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VOL. 28, NO. 25

SANIBEL & CAPTIVA ISLANDS, FLORIDA

DECEMBER 18, 2020

DECEMBER SUNRISE/SUNSET: 18 7:11 • 5:39 19 7:11 • 5:40 20 7:12 • 5:40 21 7:12 • 5:41 22 7:13 • 5:41 23 7:13 • 5:42 24 7:14 • 5:42



From left, Santa's helpers Marge Lieblein and Carol Allen accept a donation from member Susan Hand photos provided



Santa's helper Pat Schmidt, delivers a bag of cookies while Marge Lieblein retrieves Christmas toys for children

Boating Club Puts New Spin On Holiday Tradition

On December 11, America's Boating Club of Sanibel Captiva held a toy drive at the tiki hut on the Sanibel Causeway. Unable to hold

their traditional holiday dinner dance, club members had to get creative about how to collect toys for The Heights Foundation (a 20-plus-year tradition). The result was a Cookie Caravan of Giving.

With the tiki hut decked out in tinsel and stockings, members could drive by and one of Santa's helpers would come to the car to accept their donations.

Meanwhile, a second helper handed the donor a bag of Christmas cookies by fishing pole (attached to the end of the line by clothes pins).

The goal was to have fun, stay safe, thank donors and, most importantly, collect Christmas toys for local families in need. The event was a huge success for the children as well as club members.

America's Boating Club membership is open to anyone who shares a common love of boating, has passed one of the boating courses and is at least 18 years of age.

For more information on boating courses or on joining the club, email Commander@SanibelCaptivaSPS.org or visit www.sancapboating.club.*



This green sea turtle did not survive despite life-saving efforts by CROW photo provided

Green Sea Turtle Treated At CROW

On November 25, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) received a hotline call about a sub-adult green sea turtle (*Chelonia*

mydas) in distress. The endangered turtle was unable to properly swim and had washed up slightly north of Blind Pass bridge.

Upon close inspection, it was clear that the turtle had a healed injury from a potential shark bite and was displaying

continued on page 8

New Programs For The New Year



Canoeing is part of the lineup for the new year photo provided

Sanibel Sea School will offer a variety of after school programs this winter and spring.

To ensure safety of participants, staff, and community throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Sanibel Sea School staff will continue to conduct health screenings, wear masks, and ensure proper sanitizing of all

classroom spaces and gear.

The next lineup of after school programs will begin in mid-January and continue through May. Sessions will be held on Tuesdays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. and include beachcombing, surfing, ocean art and canoeing. All after school sessions are

continued on page 21



Toy drive program recipients

photo provided

Holiday Program Thank You From FISH Of SanCap

The Sanibel-Captiva community has risen to the occasion for FISH of SanCap holiday programs. The pandemic has created extra stress for many more families this year who are trying to provide food, gifts and a joyous time for their families and children. This year, the community has gone above and beyond to ensure that there are holiday meals on families' tables and toys under

the tree for the youngest neighbors. FISH provided meals for over 1,200 neighbors for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays combined and provided over 250 gifts for children and families.

"From additional donations to our food pantry as well as toy drive, Adopt-A-Family and food basket gifts and contributions, the community really came to the rescue for our neighbors in need," said Maria Espinoza, food program director for FISH. The agency reports higher than average assistance requests during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Using COVID-19 precautionary

measures such as facemasks, hand sanitizing and social distancing, volunteers and staff assembled food baskets and sorted toys at the FISH Walk-in Center. FISH volunteers delivered food and gifts by car, bike and on foot for both Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

"Our community is the ultimate example of the FISH 'neighbors helping neighbors' motto. Through natural disasters and now global pandemics, we've been able to keep pace with the rising demand for services all because of the tremendous generosity of islanders. This holiday season, hundreds of families will be celebrating with all the food and gifts they need to end a difficult year on a positive note," said Alicia Tighe Orgera, executive director of FISH.

Partners for the holiday programs included: Bailey's General Store, Saint Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ, Chase Bank and The Great White Grill, all of whom donated toward the food baskets; The Ashton, Kirchner Group of Keller Williams Realty, The Great White Grill, The Sanibel & Captiva Islands Association of Realtors, The Rauschenberg Foundation, Bat Yam Temple of the Islands, Sanibel Police Department and Toys Ahoy, all of whom donated toward the Toy Drive and Adopt-A-Family programs; Friends Who Care, who donated gift cards; community members who donated resources; and FISH volunteers, who donated time and effort.✱

City Of Sanibel Holiday Closings, Refuse Collection

The City of Sanibel administrative offices will be closed in observance of Christmas on Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25. Regular office hours will resume on Monday, December 28. If you have any questions, call 472-3700.

Administrative offices will also be closed in observance of the New Year holiday on Thursday, December 31 and Friday, January 1. Regular office hours will resume on Monday, January 4, 2021. If you have any questions, call 472-3700.

Refuse, recycling and vegetation waste collection by Advanced Disposal Services regularly scheduled for Friday, December 25 (Christmas Day) will be one day later. If your regular waste collection day is Saturday, December 26, waste will be collected on Monday, December 28. The normal waste collection schedule will resume on Monday, December 28. If you have any questions, call 334-1224.

Refuse, recycling and vegetation waste collection by Advanced Disposal Services regularly scheduled for Friday, January 1 (New Year's Day) will be one day later. If your regular waste collection day is Saturday, January 2, waste will be collected on Monday, January 4. The normal waste collection schedule will resume on Monday, January 4. If you

continued on page 4

Merry Christmas

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Celebration Held For Reopening Of The Island Store

On December 10, the Sanibel & Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce celebrated the long-anticipated reopening of the historic Island Store on Andy Rosse Lane on Captiva. The Bailey family, owners of Bailey's General Store on Sanibel, reopened the store this past October after purchasing it in 2018 and gutting and restoring the building.

"The store was completely renovated to current safety and quality standards while maintaining a historic look and feel of the store," said Calli Johnson, fourth-generation owner-operator. "We are excited to expand our fresh produce, with plans to add hot soup and sandwiches soon. Guests will notice the liquor store has moved from one side of the store to the other, and we now have the only beer cave on Captiva."

Built circa 1915, the historic building has known many lives – from a beauty parlor and boarding house to a restaurant and, in 1940, a grocery store under the ownership of Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling, namesake of the national wildlife refuge on Sanibel.

"It is our pleasure to serve Captiva residents and guests daily from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. at The Island Store," said Johnson. "Our mom's mother's family originally owned Jensen's resort before it was Jensen's, so it makes perfect



From left, Michelle Berger, Ron Clayton, Joel Goodman, John Lai, Melissa Rice, Calli Johnson, Mead Johnson, Lisa Bramm, Richard Johnson, Dane Johnson and Bailie Johnson photo provided

sense that the Bailey family is returning to Captiva. We are excited the project is completed and we have this beautiful new building where we can get back to what we know best: groceries and customer service."

She added that the store currently has four employees and will be hiring

additional staff.

"It's so great to have The Island Store open again, and we warmly welcome it back into the fold," said John Lai, chamber president and chief executive office. "What better people to bring it back to life than the Bailey's."

"The SanCap Chamber is incredibly

important to our business and our community," said Johnson, who serves as secretary-treasurer for the chamber's board of directors. "Most importantly, their team advocates for our community as a whole. I know John and his team have our back when it comes to politics that affect our islands."✪

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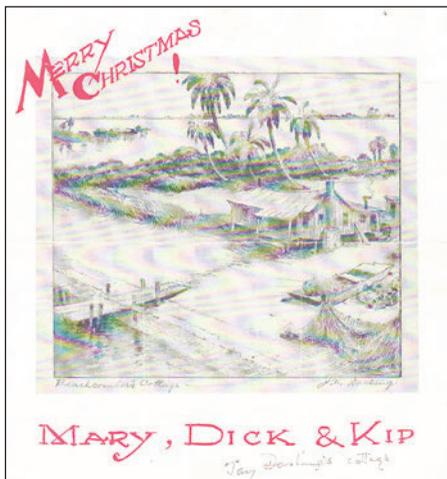
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Captiva Island Historical Society

Landmark: Beachcomber's Cottage

This hand-drawn rendition, labeled Beachcomber's Cottage JN Darling, is on a Christmas card presumably from the Koss family ("Ding" and Penny's daughter Mary, son-in-law Dick and grandson Kip).



The Beachcomber's Cottage

image courtesy Captiva Island Historical Society Archives

History Gallery are temporarily closed due to the coronavirus. Call 533-4890 for information.

Visit the website at www.captiva-island-historical-society.org/archives/research to view many more images to bring you closer to Captiva.✪

Churches/Temples

BAT YAM-TEMPLE OF THE ISLANDS

Complete Shabbat Worship Service including Torah reading Zoomed from Fellowship Hall at SCUUC. every Friday night at 7.30.p.m. Shabbat morning discussion of the weekly Torah portion led by Rabbi Fuchs at 9.30. (email batyamsanibel@gmail.com to request the Zoom links). Food and paper drive donation drop-offs on the first Thursday of each month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ, 2050 Periwinkle Way. Rabbi Stephen Fuchs, Cantor Murray Simon, President Michael Hochschild, www.batyam.org, 2050 Periwinkle Way, 732-780-2016.

