion challenge the community to help fill all 1,591 square feet of the suite with canned good and other nonperishables.

Town center officials ask participants to practice social distancing and stay at least 6 feet from other people; cover your mouth and nose with a cloth face cover; adhere to each individual tenant's COVID-19 policies; and adhere to all federal, state and local regulations, recommendations and mandates regarding COVID-19.

For more information, visit www.shopedisonmall.com or call 939-1933.

Historic Year For Real Estate In Southwest Florida

Market Trends of Southwest Florida will present a second real estate forum in 2021 during what's shaping up to be a historic year for commercial and residential real estate.

The fall Market Trends summit will be held at Caloosa Sound Convention Center & Amphitheater on Thursday, September 9 from 4 to 7 p.m. The event offers both an in-person option with networking opportunities as well as a virtual attendance option, and falls exactly six months after the spring forum revealed data and analysis predicting Southwest Florida was poised for a flurry of activity in 2021.

A trio of local market experts will headline the fall event:

Randy Thibaut (founder, owner and CEO of LSI Companies) to address land, new home sales and development;

Denny Grimes (president of Denny Grimes & Team at Keller Williams Realty) to address residential real estate; and

Justin Thibaut, CCIM (president and partner of LSI Companies) to address commercial real estate.

Presented by LSI Companies, Lee Building Industry Association and Collier Building Industry Association, Market Trends' media sponsors include Business Observer, NBC2 and Florida Weekly.

The signature event explores data, research and fact-based analysis to help homeowners, homebuyers, real estate professionals and all others understand trends in the real estate market.

Presenters are widely recognized as the region's leading authorities in each of their respective disciplines, using facts and extensive market knowledge to lead a state-of-the-industry discussion.

The theme of the spring Market Trends event was The Playbook has Changed. Featured presenters explained to a virtual audience of more than 1,300 industry and community leaders how the landscape of real estate was evolving.

So far in 2021, the median sales price for single-family homes in Southwest Florida hit an all-time high as inventory dipped to just a one-month supply of homes. Sales prices for commercial real estate and vacant land also have soared.

Caloosa Sound Convention Center & Amphitheater is located at 1375 Monroe Street in Fort Myers. Visit www.markettrendsswfl.com for information about tickets, sponsorships and networking opportunities for the fall Market Trends event.

Read us online at
www.IslandSunNews.com



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Will Power

Step-Up In Tax Basis Or Step-Down?



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

Will the proposed tax legislation currently before Congress eliminate the step-up in tax cost basis? What exactly do I mean when I refer to a step-up?

If I buy a stock for \$1 a share and it is now \$51 a share, if I sell that stock, I realize a \$50 per share capital gain. Under our Internal Revenue Code (IRC), I'm taxed on that gain, which is the difference between the sales price and my tax cost basis – the amount that it cost me to purchase the shares.

If I don't sell those shares before my death, and then those shares are bequeathed to my daughter, she receives a "step-up" equal to the fair market value of those shares at the time of my death. Assume that the value is \$51 a share. My daughter then sells the shares for \$52. She only realizes a \$1 capital gain, so her capital gains tax is much lower than what I would have realized had I sold the shares at my death.

What about depreciable assets, such as a commercial building? Suppose I paid \$100,000 for a building and added a structure that cost me \$300,000. My tax cost basis is \$400,000. Over the years, I depreciated that building. During that time, I was able to expense \$250,000 of depreciation, charging it against my income, which lowered the amount of income tax I would pay. My tax cost basis is now \$150,000.

If I sell the building for \$500,000, my realized capital gain is \$350,000, which represents the difference between the sales price of \$500,000 and my depreciated tax cost basis of \$150,000. What if I die before I sell the building, and my daughter inherits it? She gets a step-up in tax cost basis equal to its current fair market value (\$500,000) and gets to depreciate it all over again!

This step-up in tax cost basis is valuable to anyone who inherits assets whose value is more than the decedent owner's basis. If a new law were to strike down this feature, it would result in higher capital gains taxes for nearly everyone who inherits stocks, mutual funds, homes and buildings. I should note that certain assets don't receive a

basis step-up, including annuities and tax-deferred retirement accounts, such as IRA and 401k accounts.

It's important to understand that the law doesn't just adjust tax basis upward, despite its common name, "step-up." The law could result in a step-down because the applicable IRC Section 1014 states, "...the basis of property passed from a decedent shall, if not sold, exchanged, or otherwise disposed of before the decedent's death by such person, be – the fair market value of the property at the date of decedent's death."

If, for example, I purchased shares of a company at \$100 a share and at the time of my death, the value is only \$25 a share, my daughter inherits those shares with a tax cost basis equal to the fair market value at the time of my death. If she later sells them at \$25 a share, she recognizes no capital loss. Had I sold the shares before my death, I would have realized a \$75 capital loss that I could have used to offset capital gains that I realized.

What if I don't know what my tax cost basis in an asset is? Suppose that I sell shares of stock at \$100 a share but can't find documentation as to what my basis is. The IRS assumes that my basis is zero! Consequently, if I sell the shares, I realize a capital gain equal to the entire sales price! This rule could pose significant problems for anyone inheriting property should the adjustment to fair market value under IRC §1014 be eliminated. If my daughter can't find records justifying my basis, any asset of mine that she sells would result in a realization of the entire sales price as capital gain, even if it would have been a loss to me!

How often might beneficiaries not be able to document the basis of inherited assets? I believe more frequently than not, resulting in a potential windfall to the IRS.

Talk about a blow to the middle class. The elimination of this law doesn't just affect the wealthy. It affects anyone who inherits assets. It certainly benefits those inheriting millions more than those inheriting a few thousand dollars, but the effect on the less wealthy recipients seems to hit harder. They need the money more, yet they still pay capital gains taxes when liquidating inherited property.

Here's the good news – at least hopeful news: In my 31-plus years practicing estate planning law, Congress has from time to time considered eliminating the step-up. It hasn't happened. Maybe it won't happen now.

We can only wait and see.

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Virtual Seminar And Videos For Hurricane Season

Resources are available online to help guide you and your family this hurricane season, including short instructional videos outlining the supplies to have on hand, how to decide whether to go to a public shelter, what to expect if you do and how to stay safe after the storm has passed.

Lee County produced the videos to assist community members who typically attend in-person hurricane seminars offered throughout cities and unincorporated Lee County.

The videos enable residents to do their own virtual seminars. The resources online offer the same valuable information presented in a seminar, but are available to view on your schedule and to share with your family and friends. Also available online: a digital version of 2021 All Hazards Guide with interactive links to useful websites, agencies and resources.

"Response and recovery involves the entire community and is everyone's responsibility," said Sandra Tapfumaneyi, interim public safety director over Lee County Emergency Management. "At Lee County Public Safety, we ask that you and your family do your part by creating a 'Culture of Preparedness' at home. Share this information with your friends and neighbors."

Videos are available at www.leegov.com/hurricane and include:

- Introduction to Hurricane Season
- Making a Plan
- Before the Storm
- Preparing Your Pets

Emergency Shelters
After the Storm/Recovery
Generator Safety
Flood Zones

Videos include a Hurricane Ready quiz at each conclusion. This serves to test viewers' knowledge and create a more interactive experience.

The video series recently received recognition from the Governor's Hurricane Conference and was awarded the 2021 Public Education/Public Information Award for educating citizens and visitors about hurricane preparedness.

The All Hazards Guide offers the same useful information as the videos do in a concise text form. It also has evacuation maps and information on hazards such as wildfires and lightning.

Printed editions of the guide will soon be available at most Lee County Library System branches as well as Lee County Parks & Recreation facilities. Packs of 25 guides or boxes of 225 will be available soon at the Emergency Operations Center at 2675 Ortiz Avenue in Fort Myers. Call 533-0622 or email eminfo@leegov.com in advance to request guides. You will be contacted to schedule a pick-up once the print editions are available.

Lee County Emergency Management has two tools to help residents prepare for and be aware of hurricanes and other emergency situations – the LeePrepares app and the AlertLee system.

The LeePrepares app – available in Google Play and the App Store – assists individuals and families with preparing for and recovering from all types of disasters that may affect the community.

- Features include:
- GPS functionality for locating the user's Evacuation Zone;
 - Real time information from the

Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on shelter openings, with mapping/directions and hurricane evacuations;
Current Emergency (EOC) Activation level;

Recovery information on re-entry, curfews, points of distribution and coping with disasters;

Sign-up for AlertLee emergency notification system;

Frequently Asked Questions;
Links to special needs registration for those with special medical needs, and/or transportation needs during an evacuation;

Family disaster plan and emergency supply list;

American sign language disaster preparedness videos;

Current local weather and hazardous weather outlooks.

AlertLee is an emergency notification system that allows registered users to receive telephone, text and/or email alerts related to natural or man-made emergencies.

The AlertLee system will be used when an emergency arises that you should know about. Severe weather situations, missing persons, evacuation notices, boil water notices, fire or floods and active shooter situations are a few examples of the type of events that may warrant a notification.

To sign up, residents should visit www.alertlee.com, select their municipality or unincorporated Lee County and complete the registration steps.

