

A Dark Comedy At Theatre Conspiracy

by Di Saggau

Now playing at Theatre Conspiracy is *The Roommate* by Jen Silverman. The play opens with middle-aged lesbian slam poet Robyn (Sharon Isern) from the Bronx, moving into the Iowa home of middle-aged empty nester Sharon (Lauren Drexler), who is happily divorced from her husband and living a staid life where her reading group is the highlight of her social activities. Robyn is not who she says she is and this triggers Sharon to become obsessed with Robyn, even taking up some of Robyn's illicit habits.

In the hands of these talented actresses, Sharon and Robyn become quite memorable. Sharon's nervous energy and fluttering laugh tells us that she wants more out of life. Robyn is searching for a break from her exhausting life of wheeling and dealing. They are complete opposites



Sharon Isern and Lauren Drexler in *The Roommate*

photo provided

and yet both figure out how to redefine themselves at the midpoint of their lives.

The play is often referred to as a mix between *The Odd Couple* and *Thelma and Louise*. No one drives off into the Grand Canyon, but Sharon introduces a gun from Walmart that Robyn has her return. Sharon also starts to enjoy the medicinal herbs Robyn grows and smokes. We see a complete personality change throughout the play.

It is executed through a number of short scenes that show how the surprising and touching friendship evolves and how it ends. At one point Sharon says, "I guess everybody wants to start over. Just burn it all down and start over." That's not easy to do, but that's what they try to accomplish. This two-character dramedy is brought to life by director Stephen Hooper, and Drexler and Isern are superb in their roles.

The Roommate plays through Sunday, December 19 at Theatre Conspiracy, located at the Alliance for the Arts, 10091 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. For tickets, call 939-2787 or visit www.artinlee.org/theatre.✪



The green kiosk located at the Dean Park Triangle

photo provided

Take A Holiday Stroll Through Historic Dean Park

Dean Park, one of the oldest neighborhoods in Fort Myers, is again offering its annual Holiday Stroll, a self-guided walking tour of the historic homes in the century-old neighborhood.

Free walking tour maps are available at the green kiosk located at the Dean Park Triangle, a small neighborhood park at the intersection of Cranford Avenue and

Providence Street. The map features 50 historic homes in Dean Park, where the first home was built in 1916, and includes a photo and historic facts about each house.

The Holiday Stroll was inaugurated in 2020 after the COVID-19 pandemic caused the neighborhood to cancel plans for a historic house tour of the interiors of 10 Dean Park homes.

"Last year, we were thrilled to give visitors the opportunity to take part in a fun, free and outside event," said Sheila Pastor, chair of the Holiday Stroll. "It was such a success -- about 1,000 people

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Bold Portrait Exhibit To Open During Art Walk

Arts for ACT Gallery will host an opening reception and meet the artist session for an exhibition featuring Lesley Morrow during Art Walk on Friday, January 7 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Morrow is an artist whose paintings are bold, raw and sensitive to the eye. She expresses the feminine experience and the mystique through contemporary portraiture that has included both celebrity and iconic women. Morrow captures not only the strength that she sees in these women and their faces, but also the chaos behind the façade as she sets a mood. Through the body of her work, you can see a roadmap, almost a narrative, of the pieces of her psyche in such a way as to find her own core strength.

Blues and purples accentuate the images of Morrow's subjects. Many of these pieces, created under the inspiration of her psyche, act as guides and partners on a journey -- one to live, feel and breathe. While witnessing her work, you may feel as if you are becoming part of the portraits she creates. These are similar to the faces of people in everyone's lives.

The symbols in Morrow's work provides an experience to the viewer, with spiritual and physical strength. Her color palette provides the perfect balance of strong and weaker hues, creating a state of contemplation, forcing the viewer to be part of the subject's history, brought to life by the power of the artist's mind.



Portrait by Lesley Morrow image provided

With her creativity and skilled hand, Morrow produces beauty, thought, strength, wisdom and, overall, the power of portraying the human spirit.

Focused on photography, Morrow attended the School of Visual Arts in New York City and City College of San Francisco. After a 20-year break, she turned back to art and found her voice, painting.

Morrow is an artist in residence at the Union Artist Studios in Fort Myers where she now utilizes acrylic, oil, airbrush and mixed media. She has exhibited in local Southwest Florida galleries. Her art is found in public and private collections locally and internationally.

This exhibit continues through Monday, January 31.

Arts for ACT Gallery is located at 2265 First Street in downtown Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.artsforactgallery.com.✪

Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

Seventh-Day Adventist Church On Second



by Gerri Reaves, PhD

The easily overlooked church pictured in the historic photo is nestled in a high-traffic corner just south of the lush Dean Park subdivision.

With historic homes on the north and redevelopment brewing around it, the one-story sanctuary sits catty-cornered at Second Street and Cranford Avenue.

The structure has a simplicity and charm of its own, with simple lines and deep-green pebble-glass sanctuary windows.

The most distinctive feature, however, is the coquina rock exterior constructed of stones dug from local soil by church members.

Like many churches, it had an itinerant first few years before establishing a permanent home.

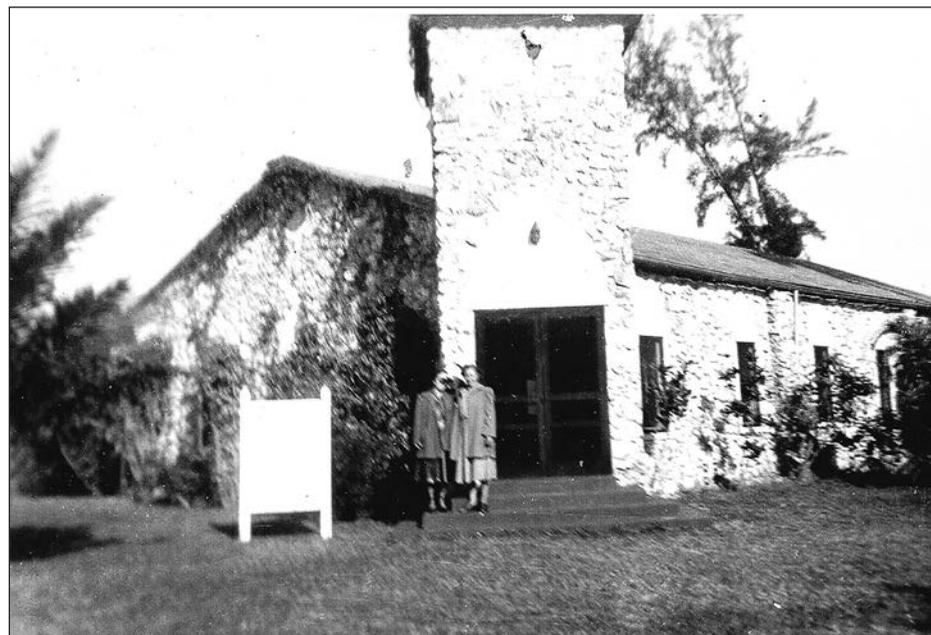
The Seventh-Day Adventist Church in Fort Myers was constituted in 1928, according to the WPA church records. Parishioners first met in the public library on Bay Street, which was located behind today's Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center. The church was soon moved to the Towles Building on Bay at Bayview Court, where it remained until 1932.

The first settled pastor, from 1929 until 1932, was Rev. George W. Spies, followed by Rev. HE Kuester. The congregation then moved to vacant upstairs rooms at the Belmar Building on Broadway. Today, that 1926 building is a law firm.

In 1939, church parishioners began to meet in the Town Club on First Street. That



The church's name is now Peniel Seventh-Day Adventist Church, and there are two structures on the property photo by Gerri Reaves



This undated photo of the Seventh-Day Adventist Church at Second and Cranford was probably taken soon after it was dedicated in March 1942. The two women are unidentified photo courtesy SWFL Historical Society

building had been originally constructed as the Elks/BPOE Lodge number 1288 and opened in 1925. Today, locals remember it as American Legion Post 38, which it became in 1947.

During the church's residence at the town club, construction on the current sanctuary at Second and Cranford began. A dedication was held in March 21, 1942.

It had been a substantial effort for the congregation of approximately 50, but donations of about \$2,000, as well as materials and labor, made it possible.

For example, Walter Kaune, Jr., a church elder who was a plasterer and mason, donated his labor and expertise.

The recent arrival of a new pastor, the Rev. JD Reavis, added to the feeling of a new era for the church.

A second one-story building was later added to the property and, around 1990, the word "Peniel" – Hebrew for "face of God" – was added to the name.

Walk down to Second and Cranford to see a little church built eight decades ago.

Then visit the following research centers to explore the history of the many churches in Fort Myers.

The Southwest Florida Historical Society is an all-volunteer, nonprofit organization open Wednesday and 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. Call 332-8778 for the hours 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 *Fort Myers Press* and *The News-Press*.✪

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Children's Advocacy Center team with Jill Turner and Julie Boudreaux photos provided

Funds Raised For Children's Center On Anniversary

The Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) of Southwest Florida hosted its 40th anniversary event on December 4 to celebrate this significant milestone. Thanks to sponsorships and auction items, the agency raised over \$100,000 that will provide continual support of the services necessary to assist children in healing from abuse and neglect.

The Lee County Sheriff's Office contribution to this event was a significant donation of \$25,000 as part of the overall total.

The evening keynote speaker, Sasha Joseph Neulinger, is the director of the Emmy-nominated documentary *REWIND*, a candid and personal documentary where Neulinger revisits his childhood and the events that tore apart his seemingly perfect world. He now travels the world, sharing his story and providing a voice for children that deserve access to justice and healing.

"We could not have asked for a better evening to celebrate our 40th



Sheriff Marceno and his team with Sasha Joseph Neulinger

anniversary," said Julie Boudreaux, CAC chief executive officer. "The support of our community, before and during the event, was astounding and warms my heart to see the love and generosity of so many in Southwest Florida making a difference in the lives of children dealing with trauma. We work so closely with law enforcement, and to have Sheriff Marceno and Retired Sheriff Scott as our co-chairs was truly an honor. Sasha's story of his own experience of surviving multi-generational sexual abuse was shared with our guests and his presentation was extremely impactful." Neulinger said, "If provided with the

proper support, we can give children the opportunity to recognize that their lives don't have to be defined by their trauma. With the support of Children's Advocacy Center of Southwest Florida, these children can find immense strength, self-awareness and confidence from confronting their trauma head-on.

"If these children have the courage to speak up, then as the adults, we must have the courage not only to listen, but to do everything in our power to support them. This event provided serious momentum in that effort."

For more information, visit www.cac-swfl.org or call 939-2808.✧

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Fort Myers Art:

Vignette-Based Play Rises From Acting Course

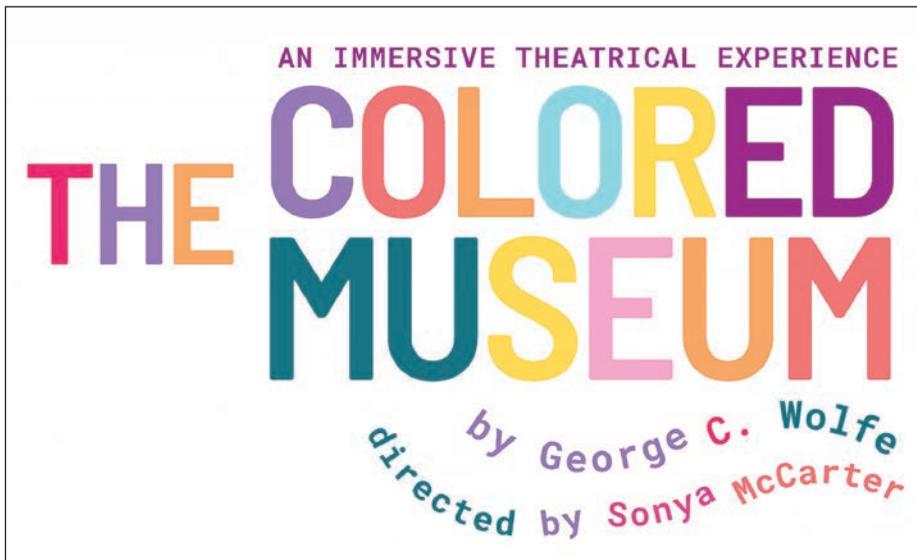


by Tom Hall

Sonya McCarter and the Alliance for the Arts produced Emmy-winning George C. Wolfe's *The Colored Museum* at the end of their inaugural nine-week CHANGE

(Communities Harnessing the Arts to Nurture and Grow Equity) course that challenged 11 adults from minority communities to explore the fundamentals of acting, character development and scene work. Now, the Alliance brings back the vignette-based play that has electrified, discomfited and delighted audiences of all colors since 1986, undermining black stereotypes, old and new, and redefining our ideas of what it means to be black in contemporary America.

McCarter, who once again directs, has long admired the playwright not just for his uncanny ability to eviscerate the stereotypes we all embrace, both intentionally and unwittingly, but for his gift for "intentional phraseology."



By stripping off facades, artifice and emotional armor of the characters he contrives, Wolfe shines a cold, unapologetic light on the essence of the black experience in this country.