CAPTIVA CHAPEL BY THE SEA

Rev. Larry Marshall. Services every Sunday at 11 a.m. November 8, 2020 through April 25, 2021. 11580 Chapin Lane, Captiva, 472-1646.

CHAVURAT SHALOM

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

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

Services at the Christian Science Church of Sanibel-Captiva have resumed as follows: Sunday service at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday meeting at 4:30 p.m. Reading room open on Friday, 10 a.m. to noon. 2950 West Gulf Drive, 472-8684.

SANIBEL COMMUNITY CHURCH

Contemporary Service at 9 a.m. and

Traditional Service at 11 a.m. in the Main Sanctuary. Now offering a "Masks Only" service via live stream at 9 and 11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall. View the Sunday Service online at sanibelchurch.com, 1740 Periwinkle Way, 472-2684.

SANIBEL CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

The Reverend Dr. John H. Danner, Sr. Pastor. The Rev. Deborah Kunkel, Associate Pastor. Livestream service at 11 a.m., www.sanibelucc.org, 2050 Periwinkle Way, 472-0497.

ST. ISABEL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Father Ed Martin, Pastor, Saturday Vigil Mass at 5 p.m., Sunday Mass at 8:30 and 10:30 a.m., Sunday, 9:30 a.m. through November. Daily Mass Wednesday, Thursday and Friday at 8:30 a.m. Holy Days. 3559 Sanibel-Captiva Road, 472-2763.

ST. MICHAEL & ALL ANGELS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Bill Van Oss, Rector. Sunday 10:30 a.m. service can be seen at www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org, Facebook or YouTube. Other services, meetings and events are suspended until further notice, www.saintmichaels-sanibel.org, 2304 Periwinkle Way, 472-2173.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS OF THE ISLANDS

Meets 5 p.m. on the second Sunday of each month from December through April at Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ. A potluck is held at a member's home on the third Sunday of each month. ryi39@aol.com, 2050 Periwinkle Way, 433-4901.

Email changes to press@islandsunnews.com or call 395-1213.✪

From page 2

Holiday Closings

have any questions, call 334-1224.

The Sanibel Recreation Center will be closed in observance of Christmas on Thursday, December 24 and Friday, December 25. The recreation center will resume operating hours on Saturday, December 26 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. If

you have any questions, call 472-0345.

The recreation center will also be closed in observance of the New Year holiday on Thursday, December 31 and Friday, January 1. Operating hours will resume on Saturday, January 2 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. If you have any questions, call 472-0345.

Center 4 Life remains closed due to COVID-19.✪



In anticipation of increased attendance at Christmas and in order to comply with CDC recommended safety guidelines regarding maximum capacity and social distancing, St. Isabel Catholic Church is respectfully requiring reservations to attend Christmas Eve and Day Masses in person. We will be livestreaming ALL of our Christmas Masses from the church for those who wish to join us from home.

Saint Isabel Catholic Church

Christmas Eve Masses

3:30 PM • 5:30 PM • 7:30 PM

Christmas Day Mass

10:30 AM

Please call the Parish Office for your reservation. Reservations and masks required. Space is limited.

Telephone: 239.472.2763 Saintisabel.org

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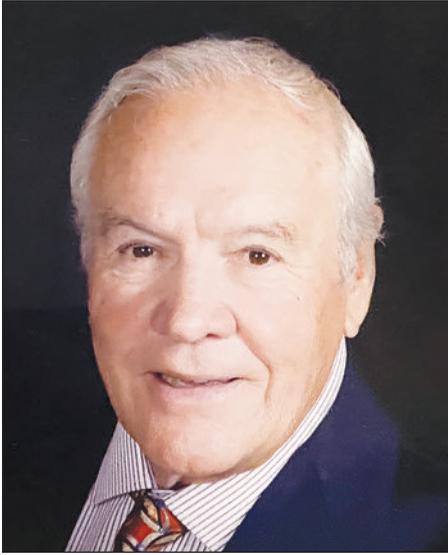
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OBITUARY

**DANIEL L. VALENTINE**

Daniel L. Valentine, beloved father, known to his grandchildren as "Papa," passed on December 8, 2020 at the age of 87.

Daniel L. Valentine was born on August 30, 1933 and resided in Dayton, Ohio and Sanibel Island, Florida. He

was preceded in death by his parents Henry and Genevieve Valentine and his sister Eileen while survived by his brother Richard and sister Terry. He is survived by his loving wife Shirley Valentine, son Craig (My-Hanh) Valentine and Anastasia, son Chris Valentine and Maxwell, Mitchell and Luke, son Kevin Valentine (Sherri) and Ryan and Austin, son Kenny Valentine (Linda) and Henry (Emily), Victoria and Claire, and daughter Karen Muraski (Tom), Kylie, Tyler and Danielle, and great granddaughter Charlotte. He is also survived by numerous friends and relatives.

Daniel was born in New Philadelphia, Ohio, the son of a second generation immigrant who worked in a steel mill to support four children of which Dan was the third born. After grade school, he attended Dover Saint Joseph High School, where among other activities he played on their six-man football team.

After graduating from high school, he went to work for the city of New Philadelphia Water Department. As Dan told the story, he was assigned to a garbage truck one day due to a shortage of personnel. This event was the impetus for him to seek an alternative path. He reached out to the nuns at St. Joseph for guidance. Having an understanding

of his true talents, which he later demonstrated during his academic career, they advised him to attend the University of Dayton and study engineering. Their directive bewildered him at the time as he could not comprehend why they would want him to drive a locomotive.

With no transportation of his own, he would hitchhike to and from Dayton. To put himself through college, he worked numerous jobs and enlisted in ROTC. While attending the University of Dayton (UD), where he met his future wife Shirley, he earned a civil engineering degree and graduated cum laude. He was awarded a scholarship to attend the University of Illinois where he earned a master's degree in structural design.

He wed Shirley on August 2, 1958 and they proceeded to have five children. After a brief deployment to El Paso, Texas to fulfill his ROTC commitment, he returned to Ohio to utilize his education and begin his new life.

He was employed by two construction companies for whom he toiled for five years before being recruited by Gerry Miller (with whom he attended UD) to start a new construction company. After the addition of a third partner, Jim Walsh, the Miller Valentine Group was created. The rise of MV Group is well documented and the company has a presence of ownership and development in several states throughout the U.S. to this day.

Dan continued to provide his mentorship to the company until his passing.

Dan was a devout Catholic. He and

Shirley were actively involved in the parish of St. Isabel on Sanibel Island and numerous charitable organizations. His wealth could be measured with gratitude from the multitudes he aided and provided for, the respect and admiration of the people who worked with him and most of all the troves of endearment and love that his family has and always will bestow upon him. Dan's parting words to his family were, "I led a good life. You all lead a good life."

The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to all of their friends and family members for their support. Dan requested that any donations be sent to the following organizations:

The Hospice of Dayton Foundation (who provided wonderful care for Dan), 324 Wilmington Ave., Dayton, OH 45420; or SanCap Catholics, P.O. Box 384, Sanibel, FL 33957.✽

Grief Support Group Meetings

Sanibel Community Church is offering a GriefShare program in the Family Life Center on Tuesdays at 5 p.m. The program is open to anyone who has lost a loved one, and there is plenty of room for social distancing. Sessions feature a video, book, discussion and support.

Sanibel Community Church is located at 1740 Periwinkle Way. For more information, contact Maryelle Pavelka at 850-4221 or Robert Adams at 408-569-5440.✽



CAPTIVA CHAPEL
BY THE SEA

A PLACE WHERE GOD LIVES



CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE NEWS

With the health and safety of our Chapel family in mind, we have canceled our Christmas Eve Service.

The Chapel Christmas lights will be burning brightly from now until January 10th from 5:30pm to 10pm.

On Christmas Eve the Chapel's Christmas lights will be on from 5:30pm until 9:00pm.
Masks are mandatory.

If at any time the Chapel yard becomes overcrowded, you will be asked to wait in line in the parking lot - 6 ft. apart - until there's room to view the lights comfortably and safely.

You are welcome at any other time for photos.

Check the Chapel's web site for a link to a service for Christmas Eve commemorating the birth of Jesus.

Videotaped Christmas Eve service on line - Check our web site

We also have an outdoor Chapel service on Christmas Day at 11AM...masks required.

www.CaptivaChapel.com

Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ

An Online Christmas Eve
Candlelight Service

December 24 • 9:00 PM

www.sanibelucc.org

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A Christmas Homily by the

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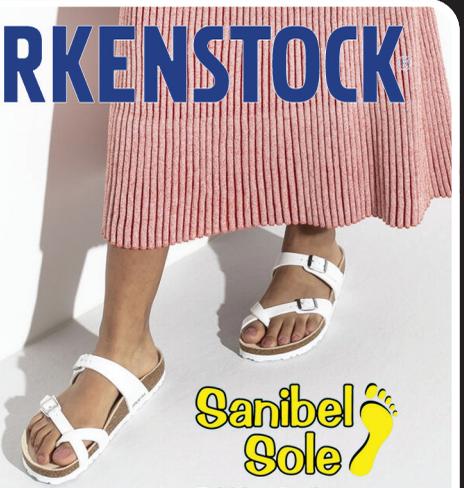
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Special Meeting Keeps Center 4 Life Closed

by Wendy McMullen

Sanibel City Council approved keeping the Island Seniors program and Center 4 Life closed, possibly extending the hours and space for the Farmers Market and giving discretionary powers to Mayor Mick Denham to make minor decisions related to COVID-19 at a special meeting on Monday.