The AlertLee system already includes published, listed landline telephones, but not cell phones or VOIP numbers. To be certain to receive alerts, it is important to register and update the information if it changes. The information will be used

only for AlertLee notifications. There is no charge to register or receive system alerts.✱

Tips For Home Protection While You're Away

The time is almost here when our winter residents will leave sunny Southwest Florida to reside elsewhere during the hot and humid summer months. It is important to remember that unoccupied homes need a small amount of air conditioning (A/C) for humidity control. Without A/C, humidity can accumulate indoors and give rise to mold or mildew. Mold and mildew can grow nearly anywhere if the relative humidity is consistently 70 percent or higher.

Lee County Electric Cooperative energy experts recommend following at least one of the following techniques to guard against mold and mildew if you are leaving your home for the summer:

For the highest level of security against mildew, install a timer on the A/C system, and set it to cycle for two hours every day.

Install a humidistat on the A/C, and set it to cycle whenever indoor humidity exceeds 65 percent. This technique uses the least power. Please note that on new high-efficiency systems, a humidistat may be incorporated with the thermostat control system.

Set the thermostat to 83 degrees Fahrenheit. This is the least efficient method and is recommended only for short or infrequent summer trips.

Visit www.lcec.net for more tips.✱

Frankly Speaking

by Howard Prager



Some legends were honored last week, others were simply vanquished. Albert Pujols, a future hall of famer, was released by the Angels. Pujols is the only player to hit 400-plus

homers in his first 10 seasons. He is fifth all time in home runs and third all time in RBI. He popularized NOT taking a step in the batter's box during the pitch. Pujols would just rock back and explode. He was hitting just .198/.250/.372 with five home runs this season, and he's been a below-average hitter dating back to 2017. Once he clears waivers and is released, any team can sign him for the prorated portion of the league minimum.

The two unlikely Hollywood endings for Pujols are to return to the Cardinals who have Paul Goldschmidt at first and Matt Carpenter on the bench, or the White Sox which would reunite him with manager Tony LaRussa. But the Sox have an all-star at first in Jose Abreu and a DH that has become a fan favorite in Yermir Mercedes. Potential teams include Cincinnati who lost Joey Votto to a broken thumb, and Cleveland whose first base tandem is hitting less than Pujols. Both teams are doing well so far this season and a smart veteran like Pujols can add great value in the playoffs. If not, let's hope he signs an honorary three-day contract at the end of the season to go out with class/style.

Willie Mays is the oldest of Hall of Famers and just celebrated his 90th birthday. My mom was a big fan in his heyday at the Polo Grounds in New York. I saw him in the waning years of his career with the Mets. Let's start with some stats and background as a reminder for those who knew him and as a lesson for those that didn't.

Some simple facts from Wikipedia. Willie Mays is sixth among the all-time leaders with 660 career home runs,

3,283 hits and 2,062 runs scored. Mays earned 12 Gold Gloves for fielding excellence and was selected to the All-Star Game 24 times, his number. Elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1979, Mays was the first player in National League history to join the 30/30 Club (30 Home Runs and 30 Stolen Bases) and was the No. 1-ranked center fielder in *The New Bill James Historical Baseball Abstract* which describes other stats.

After going hitless for his first 12 at bats in 1951, his rookie season, Mays hit a home run for his first big league hit. The pitcher, future Hall of Famer Warren Spahn, quipped, "I'll never forgive myself. We might have gotten rid of Willie forever if I'd only struck him out." Mays also hit a record 16 extra-inning homers, including one that beat the 42-year-old Spahn, 1-0, in the 16th inning of a 1963 classic against Juan Marichal in which both future Hall of Fame hurlers went the distance.

A little trivia. Willie Mays was on deck when Bobby Thompson hit his "Shot Heard 'Round the World" for the Giants in 1951. The Giants had runners on second and third with first base open, but they didn't want to intentionally walk Thompson to load the bases for Mays (who would win Rookie of the Year that season). Mays hit four home runs in a game on April 30, 1961, only the sixth instance in the National League. Mays had 17 20-home-run seasons, 11 30-home-run seasons, six 40-home-run seasons and two 50-home-run seasons. Mays homered in the first four consecutive games of the 1971 season, setting a new record for most games with a home run from the start of a season. Consistency, power and defense. Mays was named by *The Sporting News* as the Best Player of the 1960s, and was selected on the Rawlings All-Time Gold Glove Team. During the 50th anniversary of the Gold Glove Awards, Mays was acknowledged as the one of the best defensive players in baseball history and won the highest percentage of votes amongst every outfielder.

Mays, Hank Aaron and Stan Musial are the only players to collect 6,000 or more total bases in their careers. Each

played in over 20 All-Star Games. Mays only won a single batting title, when he hit .345 in 1954, but that same year he also led the National League in slugging percentage (which he led five times), on base percentage (which he led five times) and triples (which he led three times). The following season, Mays won his first home run championship (his first of four), led the league in total bases (which he did three times) and extra base hits (which he did two times). Leo Durocher – Mays first skipper in the big leagues – said in *Nice Guys Finish Last*: "If somebody came up and hit .450, stole 100 bases and performed a miracle in the field every day, I'd still look you right in the eye and tell you that Willie was better. He could do the five things you have to do to be a superstar: hit, hit with power, run, throw and field. And, he had the other magic ingredient that turns a superstar into a super-superstar. Charisma."

Willie's 90th also brings us the good news story of the week. To honor Mays, the Giants Community Fund launched the Willie Mays Scholars, a college prep and scholarship program to support Black youth living in San Francisco. Beginning this fall, five scholars will be inducted annually and receive support throughout high school and college in the form of academic programming, holistic support and a college scholarship. The need-based program is available to Black ninth-graders living in San Francisco, with each scholar receiving approximately \$70,000 worth of support, including a college

scholarship of up to \$20,000. "I have always made kids my priority by helping them in any way I could throughout my playing career and life," Mays said. "To have the Giants Community Fund and the Giants ownership group create this program in my name and to provide a path to college for Black children in our community means the world to me. I can't wait to meet the first class of Willie Mays Scholars to offer my encouragement and support."

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@islandnews.com.

Hurricane Guide Now Available

Reviewing the Lee County Electric Cooperative (LCEC) Hurricane Guide is a good way to prepare for the start of storm season on June 1. Preparing early is key to riding out any storm that Mother Nature may bring this way.

The LCEC Hurricane Guide includes information about: storm restoration process; preparing your home and business; life support; evacuation protocol; disaster supply kit; portable generator safety; debris and vegetation; and important phone numbers and links.

To download a copy of the guide, visit www.lcec.net.

SPORTS QUIZ

1. What South African golfer completed the second-place career Grand Slam – finishing second in all four majors – with his runner-up finish at the 2017 PGA Championship?
2. National Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher Early Wynn Jr. retired in 1963 with how many career wins?
3. In 1991, Los Angeles Kings owner Bruce McNall, hockey great Wayne Gretzky and actor/comedian John Candy jointly purchased what pro football team?
4. A motorsport circuit named after Formula One driver Carlos Pace, who died in a 1977 plane crash, is located in what country?
5. Name the starting quarterback for the 1964 NFL champion Cleveland Browns who also produced a doctoral dissertation titled *A Characterization of the Set of Asymptotic Values of a Function Holomorphic in the Unit Disc*.
6. In 2020, what team hired Kim Ng as the first female general manager in Major League Baseball history?
7. What famous Seattle rock band was originally named after NBA player Mookie Blaylock?

ANSWERS

1. Louis Oosthuizen. 2. 300. 3. The CFL's Toronto Argonauts. 4. Brazil. 5. Frank Ryan. 6. The Miami Marlins. 7. Pearl Jam.

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From left, Todd and Wendi Carroll, Jim Carroll, Pat Carroll and Marc Collins photos provided



From left, Luis Insignares, Dwayne Bergmann, Wilfredo Emmanuel, Marc Collins, Fran Fenning and Gary Harlan

Fundraiser Brings In \$214,000

LARC's (Lee Association of Remarkable Citizens) inaugural fundraiser benefiting The Lori Carroll-Collins Scholarship Fund raised \$214,000. Held at Misty Morning Barn at Clutch Farms, guests were treated to hors d'oeuvres and live entertainment on the lawn, culminating with a butterfly release honoring Carroll-Collins. Chefs Mike and Karen Gavala of G3 Catering and Gloria Jordan of La Trattoria Cafe Napoli created a five-course dinner. Sixth-generation winemaker Clay Mauritson paired his family-crafted wines with each course. Chocolatier Norman Love provided desserts. Kellie Burns of NBC-2 emceed and Scott Robertson was the auctioneer. Presenting sponsor was Springhill Suites by Marriott, Estero. Entertainment sponsors were Richard and Vicki Pitbladdo, and signature drink sponsor was Keylime Bistro on Captiva.

A resident of Fort Myers for 35 years, Carroll-Collins cared for her community and people in need, and 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 services offered by LARC.

"We could not be more thrilled with the outpouring of generosity and love shown for Lori," said Marc Collins, Lori's husband. "We are so thankful for everyone that made this event a success, and we



Fort Myers Mayor Kevin Anderson

look forward to growing it in the future so we can help more people with disabilities live happy and fulfilling lives."