The New York Times reviewer Frank Rich put a fine point on Wolff's incisive play some 35 years ago by wondering aloud: "How do American black men and women at once honor and escape the legacy of suffering that is the baggage of their past?"

It was that very query that compelled Wolfe to courageously excoriate the assumptions underlying no less than Lorraine Hansberry's iconic play *A Raisin in the Sun*.

In a sketch titled *The Last Mama-on-the-Couch Play*, Wolfe ridicules the characters of Mama and her son, Walter Lee, the dialogue that passes between them and the expectations that white audiences have of mainstream black performers and the playwrights who infuse them with animus – making good on his promise to deliver "a searing domestic drama that tears at the very fabric of racist America" by revealing the cultural blind spots of blacks and whites alike.

From an intellectual standpoint, *The Colored Museum* is the perfect exclamation point for a journey that Bill

Taylor and Theatre Conspiracy began five seasons ago with *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*, and which continued in successive seasons with *Seven Guitars*, *Joe Turner's Come and Gone* and *King Hedley II*, all part of August Wilson Century Cycle – each of which, coincidentally, were directed by McCarter.

When McCarter last produced and directed *The Colored Museum*, attendance was restricted to her students' family and friends. This time around, the play is open to the entire community, but McCarter makes use of the play's 11 individual playettes to construct a highly-personal interactive experience with audiences traveling through the Alliance gallery and campus to visit each "exhibit" in *The Colored Museum*. Ironically, the Foulds Theatre will be the only space not used for the production.

Performances will be held at 7:30 p.m. on January 8, 13, 14, 15, 20, 21 and 22 as well as 2 p.m. on January 30. Tickets are \$25 for Alliance members and \$30 for nonmembers. This production is sponsored by William and Shareen Groce.

Alliance for the Arts is located at 10091 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers. For tickets, visit www.artinlee.org.

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

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Mound House Nature Events

by Gary Mooney

The Mound House is offering an array of outdoor nature and education programs each month.

Shell Mound Tour – All ages; every Tuesday through Saturday at 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. (no programs on December 23 through 25 and December 30 through January 1); Cost: \$5 per person; does not include Mound House admission; Mound House members free.

Newton Beach Park Guided Beach Walk – for all ages; each Tuesday and Thursday (no program on December 23 and 30); weather permitting. Free outdoor nature program. Parking: \$3 per hour, one hour generally enough. Meet at the thatched hut closest to the beach; no registration necessary; Newton Beach Park is located at 4650 Estero Boulevard.

Cool Calusa Tools – Ages 6 and older; December 21 and 28, at 10 a.m. Learn to hunt, fish and make masks and pottery. Cost: \$2 per person.

Garden Tour – All ages; December 21 and 28, at 2 p.m. Discover unique plants which conserve water and protect wildlife. Cost: \$5 per person; does not include Mound House admission; Mound House members free.

Mangroves by Kayak Tour – Ages 12 and older; weather permitting. December 22 and 29, at 9 a.m. Cost: \$45 per person; Mound House members \$15. All

paddling equipment provided; Advance reservations needed.

Archaeology: Can You Dig It? – All ages; December 22 and 29, at 10 a.m.; Handle real artifacts and discover how archaeologists study past cultures. Cost: \$5-per-person; does not include Mound House admission; Mound House members free.

Untold Stories Tour – Adults only; December 16 at 2 p.m. Individual stories from a cast of characters. Cost: \$15; Mound House members free.

Sunset Kayak Tour – Ages 12 and older; weather permitting; December 17, at 4 p.m. Explore tidal creeks and winding mangrove tunnels in hidden backwaters of Estero Bay during twilight. Cost \$45-per-person; Mound House members \$15; advance registrations necessary at www.moundhouse.org. All paddling and safety equipment provided.

Family Fun Kayak Tour – Ages 6 and older; weather permitting; December 18 and 22 at 2 p.m.; Cost: \$25 per person age 13 and older; \$15 per person ages 6 to 12; All paddling equipment provided.

Calusa Carvers – All ages; December 21, from 9 a.m. to noon; Free. Learn more about woodcarving firsthand from a local group of woodcarvers who made some of the Calusa replica artifacts for Mound House exhibits and programs.

The Mound House is located at 451 Connecticut Street with overflow parking at 216 Connecticut Street on Fort Myers Beach. For details, reservations and monthly programs schedule, call 765-0865 or visit www.moundhouse.org.*

Tournament Raises Funds For Hope Hospice



Joni and Jerry Curcuru photo provided

Lexington Country Club members raised more than \$40,000 at the 10th annual Italian Open Golf Tournament benefitting Hope Hospice.

The November 13 tournament was chaired by Jerry Cucuru, with the support of John Sackie. Nearly 300 club members took part in golf foursomes in the morning and afternoon, followed by an Italian-themed dinner with a silent auction featuring prizes and awards.

Since the Italian Open Golf Tournament's inception, Lexington Country Club has raised more than \$300,000 in support of Hope's mission of improving the quality of life for every person experiencing serious illness by providing exceptional, comforting care. For more information on hospice care, visit www.hopehospice.org.

Basketball Tournament Tips Off Friday

Culligan City of Palms Basketball Tournament tips off at 2 p.m. Friday, December 17 at Suncoast Credit Union Arena located on the campus of Florida Southwestern State College. The final day of the six-day tournament is Wednesday, December 22.

This year, 16 teams will be competing

in the traditional tournament, four teams competing in the signature series and four teams competing in the sunshine series.

The traditional Culligan City of Palms Basketball Tournament has teams coming from as far away as Toronto, Ontario, Louisiana, Arkansas, Washington DC, New Jersey, Kentucky and North Carolina. Seven players ranked in ESPN's Top 10 in the nation are competing just from Montverde Academy and IMG Academy. Star athlete Arch Manning of the prolific Manning sports family and the Isidore Newman School Basketball team out of New Orleans will also compete.

New this year, Culligan City of Palms Classic Basketball Tournament will be broadcasting live through a strategic partnership with Varsity Sports Network (VSN), the leading source for high school athletics throughout Florida. The collaboration gives basketball fans the ability to stream the tournament live from anywhere. The link will be live when the tournament tips off at www.cityofpalmsclassic.com.

Culligan City of Palms Classic Basketball Tournament concludes Wednesday, December 21 with the championship game at 8:15 p.m.

Suncoast Credit Union Arena is located at 13351 FSW Parkway in Fort Myers. For tickets, visit www.cityofpalmsclassic.com or call box office at 481-4849 or 1-800-440-7469.

Memorial Day For Homeless Coalition

As a tribute to at least 26 homeless individuals who have lost their lives while living on the streets or in shelters in Lee County this year, the Lee County Homeless Coalition will host its 25th annual Candlelight Vigil at the Old Lee County Courthouse on Tuesday, December 21 at 6 p.m. To mourn those who have passed, the community is encouraged to gather on the steps of the building at 2120 Main Street in Fort Myers.

The Candlelight Vigil, which is also intended to educate and inspire the public to support the community's need for more affordable housing, shelters and accessible health care, will include remarks by Lee County Homeless Coalition Executive

Director Therese Everly and Board Chair William Rodriguez. An opening prayer will be presented by Father Christian Maxwell of St. Luke's Episcopal Church as well as a performance by the St. Luke's Episcopal Church Choir. Taps will be performed by Harvey Charter, commander of Victor Paul Tuchman Post 400 Jewish War Veterans.

For more information, visit www.leehomeless.org or www.facebook.com/leehomeless.

Food Drive Nets More Than Double Its Goal

Pushing the Envelope recently completed its 11th annual CAN IT! Campaign with surprising results. The food drive dedicated to helping those in need in Southwest Florida collected 5,044 non-perishable food items for Community Cooperative (CCI) in just one month, surpassing previous campaign results and more than doubling this year's 2,500-item goal. Collectively, the items weighed in at 3,351 pounds!

More than 20 Southwest Florida businesses and organizations partnered with Pushing the Envelope as drop-off locations to collect donations. Since its inception in 2010, the CAN IT! Campaign food drive has collected thousands of items for CCI, resulting in more than 19,700 pounds of donated food.

"The CAN IT! Campaign started because the Great Recession created new needs but unfortunately, there are people

in need every year," said Samantha Scott, APR, PTE president. "We are grateful for the like-minded people and businesses that joined us for this important campaign, helping ensure individuals and families in our community have food resources this holiday season." ❄️

Kennel Challenge For Shelter Pets

Lee County Domestic Animal Services (LCDAS) will hold a holiday version of its Flip This Kennel competition on Saturday, December 18.

Deck This Kennel will feature a competition involving the outside of a dog kennel or cattery decorated in holiday themes to help bring attention to adoptable pets.

Visitors can come to the shelter and vote for their favorite kennel or cattery. All pets in a decked-out run will have adoption fees waived that day with an approved application.

People also may vote on LCDAS's Facebook page by liking the picture of their favorite. Winners will be announced on Sunday, December 19.

The adoption package includes spay or neuter, microchip, up-to-date vaccinations, county license and a 10-day health guarantee. This is a \$500 package. The adoption center is open from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

LCDAS is located at 5600 Banner Drive in Fort Myers. Visit www.leelostpets.com to view all pets currently available and to complete an online application. ❄️

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Teacher Of The Year Chosen

Allison Kerner has been named the 2021 Teacher of the Year for the School District of Lee County. She is a peer collaborative teacher at Harns Marsh Middle School who spends half her day teaching English language arts (ELA) and the other half coaching and mentoring her fellow teachers.



Allison Kerner

up until he earned all As, Bs and Cs on his report card.”

Kerner says she was inspired to teach while being a student at Mirror Lakes Elementary because of the way her teachers supported her and her family after the sudden loss of her sister. She went on to graduate from Riverdale High School and then earn the first college degree in her family from the University of South Florida.

Kerner started teaching at Harns Marsh Middle in 2016. After just two years, she was appointed ELA department chair. The increases in proficiency under her leadership improved Harns Marsh Middle School's grade from a C to a B. The ELA department saw seven percent more growth in the first quarter.

“I absolutely believe, given the chance, any student can blow us away, rise to the challenge, learn and succeed,” Kerner said. “Thanks to those teachers who took time to listen and encourage me, I now get to step into the role of helping and encouraging students, and other educators, around me.”

Kerner will now be nominated for Florida Teacher of the Year. The Florida Department of Education will announce the winner in the spring. As Lee County Teacher of the Year, she wins a prize package valued at more than \$2,000.

Teacher of the Year candidates are nominated by their school principals. Applications are reviewed by a team of district administrators and former Teachers of the Year. Semi-finalists are

then interviewed and as many as three finalists have a second interview.

In June, Kerner was honored as the district's second APPLES Mentor of the Year. APPLES mentors provide support to new and beginning teachers by observing them in class, helping them write instructional plans, and providing feedback so they can be the best teachers possible.*

Career Positions At School District

The School District of Lee County will host Social Lee: Careers & Conversations at Cantina Laredo on Thursday, January 20 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The informational event that will provide insight on teaching positions within the district is ideal for prospective career-changers and working professionals.

Attendees will have the opportunity to meet district representatives, learn about the variety of career paths available and walk through the process of becoming certified to teach in Florida. Select candidates may also be offered an interview for potential employment.

Florida is one of 48 states that offer alternative routes to becoming a certified teacher. Individuals who already earned a bachelor's degree in any field can become eligible for Florida teacher certification by passing a subject area exam in their area of expertise, completing additional coursework or

enrolling in a teacher preparation program.

With a growing enrollment of more than 95,000 students and 120 schools, the district is looking to connect talented, high-energy educators with instructional vacancies for the upcoming school year. Positions are available across the district with a focus on high-demand positions like English, elementary education, science, math and special education, as well as for non-instructional positions including bus drivers and bilingual paraprofessionals.

To register by January 19, visit https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSejiauST-VY37LrCaxkxxzN_2mioJxzuxdD58kets3dH1E5Yg/viewform. The event is sponsored by Equitable Advisors.

New teachers will receive the support and necessary resources that will enable them to succeed upon entering the field of education. The district offers a competitive and comprehensive compensation plan for its employees with a starting salary of \$47,300. Additional benefits and earning opportunities are also available via advanced degree supplement, summer school, athletic coaching and more. Upon hire, a personal benefits selection process will be made available to eligible employees.

Cantina Laredo is located at 5200 Big Pine Way in Fort Myers. To learn more about available career opportunities, visit www.leeschools.net/careers.*

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

Friday Shabbat services every week 7:30 p.m. Other programs on vacation. ChavuratShalom@gmail.com.

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.