The meeting focused on modifications to the Farmers Market, extending the closure of the Center 4 Life and adding signs on the Sanibel Causeway and the entrance to Sanibel from Captiva telling visitors they need to wear masks.

Council decided to allow the mayor to make decisions about extending the area and the hours of Sunday's Farmers Market at Sanibel City Hall. Current hours are 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. but Jean Baer, co-owner of Local Roots that runs the market, said that extending the hours to 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. may mean spreading the crowd over five hours to six hours and fewer people attending at any one time.

The other proposal was to extend the area of the market to allow social distancing between the booths.

Council expressed appreciation for the measures the Local Roots team had already taken in requiring masks, reorganizing booths to prevent crowding in certain areas and adding additional signs advising that masks were required at the parking lots at BIG ARTS and Herb Strauss Theater.

"We should do anything we can do as a city to enhance those measures," said Councilman Richard Johnson, adding that getting the booths apart from each other and thereby decreasing the chance of spreading the virus would be valuable.

A motion from Councilman Chauncey Goss to ask city staff to work with Local Roots to look at expanding the hours and extending the area was approved unanimously.

Council also approved a request from Denham to enable him to enact small changes without formal council approval, if necessary.

"You have the power already to take decisions to guard the health and welfare of the citizens," said City Attorney John Agnew.

Johnson warned, however, that it was important that the council remain transparent and that major decisions be made by the whole council.

Council also decided that the Island Seniors program at Center 4 Life will remain closed until May when the council will reconsider the issue. The center was closed at the request of the administration because of the age of the population attending the center and the limited space. Some of the classes that were being run in the center are now being run in The Community House where there is more space.

Council had originally proposed looking at opening the center earlier but, warned by residents Maryann Bell and former councilmember Dr. Steve Brown, decided to delay the decision.

"If you put a date out, people will see the date and say the virus will be over by then," said resident Maryann Bell, while Dr. Brown emphasized the lethality of the virus and urged council to take the virus very seriously and not to try to open up anything too soon.

Additional signs regarding face masks will be added at the entrance to Sanibel on the Sanibel Causeway. Council decided it was not necessary to put a sign at the entrance to Sanibel from Captiva at Blind Pass Bridge.

Captiva is a part of unincorporated Lee County and comes under the jurisdiction of Lee County and not Sanibel. Masks are not required in Lee County. Because of this, council had been approached about erecting a sign at the south side of Blind Pass Bridge advising people coming from Captiva of the need to wear masks on the island.

Captiva business owners Richard Johnson and Marty Harrity both said that they required masks in their businesses on Captiva. Johnson owns The Island Store on Captiva and Harrity owns Doc Ford's Rum Bar & Grille.

"We're following Sanibel's protocol in our restaurant," said Harrity. "And I'm pretty sure the resorts are asking for masks. I think Captiva's a bit stronger about masks than you think they are."

The special meeting was called because

of the nationwide increase in coronavirus cases that Mayor Denham said is "a concern to all of us."

"We're doing our very best to ensure the health of our residents and visitors," Denham said.

Johnson will work with city staff on an additional sign on the causeway advising visitors of measures to keep Sanibel safe. In addition, Sanibel & Captiva Islands Chamber of Commerce representative Mary Bondurant advised the council that the chamber is advertising the island as StaySafe Sanibel and posting the measures taken by the city to keep it safe.✪

Stabilization Project Expanded For Causeway

A project planned to stabilize the shoreline along the Sanibel Causeway has been expanded to improve drainage, parking and amenities on both causeway islands.

The Lee Board of County Commissioners recently voted to expand the project, accept a \$4.25 million grant from the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and allocate \$2.4 million in tourism tax reserves for the project.

The Sanibel Causeway connects the mainland to Sanibel Island and is the only roadway access to the islands of Sanibel and Captiva. There are two islands along the causeway; Island A to the east and Island B to the west. Both islands frequently are used as recreational facilities.

Commissioners approved the original design contract in April 2017. Lee County then applied for and was awarded a state legislative appropriation through FDOT to provide necessary erosion control structures and stormwater runoff by providing stabilization of the shoreline. The project will add beach sand, compacted shell and paved ADA parking spaces to Islands A and B and a picnic pavilion. Additional event parking areas and efforts to improve access to fishing on both sides of the islands are included.

Construction is expected to begin with erosion control measures on Island B this summer, and all work will be

completed by 2024. The total estimated cost to design, permit and construct the improvements and stabilize the shorelines is \$8.5 million.✪

County Approves Conservation Land Purchase

The Lee Board of County Commissioners recently voted to pursue the purchase of two parcels totaling about 27 acres in Cape Coral and southern Lee County.

The parcels are:

About 22 acres in Cape Coral, along Yellow Fever and Hancock creeks, south of NE Pine Island Road and north of Pondella Road near Lee County's Judd Park.

About five acres in southeast Lee County, considered an infill parcel for the Corkscrew Regional Ecosystem Watershed.

Each parcel was recommended for purchase by the Land Acquisition and Stewardship Advisory Committee (CLASAC) earlier this year.

There are 30,424 acres within the Conservation 20/20 Land Acquisition Program. Conservation lands help the county protect drinking water, enhance water quality, provide nature-based recreational opportunities, protect areas from flooding and provide wildlife habitat. For more information, visit www.conservations2020.org.✪

From page 1

Green Sea Turtle

an erratic breathing pattern.

Coastal Wildlife staff secured the animal using SCCF's sea turtle rescue sling and immediately took it to Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW) for veterinary care, where it unfortunately passed away despite life-saving efforts. A gross necropsy showed no significant findings, according to the staff at CROW, "ruling out most everything else besides toxicosis" from red tide brevetoxins. It is the only sea turtle admitted to CROW in the last few months with clinical signs of red tide toxicosis.

To support sea turtle programs, visit www.sccf.org/our-work/species-adoption-programs.✪

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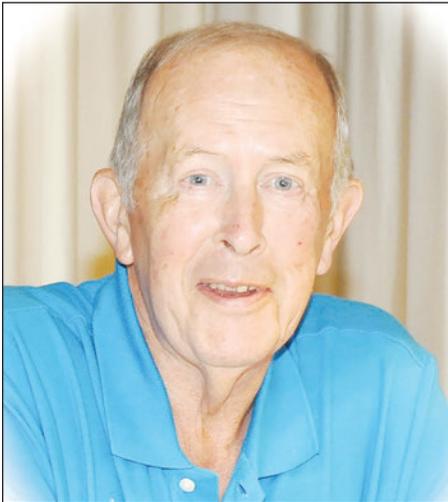
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OBITUARY



DONALD R. VAP

On December 5, 2020, Donald R. Vap passed away peacefully at the age of 78 in Sanibel, Florida.

Don was born July 22, 1942 in Hastings, Nebraska to Raymond and Grace (Vance) Vap. He spent his formative years on the family farm in Holstein, Nebraska where he worked and studied hard. As a result of his academic efforts, Don graduated from Holstein High School at the age of 16 as class valedictorian. He was also a proud member of the Holstein Panthers basketball team that earned back-to-back state championships.

Don continued his education at Kearney State where two events occurred that would shape his life. First, he met his future wife, Janice, on a blind date and

second, he was encouraged by a professor to sit for the dental school admission examination. He continued his studies at Creighton University Dental School and was a member of the 1965 graduating class.

Don practiced general dentistry for several years while in the Coast Guard before entering his oral surgery residency at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Don loved his work and practiced oral surgery for 40 years, primarily in Omaha, Nebraska.

Following retirement, Don and Jan moved from Omaha to Wisconsin to spend time with their grandson during his early childhood years. They also spent a portion of each year in Sanibel to escape the Wisconsin winters. As the years passed, they established permanent residency in Florida and continued visiting their children in Minnesota and Wisconsin while also enjoying travel to favored destinations.

Don loved to sing, enjoyed woodcarving and treasured together time with family and friends. He was active in his faith community as well as a number of community and civic organizations. He was known for his quick wit, grace in the face of adversity and compassionate spirit.

During their 58 years together, Don and Jan raised two children, Kristi and Mark. Don was a proud father and Papa and loved his family fiercely. He is survived by his wife, Jan Vap; children: Kristi Rodgers and husband Bruce, step-grandson Ehrich Rodgers; and Mark Vap and wife Colleen, grandson, Joshua Vap; brothers Joseph Vap and wife Pam and Ronald Vap and wife Rhonda; brother-in-laws: Robert and wife Coleen and Chuck and wife Lorna; sister-in-law: Mary

Kober; and many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents, Raymond and Grace.