"The Lori Carroll-Collins Scholarship will carry her legacy forward for generations to come. It will light the way for people of all abilities by allowing individuals with disabilities and economic limitations access to services designed to help them reach their full potential," said Angela Katz, LARC interim executive director. "In Lee County, there are more than 500 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities on the state waiting list for services due to Florida's lack of funding. Lori's scholarship fund offers hope to those seeking to maximize their independence and employment success who may have no other means to get the support they need to be successful." ❄️❄️



Angela Katz and Clay Mauritson



Ashley and Mich Davis



Pamela Templeton and Bruce Bauman



Matthew and Rachel Pierce



From left, chefs Gloria Jordan, and Michael and Karen Gavala



Back from left, Fred Hawkins, Elaine Hawkins, Sandy Stilwell-Youngquist, Tim Youngquist, Jerry Norris, Marja Norris, and Jennifer Nelson; front, Pamela Cronin and Jim Wells



The 100-foot-tall Ferris wheel at sunset

photo provided

Spring Fair At Fenway South Begins May 28

The Fair at Fenway South makes its spring debut for three big weekends at JetBlue Park starting Memorial Day Weekend, with thrilling rides, delightful entertainment, great fair food and family fun for everyone.

The Fort Myers' favorite had to miss last year because of the pandemic, but the family-friendly event will be back with an all-new Spring Fair from May 28 to June 13. Fair hours are 5 to 11 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays, and 4 to 11 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and Memorial Day Monday.

"We know everyone, especially families, has cabin fever after this past year, and so we're very excited to bring our same great Fall Fair to JetBlue Park for the first time ever this spring," said Brian Schuman, owner of Fair Productions. "There's so much to celebrate right now, with the end of school, the start of the summer season and the return of so many of the nice things we missed out on last year."

Attendees will find all their fair favorites, including free entertainment, thrill and amusement rides, challenging games of skill along with food trucks and vendors. Everything Southwest Florida has always known and loved about the Fair at Fenway will be featured again this spring.

Returning favorites include The Magic of Lance Gifford, Rosaire's Royal Racing Pigs, The Wolves of the World (the world's only traveling wolf pack), The Barnyard Petting Corral and the Parakeet Adventure. All entertainment is included with fair admission.

The Spring Fair at Fenway South features a large Kiddieland and more than 40 state fair-style amusement rides direct from the Florida State Fair, a tremendous selection for kids, families

and thrillseekers alike. The giant Ferris Wheel stands over 100 feet tall and will once again proudly shine as a beacon over Daniels Parkway each evening. The midway will be packed with games, prizes, fun and, of course, all the fair food favorites.

Half-price BOGO admission coupons, POP ride bracelets, steeply discounted Family 4-Packs, and other advance purchase deals are available at www.fairatfenway.com.

A portion of the proceeds will again be donated to the Jordan Schuman Foundation for Kindness, which provides grants, scholarships and donations to charities and individuals in need within the local community.

There is plenty of available on site parking at JetBlue Park at 11500 Fenway South Drive, Fort in Myers. For more information, visit www.fairatfenway.com.

Free Autism Screening

Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida, in partnership with Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwest Florida, will offer a free monthly autism spectrum disorder (ASD) screening for toddlers 18 months to age 5 at the Pediatric Specialist Office on Friday, May 21 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The ASD screening is conducted by the Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida. The screenings are administered by an advanced practice registered nurse, who has extensive training and experience in typical child development and developmental disorders.

A physician referral is not required. To schedule a screening, call 343-6838.

The Pediatric Specialist Office is located at 15901 Bass Road, Suite 102, in Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.rmhcswfl.org.



Spring Run Golf Club in Bonita Springs is the site for the tournament

photo provided

Beach Chamber Golf Tournament Registration Open

The Fort Myers Beach Chamber of Commerce 4th annual Swing into Summer Golf Tournament will be held at Spring Run Golf Club on Friday, June 4. Registration is set to begin at 7:30 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 8 a.m.

This event is open to the public. Anyone may enter a team of four players, but space is limited. A team of four is \$450. Individuals are \$150 and they will

be assigned to a team. Price includes a round of 18 holes and a barbecue-style lunch, as well as opportunities to win raffle prizes, giveaways and purchase \$10 Mulligan tickets. At every hole, sponsors entertain golfers with games and prizes. Trophies will be awarded for first, second and third place winners, as well as for the individual who is closest to the pin and the individual with the longest drive.

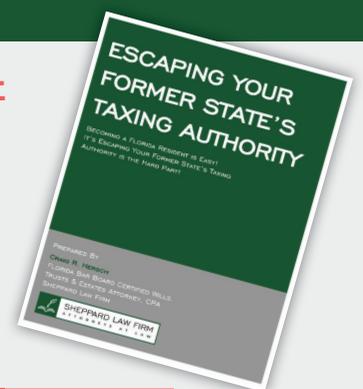
Spring Run Golf Club is located at 9501 Spring Run Boulevard in Bonita Springs. To register, pay for your team or for more information, visit www.fmbchamberevents.com, call 454-7500 or drop by the chamber office at 2450 Estero Boulevard on Fort Myers Beach.

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Doctor and Dietician

Tinnitus And Spine Instability Connection



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

We can't tell you how often we have random conversations with someone and the topic of tinnitus (or ringing in the ears) comes up. Tinnitus has become a major problem for many people. It is a term used to describe sounds in the ear such as ringing, humming, or even a whooshing sound. The sound is typically constant but may occur with certain head movements. Millions of people suffer from this and have tried many modalities, but end up only managing the condition, not curing it. Left untreated, it has significant negative impacts on sleep, concentration ability, social activity, mood and can severely impact people's lives.

At Caring Medical, we have been successfully treating tinnitus for many years. You may wonder how? We always search for underlying causes of any conditions. The cause? The neck. Yes, that's right. The idea that treating cervical (neck) spine instability as a method of treating tinnitus is an idea that we, as well as many researchers and clinicians, have

had for a long time. Yet, recent research still presents this idea as "novel or new." In a recent article in *The International Tinnitus Journal*, Dr. Henk Koning, MD, PhD, stated, "...at the very onset treating cervical spine disorder can result in a reduction of tinnitus."

In our experience, many patients report ear pain, fullness and/or sensitivity to sound. Their history includes many visits to ENT, audiologists and other specialists. Some may receive the diagnosis of Meniere's disease. What we have found is that tinnitus may be triggered by instability issues in the neck. Patients often report things like, "I have extreme tinnitus which gets better or worse when I rotate my neck. When I move my head from side to side, it gets better. When I move my head up and down, it gets worse and then my jaw hurts." When people report these types of scenarios, it leads you to the cause – cervical instability.

Cervical neck ligaments are the main stabilizing structures of the cervical facet joints in the upper spine and have been implicated as a major source of chronic neck pain. Comprehensive diagnostic testing, including digital motion x-ray, can visualize the site of hypermobility that results in the symptom of tinnitus, and other things such as neck pain, headaches, vertigo, brain fog, anxiety, TMJ and others. The vagus nerve runs down both sides of the neck, close to the cervical vertebrae. Degenerative damage in the neck can impact the function of the vagus nerves and result in sympathetic symptoms such as tinnitus. We contend that the use of comprehensive prolotherapy appears to be the most effective treatment for chronic neck pain and instability, especially when due to ligament laxity. The technique is safe and relatively non-invasive and presents a non-surgical, in-office option for treating this potentially debilitating condition.

This information is not intended to treat, cure or diagnose your condition.

Ross Hauser, MD, and Marion Hauser, MS, RD, established Caring Medical in 1991. Caring Medical Florida and the

Hauser Neck Center are located in Fort Myers. They can be reached at info@caringmedical.com.✱

dearPharmacist

Supplement Receives Unfair Bannishment



by Suzy
Cohen, RPH

Dear Readers: N acetyl cysteine is an amino acid that is useful to you to make glutathione in your body. The glutathione is a potent liver

antioxidant.

Cysteine is a natural compound and N acetyl cysteine (NAC) is a dietary supplement. That's how you can find it in health food stores, as "NAC." But you won't find it for long, so if you want NAC, you should buy it now. It's already virtually gone from Amazon!

There's a disagreement between the Food and Drug Administration and the dietary supplement industry over how legal it is for dietary supplements to put this amino acid into their supplements. The NAC is also available by prescription. It is forcing Amazon and other selling platforms to take sides on the issue.

NAC has many health benefits. As a prescription drug sold as Mucomyst, it is used as the antidote for acetaminophen poisoning when people overdose on that analgesic. It's used in the emergency room in hospitals nationwide. The prescription version will continue to remain available, I am only referring to the supplements getting banned.

As a popular health food store item, NAC has sold quite well for many other reasons. It's useful as an antioxidant and non-prescription expectorant because it can loosen mucus in the air passageways. It makes breathing easier and more comfortable.

NAC sold like hotcakes last year for obvious reasons during the pandemic. NAC is used for immune system health. Furthermore, NAC is used as a precursor nutrient for people who want to make more glutathione in their body, which is useful as a liver protectant. Your own body makes glutathione in the liver, and again, cysteine (or NAC) is one precursor nutrient that is essential to making glutathione.