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.fpcforymiers.org, 2438 Second Street, 239-334-2261

IONA-HOPE EPISCOPAL CONGREGATION

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

JESUS THE WORKER CATHOLIC

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

LAMB OF GOD

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

NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN

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

PEACE COMMUNITY

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

PEACE LUTHERAN

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

REDEEMER LUTHERAN

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

RIVER OF LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

SAMUDRABADRA BUDDHIST CENTER

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

SAINT COLUMBKILLE CATHOLIC

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

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC

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

SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE METROPOLITAN

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

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN

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

SAINT NICHOLAS MONASTERY

Sunday 9:30 a.m., www.saintnicholasmonastery.org.

www.saintnicholasmonastery.org, 111 Evergreen Road, 997-2847.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC

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

SOUTHWEST BAPTIST

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

TEMPLE BETH EL SYNAGOGUE

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

TEMPLE JUDEA (CONSERVATIVE)

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

THE FAITH CENTER

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

THOMAS A. EDISON CONGREGATIONAL

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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

UNITY OF FORT MYERS

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

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

WORD OF LIFE

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

ZION LUTHERAN

Sunday 8, 9:30 and 10:45 a.m., www.zionfm.org, 7401 Winkler Road, 481-4040. *Email changes to press@islandsunnews.com or call 395-1213.**

Plant Smart
Bottle Palm

by Gerri Reaves

Bottle palm (*Hyophorbe lagenicaulis*) is critically endangered in its native range of the Mascarene Islands in the Indian Ocean.

This ornamental palm is used in South Florida as a specimen plant, particularly in groups, and the bulbous lower trunk is a point of curiosity.

Slow growth, small size and cold sensitivity make it suitable for a container or patio plant too.

The word *lagenicaulis* comes from two Greek words referring to the palm's trunk, one meaning "flask" and one meaning "stem."

Overall, the trunk resembles a giant bulb and is smooth and light-colored.

As the slow-growing species matures, the trunk tends to elongate and appear less swollen at the base.

It prefers full sun but will tolerate some shade and requires well-drained soil.

The tree can grow to 20 feet tall in optimum conditions, but usually reaches only about 10.

The fronds can be as long as 12 feet and have a lateral twist.

The oppositely positioned leaflets are up to two feet long and, like those of many palms with compound pinnate leaves, form a "V" shape mid-frond.

The branched inflorescences appear



Bottle palm is native to the Mascarene Islands, where it is critically endangered
photos by Gerri Reaves

below the crownshaft from which the four to eight fronds emerge. They can be as long as three feet and have both male and female white or creamy flowers.

The one-inch rounded fruit ripen from green to black.

The palm is highly salt-tolerant, but is not maintenance-free. Not only is it sensitive to cold, it requires irrigation during very dry periods and periodic



The palm's most striking feature is the bulbous base of the trunk, which elongates with age

fertilizing is also recommended.

You might consider planting a native palm instead, to minimize maintenance and support wildlife.

Sources: *A Handbook of Landscape Palms* by Jan Allyn, <https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>, www.floridata.com, and www.south-florida-plant-guide.com.

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

Shade Structures To Be Added At Park Facilities

The Lee Board of County Commissioners have awarded a contract for new shade structures at five Lee County Parks & Recreation facilities.

The \$341,119 contract with Florida-based Industrial Shadeports Inc. is for structures planned for various playgrounds and water features at:

Buckingham Community Park, 9800 Buckingham Road, Fort Myers
Hunter Park, 1526 Oak Drive, Fort Myers

Lakes Regional Park, 7330 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers
Matlacha Community Park, 4577 Pine Island Road, Matlacha
Veterans Park, 55 Homestead Road South, Lehigh Acres

The work is scheduled to be completed in fiscal year 2021-22. The structures are designed to provide relief and comfort to park patrons. The Lee Board of County Commissioners' strategic priorities includes increasing park amenities.

For more information about Lee County Parks & Recreation locations, amenities and other special events, visit www.leeparks.org, call 533-7275 or email leeparks@leegov.com.*

Water Quality Project Approved

The South Florida Water Management District (SFWMD) Governing Board approved a contract recently to build the Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Project. The first-of-its-kind project is located north of Lake Okeechobee and will use a combination of wetland systems and innovative technology to improve regional water quality.

"The South Florida Water Management District continues bold action and significant investments to improve water quality all across south Florida," said SFWMD Governing Board Chairman Chauncey Goss. "Under the leadership of Governor Ron DeSantis, we are breaking ground and finishing more Everglades restoration projects than ever before in Florida's history. Our vote today implements more innovative solutions to support meaningful water quality improvements in the region and benefit the health of Lake Okeechobee."

Lake Okeechobee and its watershed have been subjected to hydrologic, land use and other modifications over the past century that have degraded its water quality. To help address the lake's nutrient pollution, the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) adopted a total maximum daily load (TMDL) to reduce total phosphorus (TP) from reaching the lake and its watershed.

The 3,400-acre Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Project, located along the Kissimmee River about three miles upstream from Lake Okeechobee, will capture and clean water from the river prior to it flowing into

Lake Okeechobee. The Lower Kissimmee Basin Stormwater Treatment Project is strategically located to improve water quality from high-priority basins identified by the DEP's Lake Okeechobee Basin Management Action Plan.

When completed, it will be the largest water quality project north of Lake Okeechobee and will significantly reduce nutrient pollution loads in the Kissimmee River. The project will use traditional stormwater treatment cells with aquatic vegetation to remove nutrient pollution from the water coupled with innovative

technologies to provide additional water quality benefits.

Gov. DeSantis made improving water quality and completing Everglades restoration projects a top priority of his administration and called for record funding and water quality efforts in his Achieving More Now for Florida's Environment executive order. SFWMD continues to advance important Everglades restoration projects that will send more water south, reduce harmful discharges to the estuaries and improve water quality in South Florida.*

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Slow It Down, Take It All In



by Capt.
Matt Mitchell

The older I get and the longer I guide, the more I'm noticing what has probably always been right there. Whether it's just taking a little more time to see everything that's

going on instead of quickly moving, it's paying off. When fishing with clients, you just can't give any spot too long when it's not happening. We often fish at warp speed until we find the action that we are looking for.

Many days we locate that wide-open snook bite on smaller fish that eat with abandon. After catching a few dozen, we generally move on looking for larger fish. Feeding fish attract feeding fish, and this proved true as we upped the size of our baits and stuck it out in these same places to catch more than a dozen quality snook over 30 inches. This week was one of the best big snook bites I can remember in the past few months.

Casting big shiners quickly upped the game as for each larger snook we managed to get out of the structure and to the boat, we lost at least one or two other big ones. The largest fish measured was 37 inches although we lost at least a dozen others that were noticeably larger.



A 37-inch snook caught and released with Capt. Matt Mitchell this week photo provided

This wide-open bite came during the last hour of the falling tide and was consistent for four straight days. But like all good things, as the tides got later in the day the window slowly closed to target these fish.

Catching bait is without a doubt the most important part of our day as guides, as it assures that our clients will catch fish. Without the right bait, our job becomes extremely tough. Over the past few weeks, I have found my bait consistently in a place that I have passed right over for the past 20 years. By slowing down and taking in the subtle

signs, I have worked out a pattern that has been right under my nose. This is two-fold: frustrating that I never saw this bait opportunity before, but satisfying that even after so long I have a new trick.

No matter how long, I'm lucky enough to continue fishing our waters. I'm always learning something new. This amazing fishery has lots of secrets that it just does not give up easily. Something so simple can be such a game-changer if you just slow down and take it all in. The one thing that rings true is that the day you stop learning or claim to know

everything, it's time to hang it up. I just know a very small part of a large puzzle, which luckily most days is enough to catch 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.

From page 1

Holiday Stroll

visited the neighborhood during the 2020 holiday season – that we reprinted the walking tour brochures so they would be available year-round.”

Dean Park residents also celebrate the holidays with a lighting display on the triangle, with red bows on neighborhood street lights and holiday lighting displays on many of the historic homes.

Just one mile east of downtown Fort Myers, Dean Park was designated as a historic district in 1997 and was named to the National Register of Historic Places in 2013. The subdivision's official birthday is May 1, 1920, the date on which John Morgan Dean recorded his map entitled Dean's Subdivision with the Lee County Clerk of the Courts. He named the streets Rhode Island after his home state and Providence after his hometown.

The Dean Park Triangle is located at 2685 Rhode Island Avenue in Fort Myers. For a walking tour map and more information, visit www.deanpark.org.

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Dave Doane with his co-worker Jesse

CROW Case Of The Week:

Grasshopper Sparrow

by Bob Petcher



The grasshopper sparrow (*Ammodramus savannarum*) is one of the smaller species of sparrow. Other “New World” passerine birds that are similar in stature include the rufous-winged sparrow, Boterri’s sparrow, Cassin’s sparrow and Bachman’s sparrow.

The grasshopper sparrow is described as flat-headed, stubby-tailed and bull-necked. Its bill size is considered disproportionately large and deep for its body, which is colored brown and tan with rusty streaking on its wing feathers. It also has a distinct feature of an orange-yellow stripe in front of its eye.

Grasshopper sparrows like to stay close to the ground and, if deemed necessary, they would rather walk or run than fly. In fact, they have their nests on the ground, usually hidden at the base of a grass pile. While this species of sparrow is hard to find, those with trained ears have said it is one of the few North American sparrows to have two different songs: one, a quiet, insect-like song; and



Patient #21-6076 suffered lost feathers during a predator attack photo by Haillie Mesics

the other, a more musical pattern of squeaky notes emitted from the male in flight.

These grassland birds are so-named due to their penchant for grasshoppers as their primary prey. They have been known to remove the legs of these insects in preparation to feed their chicks.

The grasshopper sparrow breeds in open meadows, prairies, hayfields and pastures, typically with some bare ground.

Florida grasshopper sparrows

(*Ammodramus savannarum floridanus*) are found only in the dry prairies of south-central Florida. This non-migratory subspecies is critically endangered as a result of habitat loss, restricted distribution and population decline, according to the National Audubon Society.

At CROW, an adult male grasshopper sparrow was admitted from Fort Myers after being found on the grass, unable to fly. Upon examination, veterinarians found him to have some primary feathers

missing on the right wing along with some rectrices – stiffer tail feathers that are necessary for flight.

“A significant number of feathers important for flight were missing,” confirmed Dr. Charlotte Cournoyer, CROW veterinary intern.

Veterinarians suspected the injury to the grasshopper sparrow was the result of a predator attack, and not related to a bird strike.

“The finding of missing feathers without other evidence of physical trauma is more consistent with a predator attempting to grab the bird,” explained Dr. Cournoyer. “The bird had started to grow feathers back, but it will take time before they fully regrow.”

The patient was placed on a songbird diet and was subsequently tested every few days to observe flight improvement.

However, the need to grow back most or all of its feathers is not a prerequisite for a bird patient to be released back into the wild. The majority of its rectrices were in place to help it steer in flight.

“The patient passed its flight test on December 12 after seven days in care and was released the same day,” said Dr. Cournoyer.

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.✱

Holiday Pageant At Spiritual Center

Unity of Fort Myers will hold a Christmas Pageant with the theme A Christmas Carol in the Sanctuary on Friday, December 17 at 7 p.m. A love offering of \$10 is requested. Children are free.

“After being on pause for so long, we are opening up in a grand way and invite any performer to join us in celebrating the birth of Jesus and the renewal of events that are live and in person,” said Rev. Crystal Muldrow, senior minister at Unity of Fort Myers. “We are planning numerous activities at our beautiful 10

acres campus with safety, inclusion, love and gratitude as our guiding principles.”

Unity of Fort Myers is located at 11120 Ranchette Road in Fort Myers. For more information, visit www.unityoffortmyers.org.✱

Art Festival At State Park

Blue Ribbon Events, a promoter for unique arts & crafts shows and festivals, is holding Santa’s Last Stop at Lover’s Key State Park on Saturday and Sunday, December 18 and 19 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day.✱



Animal Refuge Center

ARC is the largest no-kill shelter/sanctuary in Florida. They house both dogs and cats.

Please visit their website for more information or schedule a visit.

This cute little guy wants to go home for the holidays! He is very happy to be in the company of women but needs to warm up to men. He is smart and spunky, and good with most dogs and cats. Why not call ARC today for more information, 239-731-3535.

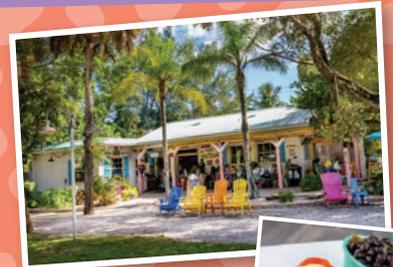


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Kiwanis Club Run To Support Youth Education

The Fort Myers Metro-McGregor Kiwanis will hold the 14th annual BUG Chase 5K run at the Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium on Saturday, January 22. Race day packet pickup will take place from 7 to 7:45 a.m. Registration begins at 7 a.m. and race time is 8 a.m.

The race will benefit the Fort Myers-Metro Kiwanis Club's BUG (Bring Up Grades) program – designed to provide recognition to local elementary students who raise their grades to an acceptable range and maintain or continue to raise them from one grading period to the next – and other club-sponsored youth service projects.

The course, supervised by the Fort Myers Track Club, travels the trails at the nature center and a portion of the asphalt bike path on Ortiz Avenue. The race will be timed with Chrono Track bib tag technology.

Participants can register online at www.ftmyerstrackclub.com. For early pickup times and places, costs and registration, visit www.runsignup.com/race/fl/fortmyers/metromcgregorkiwanisbugchase. Overall and age group awards for the 5K run will be presented. Due to the nature of the course, registrations will be capped at 400 runners.



Kiwanis volunteers Liz Ross and Karen Hurst photo provided

Race sponsors include Passarella & Associates and Weinstein Wilkes Financial Group. Planetarium officials have committed to an in-kind sponsorship. Sponsorship opportunities are now available starting at the \$100 level.

Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium is located at 3450 Ortiz Avenue in Fort Myers. Additional parking is available at Regional Cancer Center, located at 8931 Colonial Center Drive in Fort Myers.

For more information or to become a sponsor, contact Rachel Toomey at rachel.toomey33@gmail.com or visit www.bit.ly/32lxwet.

County Projects Move Forward

The Lee Board of County Commissioners approved interlocal agreements to fund 17 Lee County beach and shoreline projects using more than \$4.5 million in tourist development tax dollars.

The agreements are with the Barrier Island Parks Society, Captiva Erosion Prevention District, City of Cape Coral, City of Fort Myers, Town of Fort Myers Beach, City of Sanibel and State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection.

The projects include seven projects for maintenance of beaches, beach park facilities and beach accesses in Boca Grande, Cape Coral, Captiva, Sanibel, Fort Myers Beach and Lovers Key.

City of Fort Myers Legacy Island Stabilization – to provide shoreline protection to an island in the

Caloosahatchee and a paddlecraft landing to provide public access to the island.

Gasparilla Island State Park Beach shade structure – to provide shade to visitors accessing the Lighthouse Beach via a boardwalk previously funded by the tourist development tax.

The funds distributed through the agreements are in addition to more than \$5.7 million in beach and shoreline funding allocated this fiscal year to Lee County departments. In addition to maintaining multiple beach park facilities, Lee County will implement design of ADA improvements to Bonita Beach Park, a new restroom at Crescent Beach Park and a boardwalk and overlook at Caloosahatchee Creeks Preserve East.

Beach and shoreline project funding accounts for 26.4 percent of the proceeds from the tourist development tax assessed on short-term lodging such as hotels, resorts and motels. For more information, visit www.leevcb.com/funding-programs/beach-and-shoreline.

Coalition Breaks Fundraiser Record

The Lee County Homeless Coalition raised more than \$32,000 to benefit persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness during its 16th annual dinner and auction. The success of the evening was based on the support of numerous supporters, volunteers and sponsors, including Platinum Sponsor John & Aliese Price Foundation and Gold sponsors Lahaina Realty, Park Royal Behavioral Health Services, CASL, Housing Authority City of Fort Myers, The Davies Family and Lee Health. To see a complete list of 25 community sponsors, visit www.leehomeless.org.

"The monies raised will support our coalition community partners, as the needs of families and individuals in the Lee County community is great," said Therese Everly, executive director of Lee County Homeless Coalition.

The November 13 event took place at Crowne Plaza Fort Myers with celebrity emcee Peter Busch of NBC-2 News and guest speaker Kathleen Smith, public defender of the 20th Judicial Circuit. Janet Bartos, previous executive director, was awarded the first annual Servant Leadership Award. A silent auction

was also held, with 30 items up for bid including a lunch with the mayor, "Behind the Badge" donated by Lee County's Sheriff Carmine Marceno, two night retreat stays and gift baskets.

For more information on the Lee County Homeless Coalition, visit www.leehomeless.org or www.facebook.com/leehomeless.

Kettle Match Challenge

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

Donations dropped into red kettles located in front of local Walmart, Publix and other retail locations, and small countertop kettles until December 24, will count toward the match. You can also mail a gift to The Salvation Army at 10291 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers, 33919 or give over the phone by calling 278-1551 and designate your gift to the Red Kettle Campaign.



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Scott DiGregorio celebrated the grand opening of his business with a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by SWFL Inc. photo provided

Chamber Holds Ribbon-Cutting And Fundraiser

Scott DiGregorio's Office of Primary Residential Mortgage celebrated its grand opening with a ribbon-cutting ceremony hosted by SWFL Inc.

"My journey to success would not have been possible without the immense support of my local community and education from industry leaders. The grand opening is a way to celebrate and support our local community," said DiGregorio.

DiGregorio arose from humble beginnings as a young entrepreneur in New York and, over the course of the last two decades, has established himself

as one of the most prolific members of the real estate ecosystem in Southwest Florida. Highly decorated over the past years, DiGregorio has been the recipient of numerous awards/accolades: *Gulfshore Life Magazine* Five Star Professional award, multiple Top 10 national awards, guest speaker on *The Today Show* and Fox Business channel, as well as being an educator for the Fort Myers Board of Realtors.

The grand opening also served as a fundraiser for the company's new initiative called Veteran Professionals Association via the BBQ For The Brave event February 16 at Millennial Brewing. For every signature collected at the event, DiGregorio donates \$5 to provide free meals for any veteran through the partnership with Mission BBQ and Millennial Brewing.✪

process will require software upgrades, a one-time \$200,000 payment to CFX and a payment of \$60,000 to the county's toll software vendor, which already is included in a board-approved contract.

Commissioners also approved a one-year agreement with the county's transponder vendor, Transcore LP, to provide the LeeWay Plus transponders, which will sell for \$20.66 plus tax. LeeWay sticker transponders will continue to be free to customers and work throughout Florida, North Carolina and Georgia.

Lee County has used all-electronic tolling since the pandemic began in 2020. This aligns with Florida's SunPass program. Motorcyclists' toll pricing has also been adjusted to align with vehicles.

On October 1, the county reinstated the \$3 administrative fee for pay-by-plate customers who do not have a transponder or do not maintain a positive balance in their LeeWay account.

Free transponders that work on LeeWay toll bridges are still available at www.leegov.com/tolls at no cost to motorists, but they will not work in the E-ZPass service areas.✪

Commissioners Approve Out Of State Toll Program

The Lee Board of County Commissioners have approved measures that will expand where LeeWay toll transponders can operate. The change will allow motorists to purchase a multi-protocol transponder that will work throughout Florida and the E-ZPass network in 19 states across the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic and Midwest.

These new transponders will be called LeeWay Plus and will be available for purchase sometime in the fall of 2022.

Commissioners approved an E-ZPass Sponsored Affiliate Member Agreement that will allow Lee County to issue special multi-protocol transponders that will work on both Florida and E-ZPass toll lanes. The agreement allows Lee County transponders and electronic toll transactions on E-ZPass toll lanes to be processed through the Central Florida Expressway (CFX).

Costs to complete the interoperability



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2022 Season New Exhibits and Programs



Photo by Andrew West/The News-Press

EXHIBITS

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Book Review

The Madness Of Crowds



by Di Saggau

Louise Penny's mystery *The Madness of Crowds* is the 17th entry in the series about top Quebec cop Armand Gamache. It's timely and thrilling. We again are able to revisit Three Pines,

the community in which Penny has built story upon story. An hour or so from Montreal, it's a place where neighbors are friends. The bistro and bookstore are always welcoming, and escape from one's worries is easily accomplished.

The pandemic is over, but not everything has returned to normal.

In her author's notes, Penny says she considered simply ignoring the COVID-19 crisis, but realized she couldn't. Instead, she projected ahead to when life would struggle to return to normal in a world forever changed.

The book has a huge cast, including many familiar friends and a few new ones. The chief inspector finds his family holiday interrupted by what seems to be a simple request. He's asked to provide security for a visiting professor of statistics who will be giving a lecture at the nearby university. The job sounds easy enough, and he wonders why he is assigned the task. He

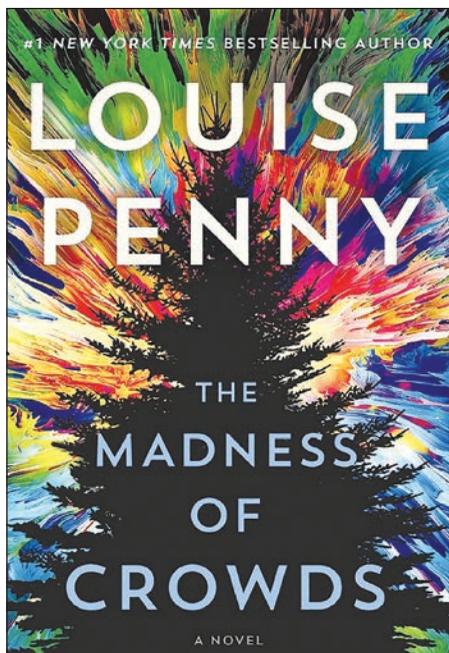


image provided

looks into Professor Abigail Robinson, a charismatic speaker with an appalling idea for setting society on a new course. He discovers an agenda so repulsive he tries to cancel the lecture. The university refuses.

Soon, the professor's views start seeping into conversations, making truth and fact, and reality and delusion so confused, it's hard to tell them apart. Sides are declared and a madness takes hold. Robinson says all will be well if everyone follows her, but Gamache and his team know better.

The title *The Madness of Crowds* comes from a book that is real and is in Gamache's library. It is titled *Extraordinary Popular Delusions and the Madness of Crowds*. It was first

published in 1841 by Charles Mackay. It's a series of nonfiction essays looking at why sane people believe the nuttiest things. What happens to tip people over into madness?✱

School Smart



by Shelley M. Greggs, NCSP

Dear Readers,

As we get more involved in the holiday season, family schedules can change quickly, and these changes may alter the routines of your children. While it's important to be

flexible, it's also important to stick to some critical routines more carefully. Bedtime and appropriate sleep hygiene routines are very important to keep. Quality sleep is crucial for everyone's wellbeing and especially for children.

Sleep patterns change dramatically in early childhood, so establishing a healthy sleep pattern in early life is very important for child development. Sleep plays a critical role in learning and memory, emotional regulation and related brain structure development. Preschool children need about 11 to 13 hours of sleep daily; elementary students need approximately nine to 12 hours of sleep; and adolescents/teens need about eight to 10 hours of sleep nightly.

Sleep matters because it recharges children's bodies and brains so they can learn.

Good sleep helps them feel calm and refreshed, make good choices, pay attention in school, maintain a healthy weight, remember what they have learned, avoid getting hurt and overall feel better.

Children can usually compensate for one night of poor sleep, but more than that may cause problems. Children who are short on sleep may often make poor choices, have more meltdowns, forget

what they've learned, lose focus in class, and have more trouble in social or sport settings.

In more serious cases when children are sleep-deprived, they are more prone to making risky choices. And for teens, there is increased use of cigarettes and other illicit substances. Children who are sleep deprived have more difficulty maintaining a healthy weight, and they experience more feelings of anxiousness, sadness and hopelessness. They are mentally and physically exhausted.

Healthy sleep routines should look like this: Children should be able to fall asleep within 15 to 30 minutes of going to bed. They will be alert in the morning, not need constant reminders to get up and will not need excessive naps. They arise refreshed and able to start their new day easily.

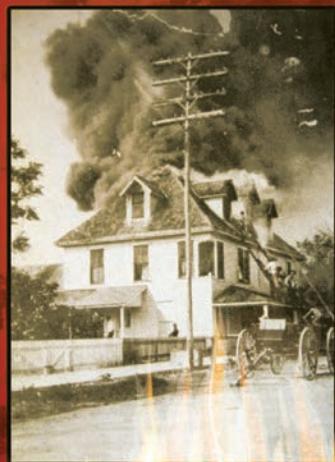
Sleep and nightly routines can be complex, but there are some basic principles that will help create a better sleep environment. Make sure your child does not consume caffeine after midday. Screen time should end about an hour prior to bedtime, and children should avoid vigorous exercise close to bedtime as well. Also, make sure to have a simple nightly bedtime routine for everyone, with consistent bedtimes and wake-up times.

The benefits of good sleep are numerous and include better concentration and performance in school as well as in sports, increased alertness, and better mood and affect.

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. To contact her, email smgreggs@gmail.com or visit www.schoolconsultationservices.com.✱

EPIC FIRES OF FORT MYERS

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



THOMAS P. HALL
ROBIN C. TUTHILL, EDITOR

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"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

Boost Holiday Recycling Efforts

Here are tips for the 2021 holiday season so residents can recycle, know what can be repurposed and know what needs to go in the trash bin.

Lee County's waste stream generally increases about 20 percent during the holidays, but taking even a few small steps can help reduce waste generated in your home.

Deep-fried turkey is a holiday tradition for many Florida families. Residents can safely and responsibly dispose of any leftover cooking oil at no charge. Take used oils or grease in sealed, unbreakable, leak-proof containers to Lee County Household Chemical Waste Facility at 6441 Topaz Court in Fort Myers. Used cooking oil can be refined and reused for power generation or heating.

Aluminum and tin cans, glass bottles, jars and plastic containers can be recycled if plastic containers are labeled #1 through #7, and they are empty, clean and dry.

Paper plates, used napkins and plastic utensils go in the trash.

Think about which gift bags, boxes, tissues and bows you could potentially store and reuse next holiday season. Break down your shipping boxes and gift boxes and place them in your recycling bin. Recycle only boxes that do not contain a liquid. Put used wrapping paper in your recycling bin unless it has a metallic finish.

Air pockets and bubble wrap are not recyclable in your home recycling cart. Put them in your trash or check availability to recycle them at some area grocery stores.

Be sure to remove the tree stand, lights, decoration and tinsel. Broken and burned out strands of lights go in the trash. Set green Christmas trees out with your yard waste. Trees will be ground for use as mulch or compost.