A mass of Christian burial and interment was held at Saint Columbkille

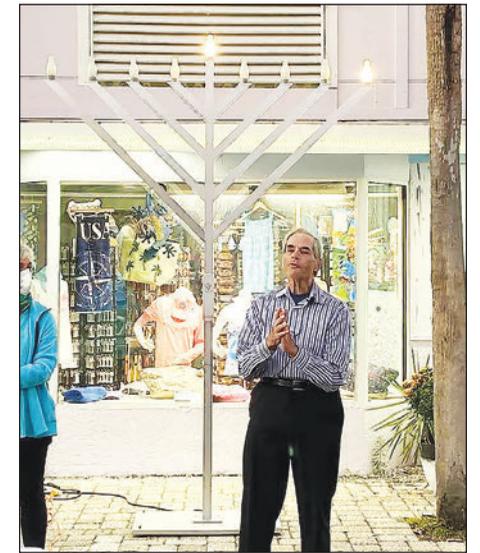
Parish in Fort Myers, Florida. In lieu of flowers, memorials are suggested to The Parkinson's Foundation, Poor Clare Sisters of Omaha, or Saint Columbkille Catholic Parish. ✨

Bat Yam Temple Celebrates Hanukkah

Sanibel's first outdoor menorah lighting ceremony took place on the east end of the island on December 10, the first night of Hanukkah. Masked and socially-distanced celebrants gathered in the parking lot of the Seahorse Shopping Center, where Tal and Odad Yahav, new owners of the EmOcean store, along with trustee Alan Fisher, conceived the idea to light a giant, nine-foot Hanukkiah (menorah). Other tenants of the Seahorse Shopping Center who sponsored the Hannukiah and other Hanukkah decorations included Dan Bilheimer of The Lighthouse Café, Bob and Pauline Tuttle from Tuttle's Seahorse Shell Shop and Laurie and Alice Verme of Sanibel's Best Homemade Ice Cream.

Fifty congregants watched via Zoom and over 400 people posted comments that night and the next day on Facebook as well as viewing a recording of the ceremony on YouTube.

Rabbi Stephen Fuchs of Bat Yam Temple of the Islands officiated, Tanya Hochschild read a Hanukkah story and Sanibel City Manager Judie Zimomra spoke. Afterwards, the crowd had jellied doughnuts – known in Israel as



Rabbi Stephen Fuchs officiated

photo provided

sufganiyot, which the Yahav brothers had brought from a Floridian west coast Jewish deli. These, together with latkes (potato pancakes), are symbolic foods eaten at Hanukkah. Both are fried in oil, which commemorates the miracle of the small jar of oil miraculously lasting for eight days. Annually, Jews celebrate the miracle of the Festival of Lights.

A new tradition has begun on Sanibel, hopefully, without masks and social distancing next year. ✨

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Volunteers Needed For Night To Shine

Night to Shine is an unforgettable prom night experience, centered on God's love for people with special needs ages 14 and older. The event, sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation and hosted by Sanibel Community Church, will be held on February 12.

The 2021 virtual event will allow for guests to participate in the celebration in a safe manner, in their homes, but requires a lot of volunteers to help with writing encouragement notes, gift bag

assembly, participation on home gift bag delivery teams and other support activities.

To register as a volunteer for Sanibel Community Church location activities, visit <https://sanibelchurch.com/night-to-shine-2021/> and/or email scntsvol@gmail.com for more information about how you can participate.

This is a perfect volunteer opportunity for family groups and for individuals seeking meaningful opportunities for fellowship and service. Follow along, see the joy you can be part of on the Facebook page. All gatherings of volunteers will be guided by City of Sanibel COVID-19 guidelines. Masks and social distancing will be required for safety as you participate.✳

Thanks For The Memories

Dear Readers, After more than 14 years in service to the communities of Sanibel and Captiva, I have decided to retire from my position as staff writer/reporter for the *Island Sun* newspaper.

During my tenure as a journalist on the islands, I was given the assignment of documenting, in words and photographs, thousands of special events, meetings, gatherings and celebrations of importance to the local community. From city council sessions to school presentations, from fundraisers for nonprofit groups to grand openings for new businesses, it has been my pleasure to report these happenings in a way that hopefully informed and entertained our readers.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the management and staff of the *Island Sun* for providing me the opportunity to share my professional talents with local residents and visitors, many of whom became personal friends of mine. Your support throughout the years made my duties as a journalist more than simply a job.

Secondly, my heartfelt thanks to the elected officials and support staff from the City of Sanibel as well as personnel representing groups, organizations and facilities including FISH of SanCap, JN "Ding" Darling NWR, Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF), Sanibel Historical Museum & Village, Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife (CROW), The



Jeff Lysiak photo provided

Sanibel School, The Community House, Sanibel Sea School, Community Housing & Resources (CHR), Sanibel Recreation Center, BIG ARTS, Island Seniors and countless others for your trust and assistance on stories that required great detail, accuracy and no-nonsense facts.

Finally, it is my hope that you – the readers – enjoyed how the news on Sanibel and Captiva was presented in this publication, fairly and honestly.

I will spend my retirement focusing to my health and wellbeing. Although my time working on the islands has concluded, it is my hope that when I visit in the future, you will welcome me again as a trusted and respected friend. I wish all of you good health, happiness and peace in the new year.

Very sincerely yours,
Jeff Lysiak, Naples, Florida✳

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Partners Needed For Blue Ribbon Golf Classic

The Sanibel School Fund has scheduled its 2021 Blue Ribbon Classic Golf Tournament for Saturday, May 15 at The Sanctuary Golf Club. The teachers, families and students at the school hope that, as you are considering your year-end giving, you will plan to support and join this major annual fundraiser for The Sanibel School.



The tournament has been held on Sanibel since 2007. COVID-19 forced the cancellation of the 2020 event. Volunteers with the Sanibel School Fund are working with leadership at The Sanctuary and the community to provide a safe and successful outdoor event in 2021, the 15th year for the tournament.

Space will be extremely limited, so early registration is recommended. Opportunities to join as a philanthropic partner begin at \$1,000 and include a foursome of golf. Partnerships are also available at the \$2,500 and \$5,000 levels. Individual playing spots will be \$300. To sign on as a partner, register for play or for more information, contact TheSanibelSchoolFund@gmail.com or Jeff Muddell at 321-217-3946.

There will be a noon shotgun start, followed by a celebratory dinner. Details

of that dinner, which will much depend on the community's COVID-19 status, will be unveiled in the coming months.

Because of the size of The Sanibel School – about 300 students – the budget provided by the school district, calculated per pupil, does not provide all the funding needed to support special programs. Therefore, the Sanibel and Captiva communities have supported the Sanibel School Fund through financial gifts, making possible such programs as a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) program, a dedicated Spanish teacher, and a student leadership program.

All funds raised at the Blue Ribbon Classic Golf Tournament supplement the school's budget to enhance the curriculum, so it can maintain its Blue Ribbon status,

continue to improve its ranking as one of the best elementary and middle schools in the state, and, most importantly, provide the best education for island students.*

City Request For Applicants

Sanibel City Council is currently accepting applications to fill three planning commission terms. There is one partial term appointment beginning January 19, 2021 with an expiration date of January 9, 2023 and two full-term appointments beginning January 19, 2021 with an expiration date of January 16, 2024.

Responsibilities include attending planning commission meetings on the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month at 9 a.m. at city hall.

Any resident wishing to serve may visit <https://mysanibel.granicus.com/boards/w/c13ae24878f51e92> to download the advisory committee application. After opening the hyperlink, use the drop down arrow under Committee Choice and choose "Planning Commission." Make sure all required boxes contain a response. At the end of the application process, click the green "Submit" button. The deadline for submission is Monday, January 4 at noon.

If you have any questions, contact the city manager's office at 472-3700.*

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In these times of uncertainty and growing needs, FISH remains steadfast in providing both **help and hope** to our island communities. Thanks to generous donors, volunteers and neighbors like you, **these FISH programs—our largest and most critical—have not missed a beat:**

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- Meals-by-FISH meal delivery
- Food backpacks for children
- Emergency financial assistance

Whether feeding families, providing financial relief for rent and medical bills, or making daily phone calls and visits via FaceTime, Skype or Zoom, we continue to help our neighbors in meeting their physical, mental and emotional needs. As always, we are committed to being a safety net for all. **At the end of the day, our message is simple—FISH is for everyone.**

IF YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW needs assistance during these difficult times, please call us at **239.472.0404**. For more info about FISH services, visit fishofsancap.org.



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FISH FACTS

Even before COVID-19, the need for FISH emergency programs has grown significantly over the past year. Thank you for helping to meet these very important needs in all circumstances.

FOOD PANTRY

January - November

2020

219,459 lbs
equating to
182,883 meals

BACKPACKS DISTRIBUTED

January - November

2019	2020
1042	1710

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January - November

2019	2020
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January - November

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

Plant Smart Poinsettia's Variable Leaves

by Gerri Reaves

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

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

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

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

The most familiar of them, *Poinsettia cyathophora*, sports red markings as brilliant as the red of the commercial poinsettia.

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



This paintedleaf is vine-like with very narrow leaves
petals.