NAC is in trouble now, and thousands of brands of NAC supplements (including my own Immune Script which contains NAC as part of the blend) has been instantly removed from Amazon with no notice. And, over time, every single brand of NAC will be gone from the Amazon marketplace, and millions of you will be unable to buy it as a supplement.

This is your courtesy reminder to purchase NAC while it's still available at your local health food store, or at your favorite online vitamin shop. I have some at my own shop left if you're interested. To learn about the medical benefits that NAC provides, just do a quick search on "pubmed" and you'll see thousands of scientific studies. This is an important supplement and a bottle of it could stay fresh for several years in case you need it one day. If you'd like to receive updates about NAC, sign up for my newsletter at www.suzycohen.com

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

Blood Donations Urgently Needed

Lee Health is seeking blood donations to help replenish supply levels. Current blood supplies are critically low, and Lee Health's blood centers are in urgent need of donors.

As home to the region's only trauma center, it is vital that the health system's blood supply remains at healthy levels in order to quickly care for patients needing an urgent transfusion. Blood and blood products are not only used in the trauma center, but also to treat cancer patients, premature babies, anemia and a variety of other conditions.

Lee Health's blood centers are the sole supplier of all blood products for the entire health system. About 800 units of blood are needed per week, and the blood centers rely on life-saving donations from the community to maintain inventory levels.

The Lee Health Blood Mobile will be at numerous locations throughout Southwest Florida in May.

May 14 – Florida Gulf Coast

University; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 10501 FGCU Boulevard South, Fort Myers

May 15 – Bell Tower Shops; 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 13499 US 41 SE, Fort Myers

May 16 – Anchor Christian Church; 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; 11651 East Terry Street, Bonita Springs

May 17 – Dorsey Law Firm; 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.; 10181 Six Mile Parkway, Fort Myers

Preferred Travel; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.; 3690 Via Del Rey, Bonita Springs

May 18 – Royal Shell Realty; 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; 1105 Cape Coral Parkway East, Cape Coral

LYNX Services; noon to 5 p.m.; 6351 Bayshore Road, Suite 18, North Fort Myers

May 20 – Lehigh Fire Department; 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.; 11 Homestead Road South, Lehigh Acres

May 21 – The Promenade at Bonita Bay; 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.; 26811 South Bay Drive, Bonita Springs

All blood donated at Lee Health stays within the health system to care for patients in Southwest Florida. If unable to attend one of the upcoming blood drives, donations can also be made at one of Lee Health's blood centers. For

more information on how and where to donate, visit www.leehealth.org/our-services/blood-centers.✱

From page 18

Mighty Mussels

Florida. The Wayne, New Jersey native spent the 2017-19 seasons as the lead voice of the Charlotte Stone Crabs, the former High-A affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays. Prior to his time in Southwest Florida, Vittas spent the 2016 campaign with the Myrtle Beach Pelicans (High-A, CHC).

A 2015 graduate of the University of Maryland, Vittas has broadcasted locally at Florida Gulf Coast University and Florida SouthWestern State College since 2017.

"I couldn't be more excited to bring Fort Myers fans the inaugural season of Mighty Mussels baseball," Vittas said. "After everything that Minor League Baseball and the broadcasting world has been through over the past two years, I feel so fortunate to be able to remain in Southwest Florida and join the Twins organization. Hammond Stadium is an

amazing place to watch a game, and I know our team can't wait to provide the energy and entertainment that Lee County has been waiting for since the pandemic began."

The Mighty Mussels Baseball Network hit the air on May 4 as the Mussels visited the Bradenton Marauders. Vittas called the first three games of the Bradenton series (May 4 to 6) remotely before Hammond Stadium opened its gates to Minor League Baseball for the first time in 20 months on May 11.

In addition to all 60 home games, Vittas will call road series in Clearwater (July 27 to August 1), Bradenton (August 1 to 15) and Dunedin (August 17 to 22). Due to evolving virus protocols, schedule is subject to change.

Brian Meyer steps into the managerial role after 2019 Miracle Manager Toby Gardenhire was promoted to manage Triple-A St. Paul. The Mussels' roster features five ranked prospects and the organization's previous two first-round picks. The Twins' system was ranked as the eighth-best farm system in baseball by Keith Law of *The Athletic*.✱

Beautifulife:

Balance



by Kay Casperson

I have to admit that this is one of the most important words to me and is one of the main areas where I continue to inspire others. Balance is essential to living your best and most beautiful life every

single day. It is not a simple thing to do; in fact, it takes commitment and tenacity to make this a reality in your life, so many people fail to make it happen. But, it is never too late to change just a few things to get it right.

I have unfortunately seen many individuals too focused on one thing they think is essential. Then, failing to give proper attention to another that could actually be more important.

A job can be enticing because of the pay, but are you taking time out to spend quality time with your family and friends? Being a mom is the most important role you can ever play, but are you continuing to explore your dreams and goals?

Responsibilities can be overwhelming, but are you making sure your health is at the forefront by getting regular health checks?

Balance can sometimes be hard to achieve because most of us get so focused on one thing and then get so wrapped up in it that we forget to think about the other things that make our lives complete.

Here are a few ways to have balance

in your life to be successful in everything you do.

Keep a good combination of science and nature when it comes to your health. Get regular checkups with your family physician, but also look into your daily nutritional needs. Explore ways to supplement with vitamins to fulfill the areas that are lacking in your diet.

Take time out each day to focus on something that makes you happy. Maybe a sport, a workout, a good read, listening to music, cooking or a hobby. All work and no play can lead to a life of unbalance and unhappiness.

If you are a parent, make sure you focus on having a healthy balance of being a friend and a mentor to inspire your child to follow your lead.

Make your faith and family a priority, and your work life will automatically fall into place. You will then find more fulfillment in everything you do.

Balance can be a struggle for most, but if we can figure out how to do it based on our lifestyles, the best is yet to come. Remember, a little bit of this and a little bit of that is far better than all or nothing. Success comes from enjoying all that life has to offer.

My affirmation for you this week is:

"I am making it a priority to have balance in all areas to live my best and most beautiful life."

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.

Health First

The Health Risks Of Belly Fat



by Julie Rosenberg, MD

For many adults, weight gain accompanies aging. As people enter middle age, the proportion of fat to body weight tends to increase – more so in women than

men. Extra weight tends to accumulate around the midsection. This excess weight in the belly, known as visceral fat, is deep within the abdominal cavity. Unlike subcutaneous fat, which sits under the skin, visceral fat may be dangerous. It surrounds your abdominal organs and increases your risk for cardiovascular disease, high cholesterol and type 2 diabetes. In other words, as your waistline grows, so do your health risks. Why? Fat cells – particularly abdominal fat cells – are biologically active. You can think of fat as an endocrine organ or gland, producing hormones and other substances that can affect your health. For example, visceral fat pumps out chemicals called cytokines that can

increase your risk of cardiovascular disease.

Are you pear-shaped or apple-shaped?

When fat accumulates in the lower body (the pear shape), it is largely subcutaneous (under the skin). On the other hand, when fat accumulates in the abdominal area (the apple shape), it is largely visceral. The places where fat accumulates in your body are influenced by heredity and hormones, but also by lifestyle. Lifestyle factors that may lead people to accumulate visceral fat include lack of exercise, poor diet and stress.

Waist circumference – Know your waist circumference measurement. You may be more likely to get health problems from visceral fat if your waist measures more than 35 inches for women or 40 inches for men. To correctly measure your waist, stand and place a tape measure around your middle, just above your hipbones. Keep the tape snug and make sure that it is horizontal around your waist.

Please note that waist circumference can be used as a screening tool, but it is not diagnostic for any health condition or the overall health of an individual.

How can you reduce belly fat?

Here are four tips to help you lose visceral fat:

Exercise – Exercise is key to prevent and lose belly fat. Stay physically active throughout the day and schedule time for

structured exercise. Moderate-intensity physical activity – at least 30 minutes per day – is key in helping you to control your weight and lose belly fat. Moderate-intensity activities include taking a brisk walk, riding a bike and dancing, to name a few. Check with your doctor before you start a new exercise plan.

Diet – Diet alone is not enough to reduce deep belly fat. However, diet does play an important role. Pay attention to portion size. Eat a whole foods diet which emphasizes complex carbohydrates (fruits, vegetables and whole grains) and lean protein over simple carbohydrates such as white bread, pastries and sugary drinks. Replace saturated fats and trans fats with unsaturated fats including monounsaturated fats (found in olives, avocados and certain nuts and seeds) and polyunsaturated fats (found in sunflower, soybean and flaxseed oils). Eat plenty of soluble fiber such as flax seeds, avocados and legumes. Soluble fiber helps slow down food as it passes through your digestive system, so you feel full and naturally eat less.

Don't Drink Too Much Alcohol – Excessive alcohol intake has been associated with increased belly fat. Drink alcohol in moderation or abstain completely.

Manage Stress – Stress can make you gain belly fat by triggering your adrenal glands to produce cortisol, the stress hormone. Deep breathing, yoga and meditation are great stress relievers.

In summary, excess visceral fat can lead to serious health problems. Engaging in daily physical activity for at least 30 minutes, eating a healthy diet, limiting alcohol intake and managing stress are good ways to reduce visceral fat and support healthy longevity.