Flocked trees with that snow-covered look cannot be recycled due to the white, powdery mixture on their branches. Put them with your trash.

For more information about recycling and waste disposal, contact Lee County Solid Waste at 533-8000 or visit www.leegov.com/solidwaste.✱



From left, Christi Finger, Nicki McTeague, Alyssa Gonzalez, Teri Hansen, Phil Barrera, Olivia Orth, Jonathan Price and Melissa Mitchell photo provided

Marketing Firm Wins Awards For Video Production

Priority Marketing earned four international Davey Awards for video excellence from the Academy of Interactive and Visual Arts, which honors the top media, advertising and marketing firms around the world.

The 17th annual Davey Awards attracted more than 2,000 entries from ad agencies, digital agencies, production firms, in-house creative professionals, graphic designers, design firms and public relations firms.

Priority Marketing earned four silver awards for four separate video projects:

Lee Health Foundation (Category: General - Charitable/Nonprofit) – Virtual

video tour of Golisano Children’s Hospital of Southwest Florida, narrated by a former pediatric patient.

Guadalupe Center (Category: Virtual & Remote Experiences, Events & Festivals) – Interactive livestream for Cirtctacular, a fundraising extravaganza that raised more than \$1 million.

Elite Jets (Category: General - Products & Services) – Corporate video highlighting the Naples-based company’s white diamond concierge services, luxury travel experiences and top safety ratings.

Kids’ Minds Matter (Category: Film/Video-Charitable/Nonprofit) – Testimonial video shown during Secret Garden Gala to raise awareness and support for pediatric mental and behavioral health programs.

Since 2006, Priority Marketing has won 28 Davey Awards. Visit www.daveyawards.com/winners/winners for a complete list of winners.✪

New Chair For Tourism Council

The Lee County Board of County Commissioners (BoCC) have appointed Commission Chairman Cecil Pendergrass as chair of the Tourist Development Council (TDC).

“I am excited to chair the Tourist Development Council,” Pendergrass said. “Tourism is an economic engine for Lee County, and I look forward to working with the VCB to build on current successes.”



Cecil Pendergrass

Pendergrass, who was named BoCC chairman on November 16, replaces TDC Chairman and Lee County Commissioner Brian Hamman. Pendergrass served as TDC chairman from 2017 to 2019. He was elected to the BoCC District 2 seat in 2012.

Pendergrass, a lifelong Lee County resident, served for 25 years with the City of Fort Myers Police Department. After retirement, he became vice president for Private Asset Management Group, an independent financial asset firm. He and his wife, Jodi, live and raised their two children in Lee County.

The nine-member TDC was

established as an advisory board to the BoCC in 1983 to increase off-season tourism in Lee County.

For more information, visit www.leevcb.com and www.lee.gov/bocc.✪

Record-Breaking Airport Traffic

During October, a record-breaking 769,524 passengers traveled through Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW) in Fort Myers. This was an increase of 84 percent compared to October 2020, and 20 percent more than the passenger traffic in October 2019. Year-to-date, passenger traffic is up 71 percent compared to last year. This is the sixth consecutive month that RSW has reported record-breaking passenger traffic.

The traffic leader in October was Southwest with 173,552 total passengers. Rounding out the top five airlines were Delta (157,161), American (122,882), United (102,435) and JetBlue (66,809).

Southwest Florida International Airport had 7,092 aircraft operations, an increase of 32 percent compared to October 2020. Page Field saw 13,684 operations, a 10 percent increase compared to October 2020.

Southwest Florida International Airport served nearly six million passengers in 2020 and is one of the top 50 U.S. airports for passenger traffic.✪

New Teller At Community Bank

Cheryl Nicolai has joined Sanibel Captiva Community Bank as a teller at its McGregor Branch, located at 15975 McGregor Boulevard. She is responsible for assisting customers

with personal and business banking transactions.

Nicolai has worked in the banking industry in Minnesota for six years and recently relocated to Southwest Florida. She also has an extensive background in customer service, working in the medical and hospitality fields.✪



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Will Power

My Bubby's Silver Dollar



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

In this season of giving, I think of the most valuable gift I received. It was no less than 45 years ago when my great-grandmother, who I affectionately called my "Bubby" was babysitting me and my little sister. Bubby gave me special treatment, not only because I was her first great-grandchild, I was also her only great-grandson. My parents had named me after her deceased husband, Charles, and my given Hebrew name – Gedaliah – was his. Not only that, but my Bubby and I always celebrated our birthdays together as hers was March 5 and mine March 4.

It was New Year's Eve of 1976 (when I was all of 12 years old) when my Bubby and I sat together on her easy chair to watch Dick Clark ring in the new year. Shortly after the ball dropped, she reached into her pocketbook, taking out an 1890 Indian head silver dollar coin.

She went on to explain (in her Germanic-Yiddish accent) its significance. "When I was a very young girl, my father fled to America to escape the pogroms in our native homeland of what was then Austria. He didn't have enough money to secure passage for my mother and me and had to work several years on the lower east side of the city to earn the money necessary to bring us to New York."

She told me of her fear; that when she got to America, her father wouldn't recognize her or love her. Her mother told her that thought was nonsense, of course, but in the 1890s, overseas communication (delivery of letters) was difficult and rare. She had little communication from her father since he left.

Bubby described seeing the awe-inspiring Statue of Liberty as her ship sailed into Ellis Island and feared that during the immigration processing, she would be diagnosed with tuberculosis or some other disease and not allowed entry.

Finally, she made it through the ordeal, after which she and her mother were reunited with her father, who she described as a large man with a booming laugh and big furry beard. He scooped her up in his arms and gave her this 1890 silver dollar, which was an American coin dating to the year of her birth. Back then – at the end of the 19th century – a silver dollar was a lot of money, too!

"This silver dollar signifies the riches that America brings us in our new life together!" he exclaimed. My Bubby kept that silver dollar with her every day

of her life.

At that moment when she handed it to me, she said, "Here, my dear Craig – I want you to have it." I tried to refuse but she insisted. Later that year, my Bubby would die of cancer – none of us knew that she was even sick that New Year's Eve. I still think of her daily. She was a sweet, loving and kind woman.

For one of my birthdays, my wife framed that silver dollar along with a picture of my Bubby and I celebrating the last birthday we would have together. Today, more than 45 years later, it hangs in a prominent place in my home, and my three daughters all know its story. In fact, my family purchased a place for her name on a plaque at Ellis Island. It was an emotional moment for me when visiting there with my wife and children, telling them this story – and seeing her name inscribed near pictures of the steamships that brought so many people to a place that promised hope and a new life.

While anyone might purchase an 1890 Indian head silver dollar on the open market for \$90 or \$100 – it is invaluable to me. It ties me to my heritage – to my ancestors – and symbolizes the struggles, hopes and dreams that they lived and died for so subsequent generations of the family could live in freedom and enjoy a fruitful life.

My Bubby's silver dollar reminds me of the risks that they took – leaving everyone and everything that they ever knew for a land that offered promise – even though they hadn't yet learned to speak English, all so that their progeny could thrive.

As far as inheritances go, I've never expected to receive much in the realm of money or property from my family. They're not very wealthy people. But we do have a rich heritage and I was given a gift of far greater value, a piece of my history.

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Lee County Adjust Holiday Schedules

Most Lee County administrative operations will be closed December 23 and 24 in observance of the Christmas holiday, as well as December 30 and 31, for the New Year's holiday.

The holiday schedule adjustments:

Solid Waste – All garbage, recycling and yard waste collections will continue on regular collection days through the holidays, which fall on the weekends.

Christmas trees without the stand, lights and decorations, including tinsel, can be set out with regular yard waste. All wrapping paper, except metallic, is recyclable – along with cardboard boxes. Plastic ribbons and bows are not recyclable.

LeeTran – LeeTran will operate its regularly scheduled bus service December 24, but no service December 25. Routes that typically have Sunday service will resume December 26 and the remainder will resume December 27.

LeeTran will operate its regularly scheduled bus service December 31, but no service January 1. Routes that typically have Sunday service will resume January 2 and the remainder will resume January 3. Visit www.rideleetrans.com for specific route information.

Parks & Recreation – Beaches, boat ramps, parks and preserves will be open December 23, 24 and 25, as well as December 30, 31 and January 1. The administration office will be closed December 23 and 24, resuming regular hours December 27, then closed December 30 and 31, resuming regular hours January 3.

Pools are closed December 24 through 26, resuming regular hours December 27, then closed December 31 through January 3, resuming operating hours January 4.

North Fort Myers, Wa-Ke Hatchee, Veterans and Estero will be closed through the holidays due to scheduled annual maintenance. For closures and alternative parks sites, visit www.leeparks.org. Centers will reopen January 3.

Lee County Library System – All libraries will be closed December 24 and 25, resuming regular hours December 27, then closed December 31 and January 1, and resuming regular hours on January 3. Administrative offices will be closed December 23 and 24, resuming regular hours December 27, then closed December 30 and 31, and resuming regular hours January 3. The online library is available at www.leelibrary.net.

Lee County Domestic Animal Services – The Lost & Found Pet Center and the Pet Adoption Center will be closed December 24 and 25, resuming regular hours December 27, then closed December 31 and January 1, resuming regular hours January 3. Visit www.leelostpets.com for more information.

Lee County Utilities – The drive-thru window will be closed December 23 and 24, then reopen December 27, then closed December 30 and 31, before reopening on January 3. A drop-box is on-site at the front door and another is accessible via the drive-thru for payments by check. A drop-box is also available at the Lee County Community Development/Public Works Center located at 1500 Monroe Street in Fort Myers (near the eastern entrance on Monroe Street). The call center will be closed December 23 and 24, reopen December 27, then close December 30 and 31, before reopening January 3.✧

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Superior Interiors

Redesigning A Small Room That Packs A Punch



by Katie Frederick

Does your home have that one nook or room that makes it difficult to make the most of its space? You can't figure out how to decorate it, let alone articulate how exactly you

can maximize the area and utilize it to its fullest potential.

Whether it's a bedroom, makeshift workspace, or a little corner that your kids use for playtime, there are specific design tips and elements you can incorporate into the living area that can make it seem larger than it actually is. Color, furniture and decor choice all play a major role in how you can have fun with design and really pack a punch out of what could've been an ignored, empty space.

Evaluate your needs within the living space. How do you currently use this space? Do you have new plans after renovating the small area? These are valid questions to consider as you decide what type of decor and furniture you'll need. Take the following scenarios, for example:

For a small workspace – All you need is a desk, chair and some type of storage space. We recommend vertical shelving here so you can free up the floor space that a bookshelf or storage unit would take up.

For a bedroom – Take a minimalist approach here as well. Your bedroom should have a bed and storage for your clothing. Other furniture can make it feel cluttered, so keep it minimal and include

only the necessities.

Use appropriate colors – Unfortunately, certain colors and shades can make your small space feel even more minuscule and cluttered. Dark colors should be avoided in this case; they absorb light and make the four walls feel more closed in. Lighter shades can create the illusion of a larger area – that's because they're more reflective and maximize the way light moves around the room. During the initial stages of your redesign process, keep this tip in mind. A neutral color scheme can work wonders over one that's dark and deep. The 2021 Pantone Color(s) of The Year, ultimate gray and illuminating, are two excellent choices for a smaller room, for example.

Take lighting seriously – As previously mentioned, light means everything in a tiny space. We always talk about the importance of lighting regardless of your living space arrangements, but it doesn't get more important than this scenario.

Take advantage of natural lighting to its fullest extent by keeping window coverings as minimal and sheer as possible. If there's little opportunity for outdoor lighting, artificial illumination will work wonders here. Try to keep your lighting options off of the ground to avoid taking up unnecessary space; hanging sconces are helpful in this scenario. Of course, if you have a desk or side table in your room, lamps are also useful here.

Use multifunctional furniture as much as you can. When you're minimizing the amount of furniture in your rooms, you still need to make sure that you have enough storage for your belongings. That's where multifunctional furniture becomes the best friend of a small space. A bed base with drawers is ideal for the bedroom, while a desk with built-in compartments reduces the need for additional storage options.

Katie Frederick is an interior designer on Sanibel/Captiva Islands. She can be reached at katie@coinciden.com.✱

Environmental Nonprofit Nets Innovation Award

Kee Lee County Beautiful, Inc. (KLCB) recently received the Innovation Award from Keep America Beautiful, Inc. at the 2021 Keep America Beautiful National Conference in Washington D.C.

The Keep America Beautiful National Awards program recognizes the best of the best among the network of over 700 community-based affiliates, leading corporate partners and individual volunteers across the country who have committed to delivering cleaner, greener and more beautiful communities.

KLCB was granted the Innovation Award for its "Growing Community Roots" program, which introduces agriculture back into the schools and increases the native tree canopy. The program will be launched in local high

schools next fall where a school will have its own tree farm with students being responsible for the care. Once the trees reach a certain maturity, they will be used in KLCB projects. Students in the program will be offered a tree to take home to plant, and the others will be sold. All profits will be split between the school and KLCB.

The initiative for the program began after Hurricane Irma in 2017. "The destructive path of Irma destroyed the tree population throughout the entire state of Florida. Our Growing Community Roots program is vital to rebuild our local supply of native trees and will serve as an important educational component in Lee County schools," explained KLCB's Executive Director Trish Fancher.