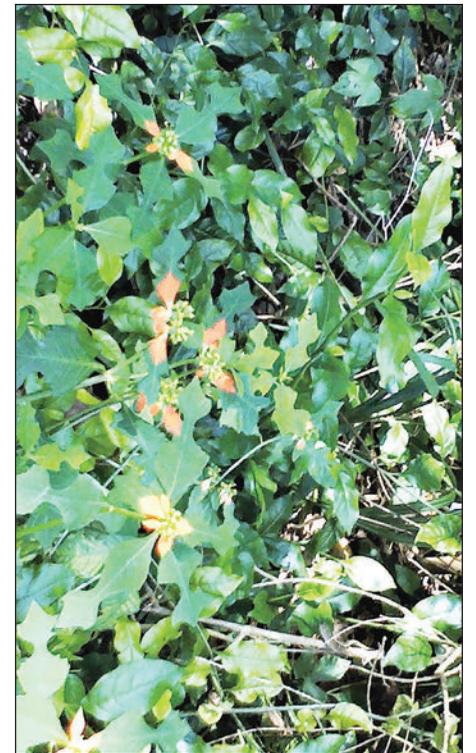
Known as paintedleaf, as well as fire-on-the-mountain and Mexican fire plant, this native poinsettia grows throughout most of the state.

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

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

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

The alternate leaves occur in both narrow and broad leaf forms, as well



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

as fiddle-shaped ones. They can be lance-like or even so narrow as to be grass-like.

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

continued on page 16

WOMEN'S CLOTHING

MEN'S CLOTHING

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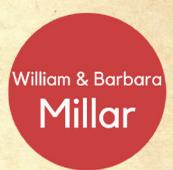
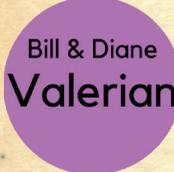
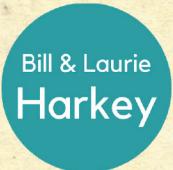
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Winter Sheepshead Tactics



by Capt. Matt Mitchell

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



A sheepshead smiles for the camera

photo provided

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

Capt. Matt Mitchell has been fishing local waters since he moved to Sanibel

in 1980. He now lives in St. James City and works as a back country fishing guide. If you have comments or questions, email captmattmitchell@aol.com.*

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CROW Case Of The Week:

Eastern Box Turtle

by Bob Petcher



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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

fitted with a feeding tube.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Brianna Machuga

Carolina, has long expressed her passion for ocean conservation through ocean-related art. She recently taught about Florida's marine ecosystems at Pigeon Key Foundation in the Florida Keys, where she led snorkel outings for school groups learning about coral reef ecology. Prior to that, Donkle was an environmental educator, teaching children about the coastal ecosystems of South Carolina.

Machuga is originally from northeast Ohio and is a returning staff member. She worked with Sanibel Sea School in 2019 as a summer camp counselor and is excited to be back.

Machuga brings experience in education and children's programming from Disney, where she was a cast member and conservation educator.*

Dana Donkle photos provided

New Educators At Sea School

Sanibel Sea School has two new marine science educators on its team of ocean advocates. The educators will deliver marine science education and lead hands-on field trips to create lasting ocean memories for children and families.

Dana Donkle and Brianna Machuga bring their experience in environmental education and outreach, and their love for children to Sanibel Sea School.

Donkle, originally from North

Fishing License Add-Ons Help Improve Fisheries

Snook, spiny lobster, reef fish, sharks from shore, blue crabs and stone crabs caught in traps: What do all these have in common? They each require a special add-on permit, designation or registration on your recreational fishing license.

Maybe you've heard of these specialty designations, some of which have been around since before the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) was created.

Others are fairly new, such as the State Reef Fish Angler designation, originally created in 2015 as the Gulf Reef Fish Angler designation and expanded statewide this year.

While there are many differences between these designations, one thing holds true for them all: when anglers who participate in these fisheries sign up, they are helping improve these fisheries. In some cases, fishery managers and researchers can use some of this information to have a better idea of how many people participate in a fishery, leading to better fisheries management practices. These designations also create a pool of participants for FWC to reach out to for, let's say, research surveys or to simply email relevant information to, such as when a regulation changes.

The snook and spiny lobster permits contribute to conservation by funding research and monitoring activities that

help ensure that these magnificent fisheries continue to thrive in Florida for generations to come.

To contact the FWC Regulatory Outreach subsection, call 850-487-0554 or email saltwater@myfwc.com.*

From page 12

Plant Smart

throughout the year.

The plant also varies in overall form, which can be a multi-branched shrub of two to five feet tall or a spindly vine.

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

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

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

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

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

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SCCF CEO Ryan Orgera spoke during the annual meeting via Zoom photo provided

New SCCF Trustees Elected

Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) members voted overwhelmingly to appoint three new individuals to its board of trustees. Jill McCormack, Anne Nobles and John Raho were appointed at the annual membership meeting on December 8.

Conducted through Zoom from a studio on the third floor of the SCCF Marine Lab, SCCF Board of Trustees President Linda Uhler, Treasurer Susan Beittel, Nominating Committee Chair

Doug Ryckman and SCCF CEO Ryan Orgera spoke at the virtual, 30-minute meeting.

Outgoing members of the board of trustees were recognized for their service, including Shelley Greggs, Robin Krivanek and Linda Uhler. New officers were also announced: President Don Rice, Vice President Deborah LaGorce, Treasurer Susan Beittel and Secretary Ran Niehoff.

The meeting was recorded and is available for viewing on the SCCF YouTube Channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AMqKREltCXo&feature=youtu.be>.

COVID-19 Case Increases For Sanibel

The State of Florida Department of Health generates two separate updates daily on the total number of COVID-19 positive cases since the inception of the pandemic. Both of these reports are generated by zip code. The City of Sanibel is located totally within the 33957 zip code. One of these reports is the "Daily Dashboard" and another is the "Daily Report." Both sites are generated and maintained by the State of Florida Department of Health. As of 5 p.m. December 9, the Daily Dashboard reported the Sanibel zip code with 99 cases and the Daily Report listed the 33957 zip code at 100 cases. This is the best information the City of Sanibel has at this time. There is no further information or explanation from the state department of health for the discrepancy.

The city's homepage, www.mysanibel.com, has direct access to Florida Department of Health daily reports. Per the Florida Department of Health, the date of new COVID-19 cases is the date cases are reported to the state health department, not the date a person is infected, tested nor receives notification of their test results.

The Florida COVID-19 Dashboard, maintained by the State of Florida, includes tabs on: All Cases; Cases Over Time; Deaths Over Time; Testing; Cases by County; Florida Counties and Cases by Zip Code.

The Florida Department of Health

conducts all case and contact tracking; the Florida Department of Health does not provide the city any additional information than what appears on these reports. The Florida Department of Health provides no identifying information to the city such as name, age, gender or address of the persons who test positive. The State of Florida does not provide the City of Sanibel nor do they release COVID-19 related deaths for Sanibel. The State of Florida Department of Health does not provide the City of Sanibel nor do they release statistics on COVID-19 recovery rates for Sanibel cases.

The official sites to monitor for the most current information and to which you may access through direct links are: the city's homepage at www.mysanibel.com; Florida Department of Health at www.floridahealth.gov; and Centers for Disease Control at www.cdc.gov.

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Shell Of The Week

Elliptical Sportella



by José H. Leal, PhD, Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum Interim Director and Curator

Basterotia Elliptica (Récluz, 1850) is one of the rarest species of bivalves in our area. The

museum collection houses only one valve (half-shell) of the species. This non-descript "little white clam" grows to be around 10 mm (about 0.4 inches), and is very similar its locally found "sister" species, the Square Sportella (presented last week in this column.) The Elliptical Sportella, however, has a more elongate shell (not necessarily "elliptical"). The slightly damaged valve illustrated was collected in 2017 by Susan Hewitt at Turner Beach on Captiva Island. Read more about mollusks and their shells at www.shellmuseum.org/shell-guide and www.shellmuseum.org/blog.

The Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum is located at 3075 Sanibel-Captiva Road. For more information, call 395-2233.*



The Elliptical Sportella, *Basterotia elliptica*, from Captiva

photo by José H. Leal

American Legion Post 123

American Legion Post 123 is serving pot roast this Sunday, December 20. Ham and scalloped potatoes will be served on Christmas Day, Friday, December 25. Barbecued ribs and chicken are on the menu for Sunday, December 27.



On Tuesdays, tacos are served all day. Spaghetti and meatballs are served all day on Wednesdays. Steak sandwiches are served on Fridays. There are daily specials as well as half-pound burgers. Food is served from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

The third Thursday of the month is Open Mic Night from 6 to 9 p.m.

The 8-Ball Pool League plays at 5 p.m. on Monday nights.

If you have a flag that needs to be retired, you can drop it off at Post 123.

American Legion member eligibility dates are November 11, 1918 through present. All veterans are welcome.

Post 123 is a non-smoking facility with an outside area available for smokers. It is located at mile marker 3 on Sanibel-Captiva Road, open Monday through Saturday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 9 p.m. For more information, call 472-9979.*

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Cogon Grass: A Lesser-Known Invasive Species

Sanibel is home to an extensive variety of invasive exotic flora and fauna. Most invasive species, such as Brazilian pepper (*Schinus terebinthifolia*) and the cane toad (*Rhinella marina*), are well-known to the general public. However, a lesser known but extremely prolific invasive exotic, cogon grass (*Imperata cylindrica*), has invaded portions Sanibel's natural ecosystems.

For seven years, Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) Wildlife and Habitat Management has been treating 25 cogon grass infestation sites throughout Sanibel ranging in size from a few square meters to several thousand square feet, said SCCF Land Steward Victor Young.