Julie Rosenberg, MD, is a global healthcare leader, medical consultant and the author of two books, Beyond the Mat and Be True. For more information, visit her website at www.drjulierosenberg.com. For consulting and speaking requests, email inquiries to info@drjulierosenberg.com.

Proper Treatment For Addiction

Narconon suggests that an addict attend a program longer than the traditional rehab stay. An addict's body takes much longer than 28 days to physically heal from drug and alcohol damage. The shorter, "more convenient" rehab stays are not very effective. An addict should take the time to physically get better, then address the emotional side of things. This will give them the best chance at remaining clean and sober.

For more information on choosing treatment, go to <https://www.narconon-suncoast.org/blog/long-term-treatment-vs-traditional-28-day-program.html>. Call 1-877-841-5509 for a no cost screening or referral.

Help SCCF Bring Back the Barn Owls

Poisoned rats can kill the eagles, hawks, bobcats and owls that eat them.

Tell your pest control professional to **NOT** use these rat poisons:

• brodifacoum • bromailone • difenacoum • difethialone

Or consider not using any rat poisons at all. Instead, seal all entry points to your home.



SCCF 472-2329 • www.SCCF.org

THE RIVER

WEEKLY NEWS
FROM THE BEACHES TO DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS

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

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

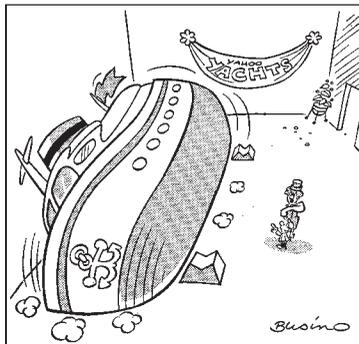
- CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS**
- American Legion Post #38 239-332-1853
 - Angel Flight 1-877-4AN-ANGEL
 - Animal Refuge Center 731-3535
 - American Business Women Association 357-6755
 - Audubon of SWFL <https://www.audubonswfl.org/>
 - Caloosahatchee Chapter DAR 482-1366
 - Caloosahatchee Folk Society 321-4620
 - Cape Coral Barbershop Chorus 1-855-425-3631
 - Cape Coral Stamp Club 542-9153
 - duPont Company Retirees 454-1083
 - Edison Porcelain Artists 415-2484
 - Embroiderers Guild of America - Sea Grape Chapter 239-267-1990
 - FM UDC Chapter 2614 728-3743
 - Friendship Force Of SW FL 561-9164
 - Garden Club of Cape Coral 239-257-2654
 - Horticulture and Tea Society 472-8334
 - Horticultural Society 472-6940
 - Lee County Genealogical Society 549-9625
 - Lee Trust for Historic Preservation 939-7278
 - Navy Seabees Veterans of America 731-1901
 - Paradise Iowa Club of SWFL 667-1354
 - Sons of Confederate Veterans 332-2408
 - Southwest Florida Fencing Academy 939-1338
 - Southwest Florida Music Association 561-2118
 - Kiwanis Fort Myers Beach 765-4254 or 454-8090
 - Kiwanis Fort Myers Edison 694-1056
 - Kiwanis Fort Myers South 691-1405
 - Iona-McGregor 482-0869
 - Lions Club Fort Myers Beach 463-9738
 - Lions Club Fort Myers High Noon 466-4228
 - Lions Club Estero/South Fort Myers 898-1921
 - Notre Dame Club of Lee County 768-0417
 - Organ Transplant Recipients of SW Florida 247-3073
 - POLO Club of Lee County 477-4906
 - Rotary Club of Fort Myers 332-8158
 - Sanibel-Captiva Orchid Society 472-6940
 - United Way of Lee County 433-2000
 - United Way 211 Helpline (24 hour) 211 or 433-3900

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

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

PUZZLES

Answers on page 31



"How many times have I told you not to _____ things?"

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!

Insult
RESCU _____

Fashion
LYTES _____ _____

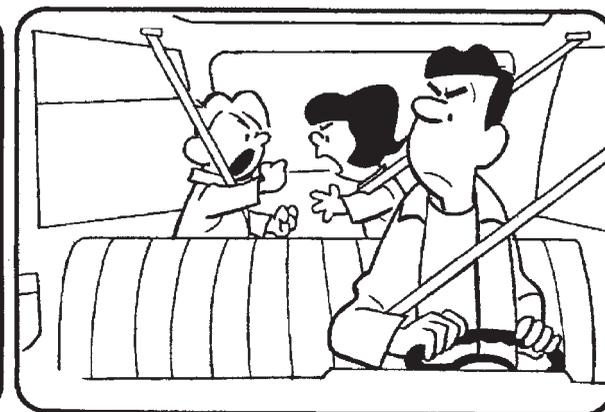
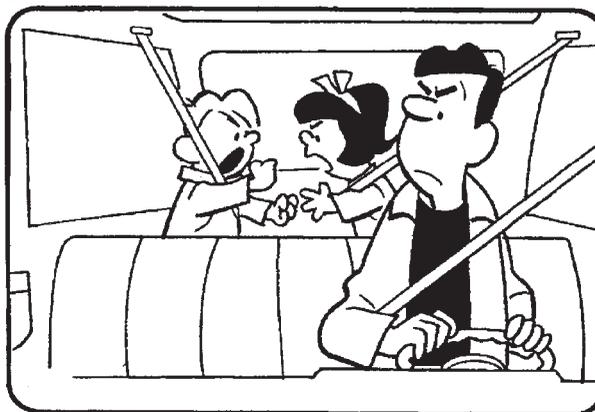
Direct
PINTO _____ _____

Accuse
CHEGAR _____ _____

TODAY'S WORD

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Bow is missing. 2. Shirt is different. 3. Arm is lowered. 4. Steering wheel is different. 5. Window is open. 6. Seat is lowered.

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.

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

PUZZLES

Answers on page 31

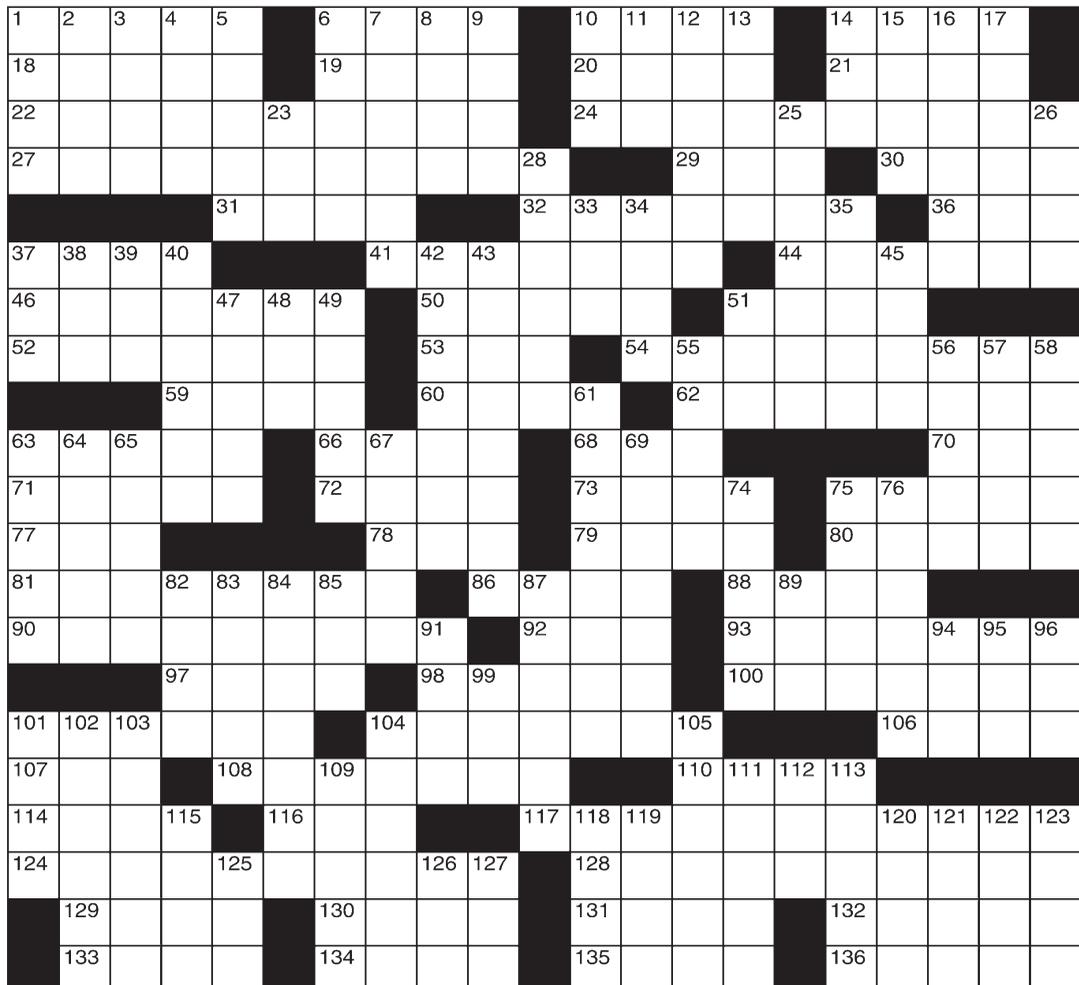
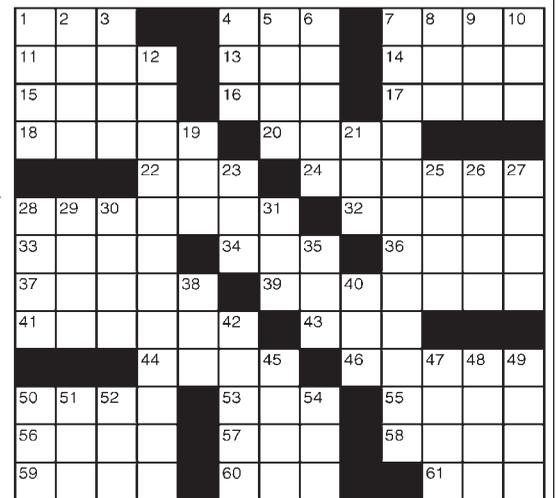
Super Crossword