Schools are encouraged to email trish@klcb.org for more information on how to become a part of this program. Visit www.klcb.org for more information on KLCB and the programs focused on protecting and preserving the environment.✱

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Frankly Speaking

by Howard Prager



We just got back from Hawaii, where the world championship Xterra triathlon took place and, no, the paper did not send me and that wasn't the purpose of

our trip, just coincidental. My daughter Hillary has competed in the Ironman (whose world championship finals are held in Hawaii). So what is the XTERRA World Championship race? According to the XTERRA website, "The race combines a 1.5-kilometer (1 mile) swim, a 31-kilometer (19.2 miles) mountain bike ride that climbs 3,500 feet up and down the lower slopes of the West Maui Mountains, and a 10.5-kilometer (6.5-miles) trail run that traverses forest trails and beach sand. The XTERRA World Championship race is the last in a series of 38 off-road triathlon races held in 21 countries. The concept is to provide a bona-fide world championship for amateur and elite off-road triathletes. For pros, there is \$100,000 in prize money at stake. More than 1,000 athletes from 35 countries gathered on December 5, and faced extreme weather." We were on Maui and got caught in some torrential rain

and dangerous floods. The swim was cancelled for the first time in 25 years due to massive surf and hazardous rip currents. "The race converted to a run-bike-run duathlon that started with a 3K run and followed with a grueling two-lap 31K mountain bike ride and finished with an 11K trail run through forest trails and beach sand. The bike and run courses went from being a tough course to a literal slip-and-slide for bike riders. The nearly 4,000 feet of combined climbing on the increasingly technical bike and run courses, an already challenging course, got even harder with many bikes slipping and falling in the mud. Just 50 seconds separated the top three finishers. Hayden Wilde from New Zealand and Flora Duffy from Bermuda captured the elite titles.

The Honolulu marathon was also the same weekend. The race was a third its normal size, in part because Japanese, who typically make up 50 percent of runners, didn't participate due to COVID restrictions. Emmanuel Saina from Kenya won. He last won in Buenos Aires in 2018 but has been a frequent Top 10 finisher, most recently finishing fifth in Rotterdam in October.

We keep seeing new "trends" in college football and now it's more players opting out of playing bowl games. As reported in the *USA Today*, the idea of a player opting out of a bowl game rankles Mississippi State football coach Mike Leach. "You've got an obligation to the place that helped build and develop you and finish it out in the bowl," Leach said. "That's part of it. You owe it to

your team, you owe it to your fans, you owe it to your coaches, and it's the most bizarre thing in the world to me. Somebody says, 'Well, I can't play one more game.' They think they're going to have a storied 10-year NFL career, and then they can't play one more college game. Well, that's ridiculous."

The other "trend" is coaches leaving schools before bowl games, like Brian Kelly and Lincoln Riley. This is not a new trend. In 2013, reporters talked about coaches being "scared" that their opportunity would be lost if they didn't take the job. Now? Maybe it's the high school commitment date which begins December 15. Granted, that portal is well over a month long, but the best coaches want the best players, and the best players want to know who their coach will be. It seems like the easiest way to change this is just to move the signing date for high schoolers to be able to commit to a school until after all the bowl games. That way, the coach has no incentive to leave beforehand. The other comment I've seen is getting to the bowl game counts; the results don't really matter. As a fan, I think every game matters, and of course for alums, travelling to a bowl game can't be beat. What do you think?

Our good news story of the week involves Tom Brady again in a different light, as reported by Jamie Edmonds of WDIV in Detroit about Notre Dame High School in Pontiac, Michigan. "The group text for the Notre Dame Prep freshman basketball team was created to talk about practice and ride sharing. Vinny Tartaglia was in charge of adding cell phone numbers. "We were trying to add people, and the last person was Luca, but I was one digit off," Tartaglia said. So last week a stranger, not teammate Luca, was suddenly included in the chat.

The unknown person texted: "Ya'll meant to add me to this?" "Yes." "You know who I am? I'm Sean Murphy-Bunting." The Michigan native and Tampa Bay Buccaneers cornerback sent a photo of himself. "Everyone was skeptical, it's definitely not an NFL player, right?" Tartaglia said. That's when Murphy-Bunting FaceTimed the group.

Leonard Fournette walked us through the locker room and showed us all the players," Nate Seaman said. "Sean

Murphy-Bunting, Mike Evans, Lavonte Davis, Gronk, Richard Sherman. That's when we all said, where's the GOAT?" A few minutes later, Tom Brady joined the FaceTime call, and everyone about lost their minds. "I thought, 'I should grab my Michigan Brady jersey because I have one and I'm a Michigan fan too'," AJ Valentine said. "I told him Go Blue! We're going to beat OSU!" The Super Bowl champions made these boys' year in just about 30 minutes time. "They didn't have to do that for us," Seaman said. "They could have easily said, 'I'm going to leave the group chat and just left, but Murphy-Bunting and Fournette made our day.'" So how did this epic Facetime call end? With Murphy-Bunting telling the Irish: 'Ball out this season!'

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 to press@islandnews.com.

Boardwalk Closed At Twins Stadium

The Lee County Board of County Commissioners recently approved an agreement with Manhattan Construction Inc. for an engineering study and repairs of Hammond Stadium at the Lee County Sports Complex. Due to public safety, the boardwalk section will be closed while the continuing structural review is conducted.

The county anticipates an engineering report in the near future. Lee County, in partnership with the Minnesota Twins, has decided to halt spring training ticket sales for boardwalk portion seating. Ticket sales for the remainder of the stadium are ongoing. The boardwalk can accommodate about 1,700 ticketed individuals; the stadium's capacity is 8,730.

The closure of the boardwalk does not impact current activities at the stadium, which opened in 1991 at 14100 Six Mile Cypress Parkway in Fort Myers. The boardwalk was added during a renovation in 2014-15. For updates about the review, visit www.leegov.com/hammondstadium.

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- SPORTS INJURIES



Brian Hutcheson, DC

Ross Hauser, MD

Danielle Matias, MMS, PA-C

9738 Commerce Center Ct., Fort Myers, FL 33908 | (239) 308-4725 | CaringMedical.com

SPORTS QUIZ

1. What competition, created and televised by ESPN in the early 2000s, featured fishing, sporting dogs, target sports and timber events?
2. Ullamalitzli – resembling a combination of modern soccer and basketball – was a sport played by what ancient civilization?
3. At the 1992 Barcelona Summer Olympics, 12 of the 15 former Soviet Union republics competed together under what name?
4. What 1996 sports comedy film starred Adam Sandler as a failed hockey player who discovers a knack for golf?
5. Name the San Francisco 49ers placekicker who set the NFL single-season record with 44 field goals made in 2011?
6. Legendary figure skaters Willy Bockl, Karl Schafer and Emmerich Danzer all hailed from what country?
7. In July 1991, Dennis Martinez threw a perfect game pitching for what Major League Baseball team?

ANSWERS

1. The Great Outdoor Games. 2. The Aztecs. 3. The United Team. 4. Happy Gilmore. 5. David Akers. 6. Austria. 7. The Montreal Expos.

Doctor and Dietician

Are You Magnesium Deficient?



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

Magnesium is a mineral found throughout nature and is an important electrolyte for our bodies. Ninety-nine percent of our bodies' magnesium is stored in the bones, muscles and soft tissues, while only about one percent is concentrated in the blood. Magnesium is needed as a cofactor to many enzyme systems that affect muscle and nerve function, blood sugar control, blood pressure and many other functions.

Unfortunately, magnesium deficiency in the U.S. population is quite common. It is estimated that less than 60 percent of American adults take in adequate amounts of magnesium in their diets. When we ran our Oak Park, Illinois natural medicine branch of Caring Medical, we regularly checked magnesium levels... and nearly every patient showed deficiency.

Amazingly enough, just getting enough magnesium in the diet can alleviate a lot of health issues. Magnesium deficiency has been associated with muscle pain, headaches, heart disease, insulin resistance, type 2 diabetes, attention deficit disorder and even Alzheimer's disease. Symptoms and conditions also include restless leg syndrome; behavioral disorders; mood swings; PMS symptoms; muscle weakness and cramping; headaches; hypertension; nutrient imbalances in calcium, potassium, and vitamin D; insomnia; constipation; and recurring bacterial or fungal infections.

Even if you consume a healthy diet, you can still be magnesium deficient due to the low nutrient value of many of our food sources. Therefore, we recommend

being mindful to intentionally include magnesium-containing foods in your daily food intake. Top magnesium-containing foods include avocado, figs, bananas, spinach, Swiss chard, wheat bran, dark chocolate, sunflower seeds, cashews, mackerel, flaxseeds, almonds/almond butter, pumpkin seeds, amaranth, yogurt, spirulina, quinoa, black beans and mung beans.

The daily recommendations for magnesium are 420 mg for men, 320 mg for women, and around 150 to 200 mg per day for children. Regular consumption of dark greens, nuts, seeds and legumes is the best way to keep your magnesium levels where they should be.

Sometimes magnesium supplementation is needed, especially if you have cardiac issues, gastrointestinal issues, poor digestion or a liver disorder, or if you are an athlete, requirements may be higher. Over-the-counter magnesium powders are typically safe and effective.

If you are dealing with sleep issues, restless legs, depression, premenstrual syndrome or constipation, consider the possibility of a magnesium deficiency. Add more magnesium-containing foods to your diet and consider supplementation if you have malabsorption and/or requirements are higher. Magnesium will provide you with that peaceful, easy feeling.

*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.**

Help A Veteran For The Holidays

Collection sites for the annual Shoes and Socks for Homeless Veterans campaign are open through Thursday, December 23. Help these veterans get back to work by providing new shoes and socks this holiday season. The following locations accept donations:

Bailey's General Store – 2477 Periwinkle Way on Sanibel
St. Isabel Catholic Church – 3559 Sanibel-Captiva Road on Sanibel
St. Columbkille Catholic Church – 12171 Iona Road in Fort Myers

For more information, visit www.songsandstoriesforsoldiers.us.*

dearRPharmacist

How To Treat Food Poisoning



by Suzy
Cohen, RPh

Dear Readers: Food today is frequently contaminated, and it's getting scary. Case in point, recently I wanted to make a salmon fillet with lemon and onion slices

on top of it, and serve it with a baked potato and a salad with tomatoes. Such a simple dinner, what could go wrong? A lot! The meal could not be made because every single item I had in the house had been recalled due to contamination or was rotten.

1. Onions and Fish – Every single onion had to be thrown away because of a nationwide recall due to salmonella contamination. This was a massive recall in case you didn't know.

Salmon was questionable. I had bought it locally, and then found out the salmonella outbreak involved many states, was traced back close to home in Denver, Colorado. Ended up throwing the fish out just in case.

2. Slimy Lettuce – I tried to make a salad. I opened the package of three heads of baby romaine and two of them were dissolving right before my eyes – dripping with wet, slimy liquid, a sign of decomposition.

3. Rotten Tomatoes – The tomatoes I bought in a plastic, covered, three-pack container were covered in white mold on the underside.

4. Moldy Lemons – I had gone to a big box retailer and purchased a large bag of lemons. Two days later, I went to the kitchen eager to use them, and every lemon had to be thrown out due to whitish-green mold festering on them.

5. Bad Potatoes – I wanted to make a baked potato, but upon peeling them, they turned bright green.

The details regarding my potato problem are posted at my website in a longer version of this article which you can read at www.suzycohen.com. This article also includes numerous other recalls, as

well as more solutions about how to treat foodborne illness.

Since there have been many fatalities and a spike in hospitalizations from food poisoning, seek professional medical attention if you get sick because things can go south pretty quickly if it's listeria, salmonella, E. coli, norovirus, clostridium, hepatitis and others that are lurking around right now.

Recognize the symptoms and seek medical attention immediately if you experience severe vomiting or watery diarrhea, fever, chills, weakness, fainting, dehydration, painful or unrelenting stomach cramps, a stiff neck, jaundice and vertigo.

Here's how you can treat mild symptoms:

1. Change your diet and maintain hydration with electrolytes.

2. Try over-the-counter (OTC) medications such as Imodium or Pepto-Bismol help sometimes with mild diarrhea. These drugs are for mild, self-limiting gastroenteritis not severe foodborne illness.

3. Drink herbal tea with chamomile peppermint, ginger or fennel. These are available commercially.

If something has a bad odor, is slimy or tastes funny just throw it out. Don't eat anything questionable because the risk to benefit ratio is bad. Stay informed and keep track of food (and drug) recalls by visiting the FDA's website.

*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 Donors Needed

Lee Health is seeking blood donations to help replenish supply levels. 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.

All blood donated at Lee Health stays within the health system to care for patients in Southwest Florida.

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

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SCCF
SANIBEL-CAPTIVA CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

LEE COUNTY
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM

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

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

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

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

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

PUZZLES

Answers on page 23



"First, could you lend me a dime for the _____?"

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!