A biannual treatment, utilizing a combination of herbicides, recommended by the Florida Department of Agriculture and the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, simultaneously target the foliage and the root system to maximize control. "These treatments have shown significant success on Sanibel by either eradicating cogon grass from specific sites or reducing the area affected by nearly 90 percent," Young said.

Cogon grass, a native to Southeast Asia, was initially introduced to Alabama in 1912 as packing material in fruit



Cogon grass

photo provided

crates. It was subsequently introduced to other gulf coast states for cattle feed, although ranchers would soon discover that it was not a palatable source of forage. Cogon grass would also be utilized for erosion control in various places throughout Florida in the early 1900s.

Cogon grass is extremely adaptive to a variety of climates and habitats (excluding wetlands) and thrives in disturbed soils, often spreading through wind-driven seed or agricultural equipment. Additionally, cogon grass is a pyrogenic

plant, meaning it is well-adapted to fire. Due to these adaptations, it eventually outcompetes nearly all native vegetation. Over one million acres of pasture, timberland and environmentally sensitive habitats throughout the southeastern U.S. have been negatively impacted.

"Although cogon grass can be difficult to manage or eradicate, it is thankfully easily identified," Young said. The grass blades can reach nearly six feet tall and typically range from dark green to light green in color. The most prominent indicators are the white, off-center midrib,

serrated margins, and a white, puffy spike-like panicle inflorescence. Mature stands of cogon grass often develop dense mats of cream-colored rhizomes.✪

Report Skunk Sightings To FWC

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has launched a new community science project aimed at learning more about Florida's skunk populations.

The Sunshine State is home to two species of skunks, the striped skunk and the smaller eastern spotted skunk. Both are thought to be found throughout the state and biologists are hoping to involve the public in collecting observations to learn more about the distribution of both species and the types of habitats in which they are found.

"There's still a lot we don't know about skunks in Florida," said FWC Mammal Conservation Coordinator Terry Doonan. "By reporting skunk sightings, you could make a big difference. Your information will help inform future skunk research and habitat management practices."

To report a skunk sighting, visit www.myfwc.com/skunksurvey to fill out an easy-to-use online form, or email information about your sighting, including species, date, time, location and any photos to skunks@myfwc.com.

For more information about skunks in Florida, visit www.myfwc.com/skunks.✪

SOCIAL DISTANCING at Gramma Dot's



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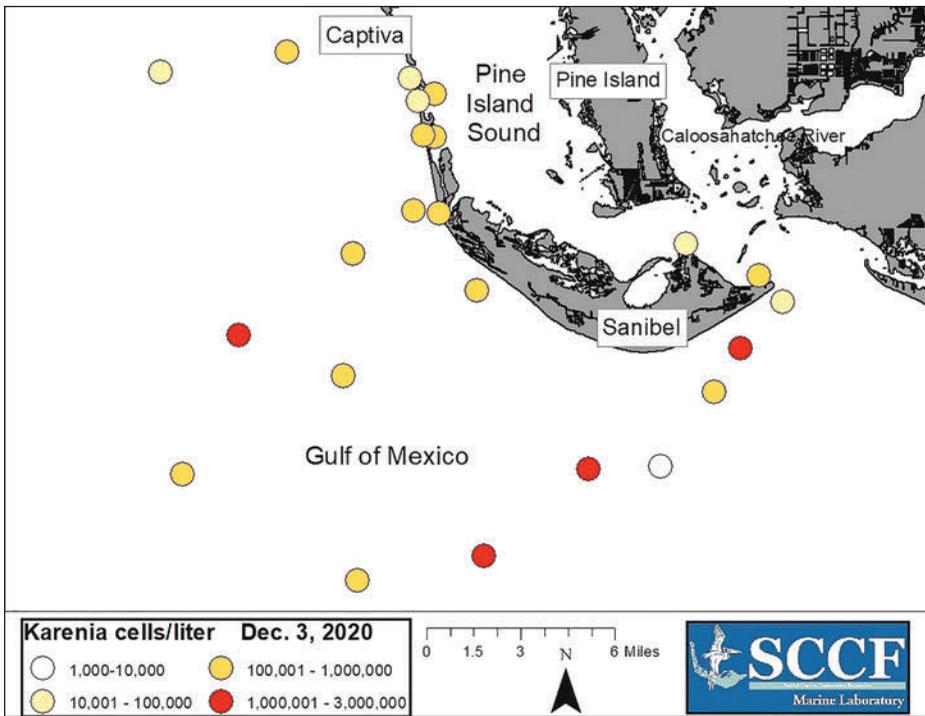
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Red tide sampling map

image provided

SCCF Monitoring Recent Red Tide Bloom

Scientists at the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) Marine Lab have been tracking a red tide bloom that came to their attention on Thanksgiving Day, November 26.

Satellite imagery provided by SCCF's colleagues at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) indicated the development and transport of a red tide (*Karenia brevis*) algae bloom toward Sanibel on Thanksgiving.

The sequence of satellite images showed a large patch that had the optical characteristics of a dinoflagellate bloom. During the first week of December, volunteers and staff collected water samples from Bowman's Beach, Tarpon Bay Road Beach and Lighthouse Beach. At that time, the number of *Karenia brevis*, the single-cell dinoflagellate that causes red tide, was low, less than 100,000 cells per liter.

On December 6, counts were high, or 20 million cells per liter at Gulfside City Park beach and at Tarpon Bay

Road Beach. The counts on December 8 showed one million cells per liter, or medium concentration at the Donax Road beach access. December 9 counts of *Karenia brevis* on Sanibel beaches were low, coming in at less than 100,000 cells per liter.

A research cruise was taken on December 3 to collect samples along six offshore transects from Captiva to the Sanibel lighthouse. Water samples were collected for microscopic cell counts, nutrient concentrations, and dissolved-oxygen concentrations. Several patches of discolored water were encountered on the cruise and it was later confirmed that there were more than 10 samples with medium concentrations (100,000-1,000,000 *Karenia* cells per liter) and a few with high concentrations, or greater than one million.

The patches were between five to 10 miles south and west of Sanibel with the highest concentrations near the Sanibel Lighthouse. SCCF will continue to follow the satellite imagery, which currently shows a possible dense patch south of Sanibel, along the southern Lee County coast.

Visit www.sccf.org/water-quality/red-tide-resources to learn more about red tide.✧

From page 1

New Programs

\$20 per student. Registration is open at <https://www.sanibelseaschool.org/afterschool>.

In addition to after school favorites like surfing and ocean art, marine science educators will also offer after school beachcombing and canoeing. These courses are new additions to the after school program and educators are excited to explore new topics.

After school beachcombing will allow participants to discover what's washed ashore that day. Educators will lead children through a beach walk along the wrack line, dig in the swash and search for unique shells.

"There's always something new to discover out on the beach, so each

session, we'll embark on an afternoon of exploration to see what we can find," said Shannon Stainken, education programs manager. "No two beach walks are ever the same."

Another new session is after school canoeing, which will begin on April 20. "Canoeing is a favorite summer camp tradition at Sanibel Sea School, so we are excited to bring this activity to our after school programming" said Stainken. Participants will learn canoeing basics and hone their paddling skills while exploring the waters of Sanibel.

For more information, call 472-8585 or email info@sanibelseaschool.org. Scholarships are available.

Part of the SCCF (Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation) family, Sanibel Sea School's mission is to improve the ocean's future, one person at a time.✧

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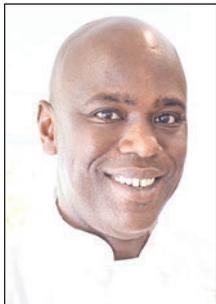


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The Community House

The Chestnut



by Resident Chef Jarred Harris

Chestnuts are one of my favorite seasonal foods. They add a festive flavor to Thanksgiving and Christmas, roasted and served straight from the oven or fireplace. In Europe, Asia and Africa, chestnuts are often a substitute for potatoes in everyday dishes.

Chestnuts were one of the first foods eaten by man and date back to prehistoric times. They are the fruit of a tree that is related to the beech tree and grown around the world. The trees can live for 1,000 years and usually do not begin to produce fruit until they reach 40 years old.

There are nine varieties of chestnut tree, however, only four varieties produce edible chestnuts: the American variety, which is native to North America; the European variety, which is commonly called the marron; the Chinese or Asian variety; and the Japanese variety. The Chinese and Japanese began cultivating

chestnuts before they began growing rice.

Chestnuts are an important food source in China, Japan and southern Europe, where the nuts are ground into a meal and used in bread and pastry making. Chestnut flour is gluten-free and is starting to appear more in mainstream recipes.

Chestnuts contain twice as much starch as potatoes and are very low in fat. They are high in fiber and contain exceptionally high amounts of vitamin C and selenium. The nuts also contain high amounts of vitamin B6, manganese and copper.