HANGING FRUIT

- ACROSS**
- 1 Muscat dweller
 - 6 Imitate Daffy Duck
 - 10 Chest muscles, informally
 - 14 Coalition
 - 18 Billiards shot
 - 19 Not duped by
 - 20 Folk legend Guthrie
 - 21 Not-yet-final software
 - 22 Involving three parties
 - 24 One of the Clue suspects
 - 27 1971 Stanley Kubrick film
 - 29 "Shop — you drop!"
 - 30 Sully
 - 31 Middling
 - 32 Old Italian painter
 - 36 Singer Rawls
 - 37 Honcho
 - 41 Gruesome
 - 44 Louvre, e.g.
 - 46 False names
 - 50 Explorer — de León
 - 51 Shakers or Quakers
 - 52 Most malicious
 - 53 Tiny fraction of a joule
 - 54 Heroine in Nintendo's Mario games
 - 59 State boldly
 - 60 Lisa of pop
 - 62 More than friendly
 - 63 Rock
 - 66 Dictator Idi
 - 68 Have control over
 - 70 Hawaii's Mauna —
 - 71 Lindsay of "Mean Girls"
 - 72 Come to
 - 73 New York City is said to be one
 - 75 "Beetle Bailey," e.g.
 - 77 Stuck — rut
 - 78 Attain
 - 79 "Quit it!"
 - 80 Home pest
 - 81 Mexican folk musician
 - 86 WWII-era British gun
 - 88 Collins of rock and pop
 - 90 Fluorescent green Crayola color
 - 92 Period
 - 93 Slaved away
 - 97 Some Korean cars
 - 98 The Antilles, e.g.
 - 100 Tangle up
 - 101 Some shiny plastics
 - 104 Private college in the Bay State
 - 106 Chew like a rodent
 - 107 Ending for acetyl
 - 108 Legendary hero of Athens
 - 110 Regatta gear
 - 114 "In case it's true ..."
 - 116 Hotel phone abbr.
 - 117 It may follow "Use by" on a label
 - 124 Of no value
 - 128 Irvine locale
 - 129 Swamp grass
 - 130 Prefix with present
 - 131 Contends
 - 132 Singer Bonnie
 - 133 Concocted
 - 134 "Auld — Syne"
 - 135 Apropos of
 - 136 Lauder of perfume
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Nona- minus one
 - 2 Painter Chagall
 - 3 Edible pomegranate part
 - 4 Court plea, in brief
 - 5 Desktops since 1998
 - 6 Bygone theater chain
 - 7 Like some hotel dining
 - 8 Antares, e.g.
 - 9 Tyler's successor
 - 10 Infant food
 - 11 Transgress
 - 12 Attire
 - 13 Capital of Bulgaria
 - 14 Small pellets of shot
 - 15 Not including
 - 16 Peter of "Masada"
 - 17 Len of stage and screen
 - 23 Ref's ring decision
 - 25 Krypton, e.g.
 - 26 See 24-Across
 - 28 See 27-Across
 - 33 "Speechless" ailer
 - 34 Set up, for short
 - 35 Actress Susan
 - 37 Scot's cap
 - 38 Bullring shout
 - 39 Zadora of "Hairspray"
 - 40 See 37-Across
 - 42 Resembling a gorilla
 - 43 Crowns for nobles
 - 45 Spring (from)
 - 47 Fourth prime
 - 48 Suffix of languages
 - 49 Sipping aid
 - 51 Transgress
 - 55 Fab Four drummer
 - 56 Actress Hayek
 - 57 Impassive
 - 58 See 54-Across
 - 61 "Against the Wind" singer
 - 63 Gunky stuff
 - 64 Pitch-related
 - 65 United Airlines hub
 - 67 Houdini's skill
 - 69 Looker-on
 - 74 See 73-Across
 - 75 Tots' beds
 - 76 Dark Chinese tea
 - 82 Gunky
 - 83 Slanted
 - 84 Uninvited partygoer
 - 85 That fellow's
 - 87 "Thy Neighbor's Wife" author
 - 89 Solo of "Solo"
 - 91 See 90-Across
 - 94 Flew on foot
 - 95 Period
 - 96 Glistening grass stuff
 - 99 Mu — chicken
 - 101 Blood carrier
 - 102 Give knowledge
 - 103 Lipton rival
 - 104 Respiratory woe
 - 105 One slaving away
 - 109 Laud
 - 111 Spring (from)
 - 112 U.K. mil. branch
 - 113 Grocery, e.g.
 - 115 Due, as money
 - 118 96, in old Rome
 - 119 Ache
 - 120 Nest eggs for srs.
 - 121 Doing the job
 - 122 Evening, in adspeak
 - 123 See 117-Across
 - 125 Praiseful poem
 - 126 "Raggedy" plaything
 - 127 See 124-Across

King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Put two and two together?
 - 4 Recede
 - 7 Crib cry
 - 11 Weaving frame
 - 13 Standard
 - 14 Author Hunter
 - 15 Falco of "The Sopranos"
 - 16 "The Greatest"
 - 17 Donate
 - 18 Line dance
 - 20 Wife of Jacob
 - 22 Moreover
 - 24 Like bell-bottoms
 - 28 Fragrant flower
 - 32 Ouzo flavor
 - 33 Sparkling Italian wine
 - 34 Nile biter
 - 36 Complain
 - 37 Daily trio
 - 39 Flying horse
 - 41 Soup grain
 - 43 — of 1812
 - 44 Victor's cry
 - 46 Small boat
 - 50 TV clown
 - 53 Tool set
 - 55 Traditional tales
 - 56 Ms. Brockovich
 - 57 Scratch (out)
 - 58 List-ending abbr.
 - 59 Lights-out tune
 - 60 Gender
 - 61 Hill dweller
 - 9 Dallas hoopster, briefly
 - 10 Chemical suffix
 - 12 Multi-state lottery with a huge jackpot
 - 19 Blackbird
 - 21 In the style of
 - 23 "CSI" evidence
 - 25 Ocho —, Jamaica
 - 26 Isaac's eldest
 - 27 Cozy rooms
 - 28 Doorframe piece
 - 29 Cruising
 - 30 Flag feature
 - 31 Mentalist's gift
 - 35 Church seat
 - 38 Stitch
 - 40 Helium, for one
 - 42 Oxen harnesses
 - 45 Goddess of victory
 - 47 Tiny bit
 - 48 Drescher or Tarkenton
 - 49 Fedora fabric
 - 50 Wager
 - 51 Man-mouse link
 - 52 Energy
 - 54 — -Mex cuisine
- DOWN**
- 1 Mr. Guinness
 - 2 Nitwit
 - 3 Slay
 - 4 Ecol. watchdog
 - 5 Event for Cinderella
 - 6 Fleeting
 - 7 The Duchess of Sussex who once starred in "Suits"
 - 8 Bird (Pref.)