Heed
GRADER

Blend
LEMING

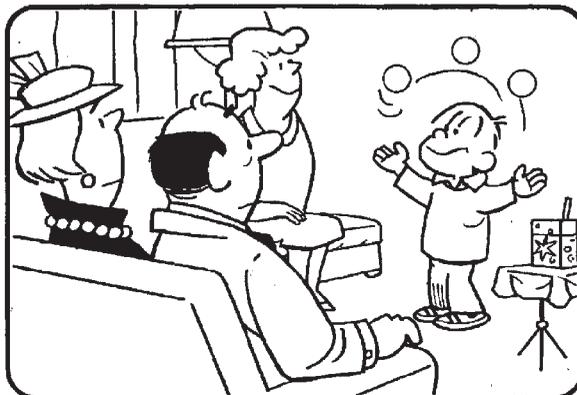
Pad
BATTLE

Corrected
TREES

TODAY'S WORD

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Table is moved. 2. Ball is missing. 3. Glasses are added. 4. Pants are different. 5. Hair is added. 6. Necktie is removed.

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

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.

PUZZLES

Answers on page 23

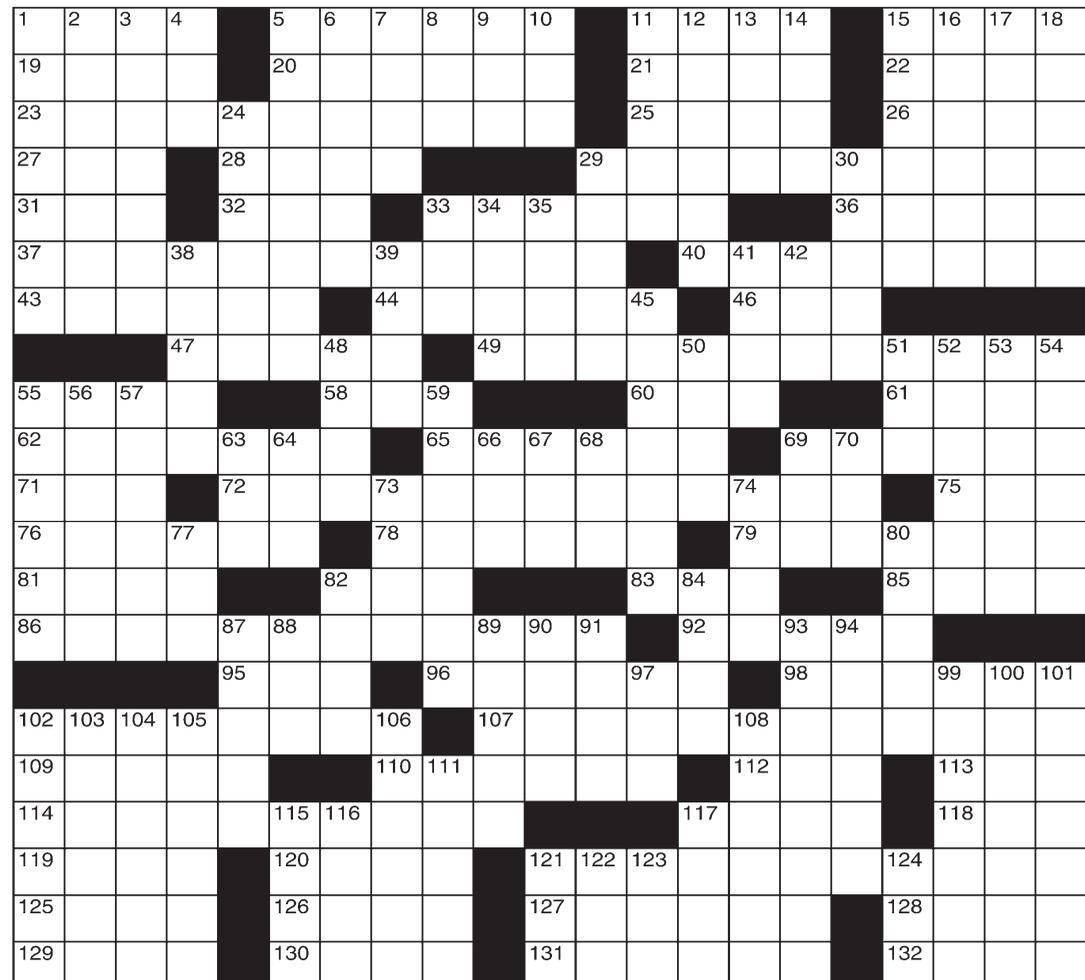
Super Crossword

ANIMATED WOOFERS

- ACROSS**
- 1 Agree (with)
 - 5 Ability to cope well with difficulty
 - 11 Mini-devils
 - 15 Girl
 - 19 Forget to say
 - 20 Vocation
 - 21 Heist booty
 - 22 — Stanley Gardner
 - 23 She played Kira Nerys on "Deep Space Nine"
 - 25 Sicilian resort city
 - 26 Rain-starved
 - 27 Get ripper
 - 28 Taken with
 - 29 Legendary nude horse rider
 - 31 Small bird
 - 32 Enthaloed Fr. woman
 - 33 Lightning source, as shortened in weather reports
 - 36 Like wicker baskets
 - 37 Rotating rocket ride at Disney theme parks
 - 40 Alternatives to dice
 - 43 Has the helm
 - 44 Exactly
 - 46 Lime drink
 - 47 "Oh, go on!"
 - 49 Kevin Bacon's "Footloose" role
 - 55 Spring-loaded stick
 - 58 R&B's Rawls
 - 60 Suffix with script
 - 61 Elvis — Presley
 - 62 Twitched, as a muscle
 - 65 Pasta strip
 - 69 Raiment
 - 71 — and yang
 - 72 Depressing or untidy sort
 - 75 Santa —, California
 - 76 Overprotect
 - 78 Most ashen
 - 79 Discovered
 - 81 Old cracker brand
 - 82 Short time, for short
 - 83 Sheeran and O'Neill
 - 85 Regatta tools
 - 86 Grammy nominee for writing the Lee Ann Womack hit "I May Hate Myself in the Morning"
 - 92 Retort to "No you're not!"
 - 95 Moray, say
 - 96 Gin mill
 - 98 Be emphatic
 - 102 Moniker for Boston's locale
 - 107 Flying disc renamed "Frisbee" in 1957
 - 109 Zones
 - 110 FDR part
 - 112 "Indeedy"
 - 113 "Law & Order: —" (NBC series since '99)
 - 114 Silly grin
 - 117 Gravy Train competitor
 - 118 Insult, in rap
 - 119 Be very mad
 - 120 Baseball's Ty
 - 121 Their names begin eight answers in this puzzle
 - 125 Wields
 - 126 Major city in Norway
 - 127 Squirrel food
 - 128 Actress Hathaway
 - 129 Period before 6-Down
 - 130 Close-call cry
 - 131 Present in a different form
 - 132 Attention-getting cries
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Piano recital pieces
 - 2 Free-verse poet
 - 3 Kitchen nook
 - 4 Hellenic H
 - 5 Red apple
 - 6 It follows Holy Week
 - 7 Stooges, e.g.
 - 8 New Year in Vietnam
 - 9 Zodiac sign
 - 10 Mess up
 - 11 "Word has it ..."
 - 12 Munchies from Mars
 - 13 Pint-size
 - 14 Smeltery junk
 - 15 Entice
 - 16 Get there
 - 17 Split-off bit
 - 18 Alternatives to coupes
 - 24 Sun blockers
 - 29 Oscar winner Sophia
 - 30 Proprietor
 - 33 Uncle, in Spanish
 - 34 Sky shiner
 - 35 Head, in French
 - 38 Creditors' takebacks
 - 39 Square in the first column of a bingo card
 - 41 Speed
 - 42 Nuptial vow
 - 45 Try to equal
 - 48 "We're No Angels" actor — Ray
 - 50 Regatta group
 - 51 Gym pad
 - 52 Pop singer Grande
 - 53 Intersection
 - 54 Presses and stretches
 - 55 Hitchcock film of 1960
 - 56 Downer drug
 - 57 India's Indra
 - 59 Takes stuff out of a suitcase
 - 63 Nero's 1,550
 - 64 Up 'til
 - 66 Popeye's Olive
 - 67 Lofty poem
 - 68 "ER" roles
 - 69 Exist
 - 70 Luggage-screening org.
 - 73 Oil gp.
 - 74 "Frozen" heroine
 - 77 Fawn nurser
 - 80 Hen's perch
 - 82 Road deicer
 - 84 T. rex, e.g.
 - 87 U.S. flag sewer Ross
 - 88 Meadowland
 - 89 Sappy tree
 - 90 Earthen cooking pot
 - 91 Person, place or thing
 - 93 Motorist's distance marker
 - 94 Attach with a click
 - 97 Siouan tribe
 - 99 "All finished!"
 - 100 "Kids" actress Chloë
 - 101 Bridge supports
 - 102 Amount a sack will hold
 - 103 Stimulate
 - 104 Naval petty officers
 - 105 Most secure
 - 106 OK for eating
 - 108 Traffic cones
 - 111 Funny bone locale
 - 115 Garbage barge
 - 116 Dance violently
 - 117 Razor choice
 - 121 Uber order
 - 122 Fabulous flier
 - 123 Fabled flier
 - 124 "Zip-a-Dee-Doo- —"

King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Alum
 - 5 Spell-off
 - 8 Pit
 - 12 Taylor of "Mystic Pizza"
 - 13 Approves
 - 14 Satan's forte
 - 15 Leading man?
 - 16 Landlocked Mideast territory
 - 18 Disney's Ariel, for one
 - 20 Van Gogh venue
 - 21 CBS logo
 - 22 Mimic
 - 23 Wedding VIP
 - 26 "I'm No Angel" actress
 - 30 '60s chic
 - 31 Green shade
 - 32 Cattle call
 - 33 "The Great Gatsby" setting
 - 36 Self-reproach
 - 38 Stop — dime
 - 39 "— voyage!"
 - 40 Skater Ohno
 - 43 Within earshot
 - 47 Oater setting
 - 49 Author Bellow
 - 50 Within (Pref.)
 - 51 "Shoo!"
 - 52 Exile isle
 - 53 Beheld
 - 54 Sugary suffix
 - 55 Marvel superheroes
 - 59 Takes stuff out of a suitcase
 - 63 Nero's 1,550
 - 64 Up 'til
 - 66 Popeye's Olive
 - 67 Lofty poem
 - 68 "ER" roles
 - 69 Exist
 - 70 Luggage-screening org.
 - 73 Oil gp.
 - 74 "Frozen" heroine
 - 77 Fawn nurser
 - 80 Hen's perch
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 - 108 Traffic cones
 - 111 Funny bone locale
 - 115 Garbage barge
 - 116 Dance violently
 - 117 Razor choice
 - 121 Uber order
 - 122 Fabulous flier
 - 123 Fabled flier
 - 124 "Zip-a-Dee-Doo- —"
 - 10 Queue
 - 11 BPOE members
 - 17 Carton sealer
 - 19 Nay undoer
 - 22 Motorist's org.
 - 23 Upscale auto
 - 24 Shad product
 - 25 Egos' counterparts
 - 26 Jo's sister
 - 27 Brit. record label
 - 28 Fa follower
 - 29 Youngster
 - 31 Links org.
 - 34 Ratted out
 - 35 Sufficient, old-style
 - 36 Deity
 - 37 Gender-neutral
 - 39 Montana city
 - 40 Dazzles
 - 41 Freshener scent
 - 42 Shoppe description
 - 43 Unrepaired
 - 44 Lip soother
 - 45 Garage job
 - 46 Panache
 - 48 Conceit
- DOWN**
- 1 Glitz partner
 - 2 Carousel, for one
 - 3 Winged
 - 4 Darkened
 - 5 "Let's Dance" singer
 - 6 Scratched (out)
 - 7 Curved letter
 - 8 Semitic language
 - 9 Cameo shape



MAGIC MAZE ● HORNED WORDS

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
 Unlisted clue hint: A LARGE WASP

- Alphorn
- Dehorn
- Hornlike
- Shorn
- Althorn
- Foghorn
- Hornpipe
- Thorns
- Bighorn
- Hawthorn
- Hornhorn
- Tinhorn
- Bullhorn
- Hornbill
- Shoehorn



Strawberry Cheesecake Dip

photo courtesy Fresh From Florida



Strawberry Cheesecake Dip

- 1/2 cup fresh strawberries, rinsed, dried and chopped fine
- 1/4 cup pecans, toasted and chopped fine
- 1/4 cup honey
- 1/3 cup freshly squeezed orange juice
- 1 cup low-fat cream cheese, softened
- 1 cup low-fat sour cream

Assorted cookies, graham crackers and fresh fruit for dipping and spreading
 Set aside 1 tablespoon each of the strawberries and pecans for garnish. In a small bowl lightly mix the strawberries, honey, and orange juice. In a separate bowl blend the cream cheese and sour cream until smooth. Add the strawberry mixture and fold together. Fold in the pecans then cover and chill. Garnish the top of the dip with the reserved strawberries and pecans. Serve with cookies and fruit for dipping.✱

PETS OF THE WEEK



Ace ID# A899308

photos provided

Lee County Domestic Animal Services

Ace And Lady

Hello, my name is Ace. I'm a white 9-month-old male Australian cattle dog mix. I fondly earned my name because I'm an ace at catching tennis balls while playing with the volunteers in the playyards. I would be a great dog to enroll in agility classes as I would be a fast learner and it would be fun for all. It would be a great family activity and keep me active and healthy at the same time. My adoption fee is \$75.