Here is an interesting recipe to try:

Chestnut and Wild Mushroom Tart

Ingredients

For the crust:

- 1/2 cup rice flour
- 1/4 cup chestnut flour
- 2 tbsp. corn starch
- 1/2 tsp. sea salt
- 1/2 tsp. ground black pepper
- 3 tbsp. coconut oil
- 5 tbsp. ice-cold water

For the mushroom filling:

- 1/4 cup coconut oil (for frying)
- 1 clove garlic (minced)
- 1 small shallot (minced)
- 1 lb. wild mushrooms (sliced)
- 2 sprigs fresh rosemary (chopped)
- 2 sprigs fresh thyme (chopped)
- 1/2 cup coconut milk (unsweetened)
- 2 eggs (beaten)
- 1/2 tsp. ground nutmeg
- Sea salt and black pepper to taste
- 1/4 cup sun-dried tomatoes (in oil)
- 1/4 cup feta cheese (crumbled)

Method

For the crust: Combine the first 3 ingredients in a bowl; season with salt and pepper, then add the coconut oil and water.

Using your hands, work dry ingredients until the dough forms into a ball. Wrap the dough in plastic and chill for 30 minutes.

Dough may be made one day ahead. Wrap tightly with plastic and chill.

Preheat oven to 375°F Remove the dough from the plastic wrap and roll out. Press evenly onto the bottom and up sides of the tart pan. Prick the bottom with a fork to prevent the tart from rising, then set aside.

For the filling: Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the garlic and

shallot, cook until lightly browned; add mushrooms, thyme and rosemary. Cook until the mushrooms begin to brown, about 5 minutes. Whisk the coconut milk, eggs, nutmeg, salt and pepper in a small bowl. Place the mushrooms, sun-dried tomatoes and feta cheese over the tart shell. Pour the coconut and egg mixture over the tart. Place in the oven and bake for about 35-40 minutes.

Remove from the oven and cool for 15 minutes before you slice.

Resident Chef Jarred Harris heads the Culinary Education Center at The Community House on Sanibel. For volunteer opportunities or questions, contact him at kitchen@sanibelcommunityhouse.net or call 472-2155.*

Light Up The Holidays And Lower Your Costs

Lee County Electric Cooperative (LCEC) reminds you that besides being brighter than Clark Griswold's house in National Lampoon's *Christmas Vacation*, there are many reasons to consider investing in LED lights this holiday season:

LED lights are more energy efficient than incandescent lights; 90 percent of the energy produced by incandescent bulbs is released in the form of heat. LEDs use nearly 75 percent less energy and last up to 25 times longer.

LED lights are cool to the touch, which makes them a safer option around trees, wreaths, children and pets.

LED bulbs don't burn out; they get dimmer over time. In addition to their long lives, these bulbs are plastic and durable, which means you don't have to spend time carefully wrapping them away for next year.

LED lights come in a every style imaginable.

Although the cost of LED lights is still more pricey than traditional bulbs, the benefits far outweigh a few extra bucks. And those extra bucks are truly an investment in bright, beautiful, energy-efficient lights for many years to come. For more energy saving tips, visit www.lcec.net.*

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Middle School Students Take Classes Outdoors

Once again, teachers at The Sanibel School are able to take their students on walking field trips and take advantage of the island's environment as an outdoor classroom. The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) Pick Preserve, located directly across the street from The Sanibel School, is an ideal setting for incorporating environmental education into curriculum, which has been a 20-year collaboration with SCCF.

SCCF Environmental Educator Richard Finkel recently met Kelly Johnson's middle school STEM class to explore the ecology of Sanibel's freshwater wetlands. Students observed and recorded the aquatic habitat's small life forms. They were excited to get out of the classroom and discover small fish, tadpoles, damselfly and dragonfly nymphs, fishing spiders, water beetles, water striders, and freshwater snails within their water samples.

The aquatic fish and macroinvertebrates were released back into the Pick Preserve wetland after students' observations. This field trip initiated classroom research into



Richard Finkel leads students on a walk through the Pick Preserve photo provided

wetland ecology and water quality, so a pondwater sample was taken back to the school for further analysis.

Visit www.sccf.org/our-work/education/sanibel-school-outings to learn more about SCCF's Environmental Education outreach programs in partnership with the Sanibel School.*

Extended Hours At The Sanibel Rec Center

The City of Sanibel Recreation Center has extended its hours of operation to Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Tuesday and Thursday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.; and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Due to COVID-19, reservations are now required for the weight room, lap swim, tennis courts, indoor open gym and indoor pickleball. The recreation center is currently operating consistent with CDC COVID-19 recommendations. Registered members can book reservations for facilities online at www.mysanibel.com. To request your unique username and password, email charlotte.durand@mysanibel.com or call 472-0345.

The Sanibel Recreation Center is located at 3880 Sanibel-Captiva Road and offers daily, weekly and annual memberships. For more information, contact Recreation Director Trish Phillips at trish.phillips@mysanibel.com.*

Shells Found



Scott and Betty Corn photo provided

Scott and Betty Corn of Sycamore, Illinois have been coming to Sanibel Island two to three times a year since 2009. The ocean finally gave up a doubleheader with both of them finding junonias in one trip.*

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Strawberry Pop Pastry

- 2 ½ cups fresh strawberries, diced
- 2 tablespoon sugar
- 1 tablespoon cornstarch
- 1 tablespoon fresh squeezed lemon juice

juice

- 1 tablespoon lemon zest
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1 egg
- 1 teaspoon water
- 1 cup confectioners sugar
- 1 box pie dough, store bought

In a small sauce pot over medium-low heat, combine 2 cups diced strawberries, corn starch, lemon juice, sugar, and vanilla extract. Cook, while stirring, until a sauce has formed, about 5 minutes. Remove from heat and cool. Reserve ¼ cup of the strawberry mixture to make the glaze. Preheat the oven to 375 degrees. Unroll the pie dough and cut out 4 matching rectangles. In a small bowl mix the egg and water to create an egg-wash. Place an even amount of the strawberry mixture to the center of half of the rectangles, and do not overfill. Leave a clean edge around the dough to



Strawberry Pop Pastry

seal properly. Place another piece of the cut pie dough on top of the mixture and use the tines of a fork to seal. Transfer the pastries to a parchment lined cookie sheet. Use a pastry brush to apply a thin layer of the egg-wash. Sprinkle each

pastry with the remaining sugar. Bake for 7-10 minutes or until golden brown. Remove from oven and let cool to room temperature. In a small bowl mash the reserved berry mixture with a fork. In another bowl, add in 1 cup confectioners'

sugar and a small amount of the strawberry mixture, stir until completely combined. Adjust consistency with more confectioners' sugar or strawberry sauce. Drizzle each tart with the glaze.*

photo courtesy Fresh From Florida

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CALL FOR DAILY PREPARED ENTRÉES

Community House Events

Suzette Heeres will lead an oil painting class on Monday, December 21 at 9:30 a.m. Each participant will create a painting of Bowman's Beach path. Cost is \$60 for members and \$65 for guests.

Anita Force Marshall will teach Letting Loose with Watercolors on Tuesday, December 22 at 9:30 a.m. Participants will learn how to paint a roseate spoonbill. Cost is \$30 for members and \$35 for guests. Beachcomber paint kits can be rented for \$10.

There will be an arts and crafts fair featuring local artisans on Sunday, January 3 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cost is a \$5 suggested donation.

A shredding event will be held on Saturday, January 9 from 9 a.m. to noon. Cost is \$5 per box or bag.

Shell Crafters are on site with their handmade items for sale on Mondays from 10 a.m. to noon. No classes are being offered at this time.

Line Dancing with Maria Di Rosa is offered on Tuesdays at 1 p.m. Cost is \$5 per class.

Painting with Friends is held on Wednesdays from 1 to 4 p.m. Bring your own supplies to paint with fellow artists; no instruction. Cost is \$10 per session.

Every Thursday at 1 p.m., Tommy Williams leads Living Life Current, an



The Community House photo by Logan Hart open forum discussion. All are welcome to discuss what is going on locally, nationally and globally. Suggested donation is \$5. Masks and social distancing required.

Aerobics with Mahnaz Bassiri is offered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Participants can bring their own weights, \$5 suggested donation.

Play the card game Hearts on Fridays at 1 p.m. Open to all levels, \$5 suggested donation.

Gourmet soups, meals and desserts to go are now available to order. Pick up dates are December 14 to 23 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Soups and stews include Kale and White Bean Soup, Manhattan Clam Chowder and Asparagus Soup. Meals to go include Crustless Chicken Pot Pie and Scalloped Potatoes, Chicken Marsala and Polenta Cake, Beef Short Ribs and Scalloped Potatoes, and Wild Mushroom Cranberry and Brie Wellington with Scalloped Potatoes; all include vegetables. Desserts include Chocolate

Tart, Sugar Free Sweet Potato Pie, and Sugar Free Pear and Almond Tart.

This is a fundraiser to benefit Sanibel Community Association (SCA) operations. Order online at www.sanibelcommunityhouse.net or call 472-2155. Curbside delivery is available.

Shell Critter Kits are available for purchase or to ship. Choose four out of 13 critters to assemble. Cost is \$20 per kit, shipping is \$8 additional.

Notice: Changes For Waters Of Tarpon Bay

The JN "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge is notifying the public about resource management changes for the waters of Tarpon Bay. The refuge is establishing a no entry area surrounding the Tarpon Bay Keys, the small islands approximately in the center of the bay.