MAGIC MAZE ● — ORDER

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
 Unlisted clue hint: **Order a Product Out of Stock**

- Apple-pie Executive Firing Gag
- Law and Market Military Money
- Natural Pecking Purchase Short
- Special Standing Written



Shrimp and Sweet Pepper Stir-Fry

photo courtesy Fresh From Florida

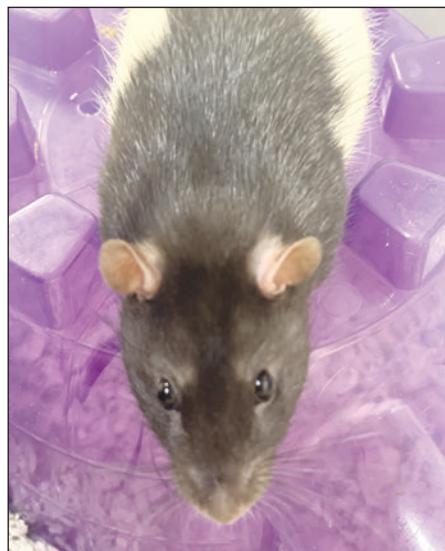


Shrimp and Sweet Pepper Stir-Fry

- 1 pound shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 3 bell peppers, assorted colors, sliced
- 1 tablespoon honey
- 1 cup orange juice
- 1 large onion, sliced
- 1 tablespoon toasted sesame seeds
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ¼ cup low-sodium soy sauce
- Olive oil for cooking
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste

Lightly coat the shrimp with the cornstarch. Preheat a large sauté pan over medium-high heat. Add 1 tablespoon of olive oil to the preheated sauté pan. Carefully add the coated shrimp to the sauté pan and cook until almost done, about 3 minutes. Remove the shrimp from the pan and add the peppers and onions. Cook the peppers for 4 minutes. Add the honey, orange juice, and soy sauce to the pan. Turn the heat up slightly. Bring the liquid ingredients up to a boil. Turn the heat back down to medium-high and add the shrimp back to the sauté pan. The sauce should thicken and the shrimp will be cooked after 3 minutes. Serve over brown rice. Garnish with sesame seeds.✳

PETS OF THE WEEK



Tyler ID#: A861737 photos provided Lee County Domestic Animal Services



Holly ID#: A864725

Tyler And Holly

Hello, my name is Tyler. I am a brown and white 1-year-old male rat that is extremely social. I will walk up to the cage to greet you. I welcome attention. Rats are known to make lifelong bonds because of their social nature making great pets. They are highly intelligent and easy to train. Rats can learn their names and perform basic commands such as sit, roll-over, come and lay down. My adoption fee is \$5.

Hi, I'm Holly. I am a white 7-year-old female boxer that was formerly known as 8 Ball. I was found in Lehigh with my sister Lil Mama. We were both wearing collars that had "I need a home" written on them. Lil Mama has found her home, so I am waiting for my family to come. I

am very sweet and good with other dogs. I was quite motherly with my 5-month-old sister. My adoption fee is \$30.

Lee County Domestic Animal Services is celebrating Prom Season this May by reducing adoption fees. Adult dogs are just \$30 and adult cats just \$25 with an approved application. Each week, we will crown a Prom King and Prom Queen whose adoption fees will be waived.

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 MAY 10, 2021

Aries (March 21 to April 19) You're the first sign in the Zodiac and like to take the lead wherever you go. But this time, you'd be wise to follow someone who has much to teach you.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) Your adversary hasn't given up trying to undermine you. Continue to stay cool – someone in authority knows what's happening.

Gemini (May 21 to June 20) Spring brings a positive aspect for relationships. Paired Twins grow closer, while the single set finds new romance – perhaps with a Leo or Libra.

Cancer (June 21 to July 22) Wavering aspects this week mean weighing your words carefully to avoid misunderstandings.

Leo (July 23 to August 22) You could soon be on a new career path in pursuit of those long-standing goals, but don't cut any current ties until you're sure you're ready to make the change.

Virgo (August 23 to September 22) A former colleague wants to re-establish an old professional connection. It would be wise to make the contact, at least until you know what he or she is planning.

Libra (September 23 to October 22)

A relationship that survived some rocky moments could be facing a new challenge. Deal with the problem openly, honestly and without delay. Good luck.

Scorpio (October 23 to November 21) A recent and much-appreciated change in the workplace inspires you to make some changes in your personal life as well. Start with a plan to travel more.

Sagittarius (November 22 to December 21) A friend needs your kind and caring advice, but you need to know what he or she is hiding from you before you agree to get involved.

Capricorn (December 22 to January 19) Your circle of friends continues to widen. Expect to hear from someone in your past who hopes to re-establish your once-close relationship.

Aquarius (January 20 to February 18) Your aspects favor the arts. Indulge in whatever artistic expression you enjoy most. A workplace situation will, I'm pleased to say, continue to improve.

Pisces (February 19 to March 20) Warning! Your tendency to let things slide until the last minute could have a negative effect on a relationship that you hope can develop into something meaningful.

Born This Week: You are both emotional and sensible. You enjoy being with people. Good career choices include

teaching, performing and the clergy.

MOMENTS IN TIME

- On May 22, 1455, the battle of England's War of the Roses begins in St. Albans, 20 miles northwest of London. The forces of House of York, whose badge was a white rose, defeated the red-rose House of Lancaster. Both families claimed the throne and the war would stretch on for 30 years.

- On May 23, 1934, famed fugitives Clyde Barrow and Bonnie Parker are killed in a police ambush near Siles, Louisiana. They died in a two-minute fusillade of over 150 bullets. The Barrow Gang was believed responsible for the deaths of 13 people, including nine police officers.

- On May 21, 1955, then-unknown singer Chuck Berry pays his first visit to a recording studio and cuts *Maybellene*. The song became a No. 1 R&B hit and a top 5 pop hit. It helped that DJ Alan Freed played the record for two hours straight during his WINS radio show in New York City.

- On May 17, 1965, after a two-year investigation, the FBI declares the supposedly pornographic lyrics of *Louie Louie* to be officially unintelligible.

- On May 18, 1980, Mount St. Helens, a volcanic peak in southwestern

Washington, violently erupts. The massive blast killed 57 people and leveled nearly all vegetation as far as 12 miles away.

- On May 19, 1997, a 3-year-old boy dies of avian influenza in Hong Kong. Before the outbreak was controlled, six people were dead and 1.6 million domestic fowl were destroyed. The virus mutated and caused 62 more human deaths in Asia by 2005.

- On May 20, 2007, Fox's long-running animated series *The Simpsons* airs its 400th episode. *The Simpsons* debuted in December 1989 with a special Christmas show, *Simpsons Roasting on an Open Fire*. Its success paved the way for other adult-oriented animated series, notably *King of the Hill*, *The Family Guy* and *South Park*.

NOW HERE'S A TIP

- We heard from JD in Northern Colorado about a recent tip on egg carton use. He wanted to remind me that while Styrofoam egg cartons may be easily recyclable in some places (I take them to my local grocery store), that's not true for all states. Thanks for the reminder, JD, and for being a reader. Maybe it's time to lobby our grocery chains to switch to cardboard cartons.

continued on page 30

 FRIDAY Cloudy High: 85 Low: 75	 SATURDAY Cloudy High: 86 Low: 78	 SUNDAY Cloudy High: 85 Low: 76	 MONDAY Few Showers High: 82 Low: 74	 TUESDAY Cloudy High: 84 Low: 73	 WEDNESDAY Cloudy High: 87 Low: 79	 THURSDAY Cloudy High: 83 Low: 73
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Redfish Pass Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	4:57 am	7:12 am	2:12 pm	10:05 pm
Sat	2:47 pm	10:52 pm	None	None
Sun	3:29 pm	11:46 pm	None	None
Mon	4:19 pm	None	None	None
Tue	5:21 pm	12:44 am	None	None
Wed	10:09 am	1:42 am	6:44 pm	12:34 pm
Thu	10:19 am	2:37 am	8:22 pm	2:34 pm

Point Ybel Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	4:02 am	7:14 am	1:17 pm	10:07 pm
Sat	1:52 pm	10:54 pm	None	None
Sun	2:34 pm	11:48 pm	None	None
Mon	3:24 pm	None	None	None
Tue	4:26 pm	12:46 am	None	None
Wed	9:14 am	1:44 am	5:49 pm	12:36 pm
Thu	9:24 am	2:39 am	7:27 pm	2:36 pm

Punta Rassa Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	3:45 am	8:11 am	1:53 pm	10:17 pm
Sat	4:40 am	8:35 am	2:27 pm	10:59 pm
Sun	5:36 am	9:10 am	3:13 pm	11:46 pm
Mon	6:36 am	9:53 am	4:11 pm	None
Tue	7:37 am	12:46 am	5:16 pm	10:41 am
Wed	8:29 am	1:55 am	6:38 pm	11:51 am
Thu	9:12 am	2:50 am	8:23 pm	2:42 pm

Cape Coral Bridge Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	7:07 am	12:39 am	4:22 pm	10:28 am
Sat	4:57 pm	1:21 am	None	None
Sun	5:39 pm	2:08 am	None	None
Mon	6:29 pm	3:02 am	None	None
Tue	7:31 pm	4:00 am	None	None
Wed	12:19 pm	4:58 am	8:54 pm	3:50 pm
Thu	12:29 pm	5:53 am	10:32 pm	5:50 pm

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From page 28

Now Here's A Tip

• "I put dryer sheets in any size wastebasket. One can put three or four folded out to stand up and put a bag in the basket for a fresher smell. Change dryer sheets as often as you like." – SH in Minnesota

• BH in Washington has an interesting tactic to keep ants off her hummingbird feeder, which hangs from a pole. "Cut a small hole out of the bottom of a grocery sack, thread the hole on the pole, slide down about two-thirds of the way, tape the edges to the pole tightly, and let the sack hang down like a bell. You will never have another ant climbing up your feeder pole."

• Get lots of extra bathroom storage by hanging an organizer over the back of the door. Look online and you'll find fancy versions made with drawers and hooks, or just use a good old-fashioned plastic shoe organizer that you can pick up at your local big box for less than \$10.

• To remove a persistent smell from a lunchbox, wash thoroughly with baking

soda and dish soap, then hang to dry. Stuff the lunchbox with crumpled up newspaper and seal for a day. Remove the newspaper, and hopefully the smell with it.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

• Are you a fan of hot peppers? One you might want to avoid is the Dragon's Breath chili pepper, which could kill you by causing a type of anaphylactic shock, burning and even closing your airway. But Mike Smith, its inventor, never intended it to be eaten: It was actually developed for use as a topical numbing agent for people who are allergic to regular anesthetics.