Hi, my name is Lady. I'm a tortie 2-year-old female domestic shorthair. I'm a super sweet and beautifully patterned tortie that knows how to work the camera to show my best



Lady ID# A894644

angle. I also know how to work Animal Services' staff and volunteers to get attention as soon as they walk into the room. I will stick my paws out as far as I can to let you know I'm there and must be recognized. My adoption fee is \$50, and you can adopt a feline friend for me at no additional charge.

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

My Stars ★★★★★

FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 13, 2021

- Aries** (March 21 to April 19) Make your holiday preparations one step at a time in order to avoid being overwhelmed and leaving things undone. That confusing family situation continues to work itself out.
- Taurus** (April 20 to May 20) Ease this year's holiday money pressures by letting your thrifty side guide you as you look for those perfect gifts that typically reflect your good taste and love of beauty.
- Gemini** (May 21 to June 20) You'll have a good handle on potential holiday problems if you delegate tasks to family members, friends or co-workers – most of whom will be more than happy to help out.
- Cancer** (June 21 to July 22) Right now you are especially vulnerable to holiday scams that seek to take advantage of your generosity. Best advice: Check them out before you send out your checks.
- Leo** (July 23 to August 22) The

- upcoming holiday season gives the Big Cat much to purr about. Relationships grow stronger, and new opportunities loom on the horizon, just waiting to be pounced on.
- Virgo** (August 23 to September 22) A changing situation brings conflicting advice about how to go forward with your holiday plans. Your best bet: Make the decision you feel most comfortable with.
- Libra** (September 23 to October 22) Holiday plans get back on track after some confusion about the direction you expected to take. A potentially troublesome money matter needs your immediate attention.
- Scorpio** (October 23 to November 21) Your holiday preparations are on track. But you need to confront a personal situation while you can still keep it from overwhelming everything else.
- Sagittarius** (November 22 to December 21) Tight financial matters ease a bit during this holiday season. But the sagacious Sagittarian is well-advised to keep a tight hold on the reins while shopping for gifts.

- Capricorn** (December 22 to January 19) Don't put off making decisions about this year's holiday celebrations, despite the negative comments you've been getting from several quarters. Do it NOW!
- Aquarius** (January 20 to February 18) The holidays will bring new friends and new opportunities. Meanwhile, be careful to use your energy wisely as you go about making holiday preparations.
- Pisces** (February 19 to March 20) There's good news coming from a most unlikely source. And it could turn out to be one of the best holiday gifts you have had in years. Remember to stay positive.
- Born This Week:** You are respected for your honesty and loyalty. You make friends slowly – but with rare exceptions, they're in your life forever.

MOMENTS IN TIME

- On December 25, 1776, Gen. George Washington crosses the Delaware River with 5,400 Patriot troops, hoping to surprise a Hessian force celebrating Christmas at their

- winter quarters in Trenton, New Jersey. Washington's men quickly overwhelmed the German defenders, who were groggy from the previous evening's festivities, and by morning the town was surrounded.
- On December 21, 1891, James Naismith introduces the game of basketball as an activity for bored and unruly students during difficult New England winters. Based on rules he created, the game was tested by 18 students at the International Young Men's Christian Association Training School in Massachusetts.
- On December 22, 1956, a baby gorilla enters the world at the Columbus Zoo in Ohio, becoming the first gorilla born in captivity. Colo went on to become a mother, grandmother and a great-grandmother to Timu, the first surviving infant gorilla conceived by artificial insemination. Colo died in 2017 at the age of 60.
- On December 26, 1966, Jimi Hendrix writes the lyrics to *Purple Haze*, the song that would give him his breakthrough hit. *Rolling Stone*

continued on page 22

 FRIDAY Partly Cloudy High: 80 Low: 68	 SATURDAY Partly Cloudy High: 81 Low: 70	 SUNDAY Mostly Cloudy High: 80 Low: 68	 MONDAY Mostly Cloudy High: 79 Low: 69	 TUESDAY Mostly Cloudy High: 78 Low: 67	 WEDNESDAY Few Showers High: 73 Low: 63	 THURSDAY Cloudy High: 72 Low: 61
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Redfish Pass Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	2:02 pm	6:11 am	10:56 pm	4:26 pm
Sat	2:48 pm	6:46 am	11:25 pm	4:46 pm
Sun	11:59 pm	7:21 am	None	None
Mon	None	7:57 am	None	None
Tue	12:36 am	8:33 am	4:31 pm	6:18 pm
Wed	1:17 am	9:12 am	4:58 pm	7:13 pm
Thu	2:02 am	9:52 am	5:27 pm	8:23 pm

Point Ybel Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	1:07 pm	6:13 am	10:01 pm	4:28 pm
Sat	1:53 pm	6:48 am	10:30 pm	4:48 pm
Sun	11:04 pm	7:23 am	None	None
Mon	11:41 pm	7:59 am	None	None
Tue	3:36 pm	8:35 am	None	6:20 pm
Wed	12:22 am	9:14 am	4:03 pm	7:15 pm
Thu	1:07 am	9:54 am	4:32 pm	8:25 pm

Punta Rassa Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	12:28 pm	6:07 am	11:28 pm	5:43 pm
Sat	12:59 pm	6:46 am	11:48 pm	6:09 pm
Sun	1:35 pm	7:25 am	None	6:27 pm
Mon	12:04 am	8:04 am	2:19 pm	6:43 pm
Tue	12:25 am	8:43 am	3:08 pm	7:11 pm
Wed	12:54 am	9:20 am	3:57 pm	7:55 pm
Thu	1:32 am	9:56 am	4:43 pm	8:49 pm

Cape Coral Bridge Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	12:40 am	9:27 am	4:12 pm	7:42 pm
Sat	1:06 am	10:02 am	4:58 pm	8:02 pm
Sun	1:35 am	10:37 am	None	None
Mon	2:09 am	11:13 am	None	None
Tue	2:46 am	11:49 am	6:41 pm	9:34 pm
Wed	3:27 am	12:28 pm	7:08 pm	10:29 pm
Thu	4:12 am	1:08 pm	7:37 pm	11:39 pm

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THE RIVER
WEEKLY NEWS
FROM THE BEACHES TO DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS

**Harry Chapin Food Bank
OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA**

From page 20

Moments In Time

magazine would later name *Purple Haze* one of the 100 Greatest Guitar Songs of All Time.

• On December 23, 1982, the Missouri Department of Health informs residents of Times Beach that their town was contaminated when the chemical dioxin was sprayed on its unpaved roads. The entire town was evacuated and demolished.

• On December 20, 1995, the United Nations peacekeeping force formally transfers military authority in Bosnia to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, clearing the way for deployment of some 60,000 NATO troops.

• On December 24, 1979, the Soviet Union invades Afghanistan under the pretext of upholding the Soviet-Afghan Friendship Treaty of 1978. Despite fierce resistance from the Afghan army, it took the Soviets only a few days to secure the capital of Kabul.

NOW HERE'S A TIP

• Candles will burn more evenly if you refrigerate them for a few hours before lighting.

• “My great-nephew and his family came to visit, and his toddler son is quite into opening doors. I had baby-proofed my home, but I did not think about

his being able to turn a doorknob. His very smart mother pulled out a sock and slipped it over the doorknob, then secured it with a wide rubber band. Even I was unable to get a good grip on the doorknob after that!”

– VR in North Carolina

• Surprise guests? Here’s how to quickly clean your living areas: First, clean the toilet, mirror and vanity in the guest bathroom and leave a fresh towel; grab a laundry basket and remove any clutter from the living room and kitchen; put away or clean dirty dishes and wipe down counters in the kitchen; finally, give carpets a quick vacuum. Then maybe light a great-smelling candle and greet your guests.

• “Fireplaces are wonderful for heat and ambience, but the ashes. When cleaning up, I spritz the ashes with a rosemary water solution. This keeps them from dusting up and flying all over, and it smells great. My neighbor puts her damp loose-leaf tea in the fireplace for scent.” – CW in Iowa

• “In cold winter months, keep your robe (and slippers or whatever else) under the covers with you when you sleep. Pull it next to or over you a few minutes before you get up. It’ll be toasty and will help make the transition into the cold a little less harsh.”

– Giselle in New York

• Empty spice containers can be used to hold different hardware in the shop or

in your toolbox.

STRANGE BUT TRUE

• In 2008, PETA requested Ben & Jerry’s use breastmilk instead of cow’s milk to make ice cream. This was unanimously rejected by Ben & Jerry’s and La Leche League International.

• Sixty-five percent of test subjects had the urge to yawn after reading about yawning.

• From 1746 until 1996, English law considered bagpipes not as a musical instrument, but a weapon of war, used to “instill courage in soldiers and put the fear of God into the enemy.”

• The kitchen dishwasher was invented by a politician’s socialite wife who was fed up with servants breaking her expensive dishes.

• Author Roger Highfield’s 1999 book *The Physics of Christmas: From the Aerodynamics of Reindeer to the Thermodynamics of Turkey* detailed a darker side to Rudolph’s famously red nose – not alcoholism, but some kind of parasitic infection.

• A tornado in Oklahoma once ripped a full motel off the ground. Its sign was later found in Arkansas.

• Born in 1924, a horse called Lady Wonder was considered by many to be psychic. Not only did she make predictions and answer questions for over 30 years and more than 150,000

people, she was credited with helping to solve several crimes.

• Chilean poet Pablo Neruda always wrote in green ink, which for him was a color of hope and abundance.

• LeBron James’s decision to leave Cleveland to join the Miami Heat was such a shocker that even Osama Bin Laden’s translator, who was being held at Guantanamo Bay prison in Cuba, wrote about it to his lawyers, declaring that “LeBron James is a very bad man. He should apologize to the city of Cleveland.”

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

“Beauty is the moment when time vanishes and eternity arises.” – Amit Ray

TRIVIA TEST

- U.S. Presidents:** Which president signed legislation that made Christmas a national holiday?
- Animal Kingdom:** What is a group of dragonflies called?
- Movies:** Who played the role of Father Chuck O’Malley in *Going My Way*?
- Food & Drink:** In what year was the famous Toll House chocolate chip cookie first made?
- Language:** What is the international radio code word for the letter M?

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6. **Television:** What's the name of the mom on *Family Guy*?
7. **Personalities:** Which famous boxer's nickname is "The Manassa Mauler"?
8. **History:** Over which empire did Genghis Khan rule?
9. **Geography:** The Appian Way is an ancient road in what country?
10. **Measurements:** How many milliliters are in one cup?

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Ulisses Grant 2. A swam 3. Bing Crosby 4. 1938 5. Mike 6. Lois Griffin 7. Jack Dempsey 8. The Mongol Empire 9. Italy. The road connected Rome and Brndisi. 10. 250

SCRAMBLERS ANSWER

1. Regard 2. Mingle;
3. Tablet; 4. Reset
Today's Word
METER

HORTOONS



PUZZLE ANSWERS

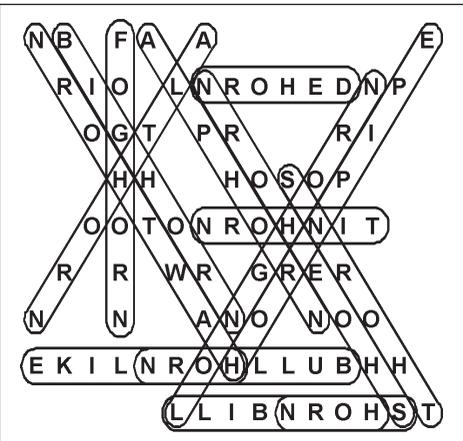
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KING CROSSWORD

G	R	A	D	B	E	E	H	O	L	E	
L	I	L	I	O	K	S	E	V	I	L	
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3	2	1	4	9	5	8	7	6
4	8	5	6	7	3	1	9	2
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1	4	2	7	3	8	5	6	9
9	5	8	1	2	6	7	3	4
7	6	3	5	4	9	2	1	8

Top 10 Real Estate Sales

Subdivision	City	Year Built	Square Footage	Listing Price	Selling Price	Days On Market
Sanibel Harbours	Sanibel	2003	4,504	\$2,995,000	\$3,000,000	141
Fa Lanes Bayview	Captiva	1999	2,636	\$2,550,000	\$2,625,000	4
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	2010	3,945	\$1,999,900	\$2,050,000	2
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	2015	4,487	\$2,550,000	\$2,000,000	64
Pinehurst Estates	Fort Myers	1990	4,373	\$1,725,000	\$1,725,000	161
Wildblue	Fort Myers	2021	3,178	\$1,699,900	\$1,625,000	42
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	2003	3,293	\$1,695,000	\$1,600,000	167
The Dunes Sanibel Island	Sanibel	1977	2,614	\$1,400,000	\$1,400,000	0
West Rocks	Sanibel	2014	1,707	\$1,299,000	\$1,299,000	6
Montelago	Miromar Lakes	2004	2,641	\$1,325,000	\$1,160,000	5

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