• Only two countries use the color purple in their national flags – Dominica and Nicaragua.

• Steven Spielberg's adaptation of Peter Benchley's *Jaws* made a lot of folks afraid to go back in the water, but perhaps what they should have been more concerned about is the fact that the sea is also home to nearly 200,000 different kinds of viruses.

• It is illegal to enter the House of Parliament while wearing a suit of armor.

• The first person to be charged with driving too fast was Walter Arnold, of the English village Paddock Wood in Kent. On January 28, 1896, he clocked in at four times the speed limit in his Benz – or a whopping eight mph. A constable chased him down on a bicycle and issued Arnold a ticket.

• Just as earth has earthquakes, the moon has – you guessed it – moonquakes. While less common and less intense than the shakes we know and dread, they're believed to result from tidal stresses connected to the distance between the two bodies.

• The *Elysia cf. marginata*, a type of sea slug, can not only survive decapitation, but grow an entire new body afterward.

• Pineapple works as a natural meat tenderizer. It's packed with the enzyme bromelain, which breaks down protein chains.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"Towering genius disdains a beaten path. It seeks regions hitherto unexplored."

– Abraham Lincoln

TRIVIA TEST

1. **Geography:** Once known as the Gilbert Islands, what is the current name of the island nation?
2. **Advertising Slogans:** What product's slogan is, "It gives you wings"?
3. **U.S. Presidents:** Who was the first president to die in office?
4. **Movies:** What was the town's name in the movie *It's a Wonderful Life*?
5. **Anatomy:** In what part of the human body is the ulna located?
6. **Television:** Which 1960s sitcom featured the catchphrase, "Sorry about that, chief"?
7. **History:** In which century did England's War of the Roses take place?
8. **Literature:** The setting of which children's book is a place called Puddleby-on-the-Marsh?
9. **Math:** What Arabic number is represented by the Roman numerals DCIX?
10. **General Knowledge:** What does a cytologist study?

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5/14 * 5/14

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5/14 * 5/21

LEGAL

FICTITIOUS NAME

Notice Under Fictitious Name law pursuant to Section 865.09 Florida Statutes NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned desiring to engage in business under the fictitious name of "Americas Boating Club of Sanibel Captiva" located at 2173 Periwinkle Way in Lee County, Sanibel Florida 33957, current mailing address PO Box 136 Sanibel Florida 33957, intends to register said name with the Division of Corporations of the Florida Department of State, Tallahassee Florida.

Dated at Sanibel Florida this 3rd day of May 2021.

Sanibel-Captiva Sail & Power Squadron Inc.

By Joanne Heroy Giller Commander

5/14 * 5/14

Shore Fishing:



Don't Harm The Fish

by Capt. Matt Mitchell

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

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

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

If you want a picture with the fish, support it as you lift it out of the water – and do it quickly.

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

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TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Kinkab 2. Red Bull 3. William Henry Harrison 4. Bedford Falls 5. Forearm 6. Get Smart 7. 15th 8. The Story of Dr. Dolittle 9. 609 10. Cells

SCRAMBLERS ANSWER

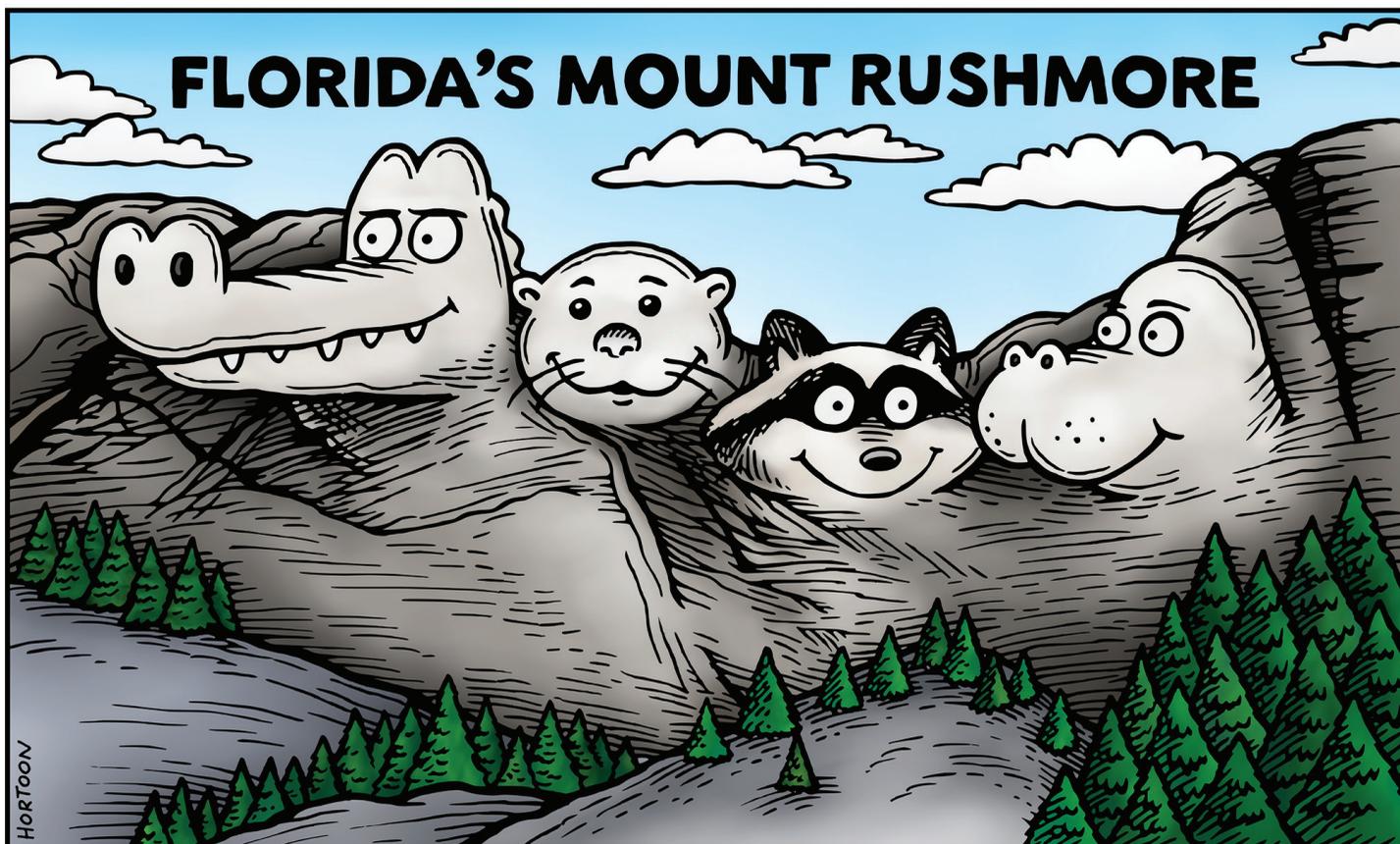
1. Curse 2. Style; 3. Point; 4. Charge

Today's Word

TOUCH



HORTOONS



PUZZLE ANSWERS

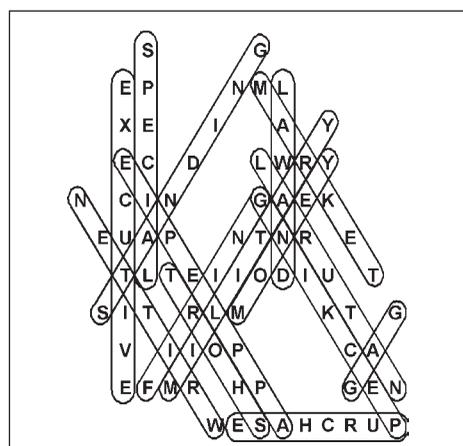
SUPER CROSSWORD

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KING CROSSWORD

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MAGIC MAZE



SUDOKU

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

Top 10 Real Estate Sales

Subdivision	City	Year Built	Square Footage	Listing Price	Selling Price	Days On Market
Bonita Beach	Bonita Springs	2016	5,771	\$7,495,000	\$7,500,000	0
Gulf Shores	Sanibel	2012	4,468	\$7,195,000	\$6,500,000	6
Barefoot Beach	Bonita Springs	2011	5,300	\$5,700,000	\$4,700,000	84
Bonita Beach	Bonita Springs	2019	3,856	\$3,590,000	\$3,450,000	131
Beach Homes	Captiva	1974	3,048	\$3,375,000	\$3,050,000	274
Esplanade Lake Club	Fort Myers	2021	3,794	\$3,100,000	\$3,000,000	432
Sanibel Harbours	Sanibel	1980	1,982	\$2,895,000	\$2,775,000	49
Portofino	Miromar Lakes	2007	3,725	\$2,395,000	\$2,395,000	0
Tuscany Isle	Bonita Springs	2013	4,616	\$2,325,000	\$2,325,000	2
Jose's Hideaway	Upper Captiva	2008	2,917	\$2,395,000	\$2,139,000	233

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