The waters, submerged lands and the Tarpon Bay Keys are owned by the State of Florida but are managed by the JN "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge through a cooperative lease agreement that was finalized in September 1995. As a condition of this agreement, it was identified as a management priority to establish a "No Entry Zone" perimeter for the Tarpon Bay Keys. This action is intended to protect and preserve these islands for use as roosting and rookery sites for

Camp to Go Art Kits are also available for purchase or to ship. There are eight different postcards to color and Zentangle. Marker and educational video link included. Cost is \$20 per kit; shipping is \$8 additional.

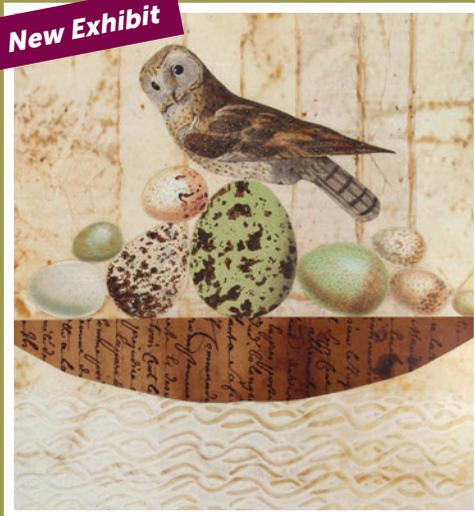
The Community House is located at 2173 Periwinkle Way. For more information, visit www.sanibelcommunityhouse.net or call 472-2155.*

colonial water birds. Monitoring of these islands by station biologists has revealed a significant reduction in usage of these sites by these birds over the last two decades.

To accomplish this management objective, the refuge will be installing a total of 12 regulatory buoys to create a continuous and enforceable 150-foot buffer surrounding these important rookery islands. Installation was scheduled to begin this week and should be completed within three to four days of commencement. Enforcement of this closed area will be accomplished by United States Fish and Wildlife Service Law Enforcement personnel and cooperating agencies. The JN "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge is asking the public to respect these boundaries and for their cooperation in assisting the refuge in preserving and protecting these important and unique habitats.

For questions and more information, call 472-1100 or check the refuge's official Facebook page for information: www.facebook.com/dingdarlingrefuge**

New Exhibit



DIANA STETSON – In Love with This Earth series: beautifully rendered paintings and small lithograph collages.



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New Sculpture



CAROLINE DOUGLAS – "Spirit Travelers", 10"x7" and "Happy Hour Boats", 4"x 6-12". Uplifting, detailed ceramic sculptures.



BIG ARTS Monday Night Film Series

Emma

by Di Saggau



The BIG ARTS Monday Night Movie for December 21 is *Emma*. It's a new version of Jane Austen's famous character, directed by Autumn de Wilde. The 21-year-old Emma, (Anya Taylor-Joy) lives with her father, the amusing Bill Nighy, in a large country estate 16 miles from London. Austen describes her as "handsome, clever and rich, with a comfortable home and happy disposition."

As the movie opens, her longtime friend Miss Taylor (Gemma Whelan) marries, leaving Emma alone. She becomes meddlesome, especially when it comes to other people, because she thinks a little too much of herself. Emma sets out to find a match for her poor friend Harriet (Mia Goth). Emma feels she can improve her life by finding the right suitor.

As her plan slips off course, it becomes obvious that Emma doesn't understand the hearts of the people in her world. When a dashing Mr. Knightley (Johnny Flynn) comes into the story, we immediately figure out the role he will play in Emma's game. The cast perfectly shows the feelings that surround a woman with a sharp tongue and vast imagination. The film runs 124 minutes. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased online or at the box office. There will be no discussion following the film.

BIG ARTS is practicing the highest standards of safety during this challenging time. All visitors are required to wear



image provided

masks and are asked to be mindful of social distancing. BIG ARTS is selling only 50 percent of the seats in Christensen Performance Hall. Until further notice, only 200 seats will be available for any event in the hall, and a maximum of 30 people will be allowed in the gallery at any given time. BIG ARTS has enhanced its air filtration system, all surfaces are wiped down between use, a professional sanitizing fogger is being used after each gathering, and there are hand sanitizing stations throughout the ground floor.

BIG ARTS is located at 900 Dunlop Road on Sanibel. For more information, call 395-0900 or visit www.bigarts.org.

Garden Art Sought For Exhibit

The Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation (SCCF) and the Sanibel Captiva Art League are once again partnering on an exhibit featuring nature-inspired art by local artists.

The Natives in the Garden exhibit will feature original, weather-resistant works of art. The show is open to all members of the Sanibel Captiva Art League and SCCF.

Pieces submitted must be 3D art that can stand on its own, is weatherproof and is suitable for outdoor display at the Bailey Homestead Preserve.

Creativity, recycled materials and originality are encouraged in representing SCCF's mission and the theme of the show.

Artists must hand-deliver entries on Tuesday, January 12 between 9 and 11 a.m. An exhibit opening will be held on Monday, January 18 from 9 a.m. to noon. The show will run through March 12.

All of the works will be available for purchase, with 20 percent of the proceeds of works sold donated to SCCF.

There is no fee to enter with proof of current membership to the art league or to SCCF. If you are not a member, join SCCF by accessing the membership form at www.sccf.org (go to "Support Us") or join the art league at www.sancapart.org.



Beach Glass Kaleidoscope by Ray Yarema
photo provided

Artists are limited to one submission, depending on space limitations. Works must not exceed 60 inches in height (including pedestal) or exceed 48 inches in width (including pedestal) or weigh over 30 pounds. Artists will submit a one-page biography and explanation of the materials used in the work.

For a list of rules and guidelines, download the artist's prospectus at www.sccf.org/downloadable-files/5fb432c08bd24ec87a20f3c1.pdf.

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Jerry's Foods Open Daily: 7am-9pm

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New Cookbook Now On Sale

The Community House recently released a limited number of spiral-bound cookbooks, titled *Local Flavor: Recipes from The Culinary Education Center*. Based on Southwest Florida's fruit and vegetable offerings, Resident Chef Jarred Harris' recipes include interesting facts about the key ingredient.

The recipes were chosen by members of the kitchen guild; Nancy Black, Salli Kirkland, Marge Meek and Kathy Samson.

The Community House would like to thank three sponsors for helping make this project happen: Mike Kelly, Salli Kirkland and Marge Meek.

The cookbook is available for purchase at The Community House, located at 2173 Periwinkle Way. Cost is \$15. It makes the perfect stocking stuffer, Sanibel souvenir or educational cooking tool.✱

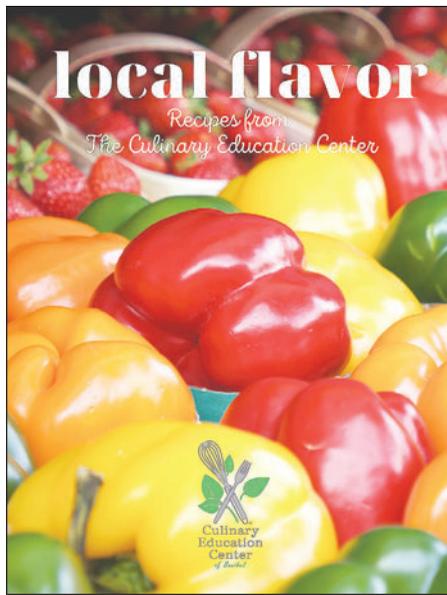


image provided

BIG ARTS Corner

Workshops And Seminars

BIG ARTS is offering the following workshops and seminars:

Adobe Lightroom with Denny Souers – Mondays, January 4 to 25, 1 to 4 p.m. Members \$80; nonmembers \$100.

Virtual Workshop: Figure Drawing from Photographic References with Francesco Gillia – Tuesdays, January 5 to 19, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Members \$93; nonmembers \$116.

Pastels with Mary Klunk – Tuesdays, January 5 to 26, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Members \$85; nonmembers \$106.

Glass Fusing with Petra Kaiser – Wednesdays, January 6 to 27, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Members \$99; nonmembers \$124.

Open Studio: Decorative Painting with Sally Parsons – Wednesdays, January 6 to March 31, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Members \$8; nonmembers \$8.

Glass Fusing with Petra Kaiser – Thursdays, January 7 to 28, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Members \$99; nonmembers \$124.

Beginner Photography with Denny Souers – Thursdays, January 7 to 28, first class 9 a.m. to noon, classes 2, 3 and 4 7 a.m. to noon. Members \$111; nonmembers \$139.

Beginners Watercolors with Sunny Krchmar – Fridays, January 8 to 22, from 9 a.m. to noon. Members \$156; nonmembers \$195.

Intermediate Watercolors with Sunny Krchmar – Fridays, January 8 to 22, 1 to 4 p.m. Members \$156; nonmembers \$195.

Life Drawing – Open Studio Non-Instructed with Carol Rosenberg – Fridays, January 8 to 29, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Members \$69; nonmembers \$86.

The Perennial Philosophy: Catching a Glimpse of Truth and Beauty in Each Religion and Every Branch of Science with Ran Niehoff – Tuesdays, January 12 to 26, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Members \$80; nonmembers \$100.

Beginner Pastel with Donna Filomio – Friday, January 15, 1 to 4 p.m. Members \$85; nonmembers \$106.

New Techniques in Pastel and Preservation with Donna Filomio – Monday, January 18, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Members \$145; nonmembers \$181.

The Joy of Writing with Vicky Lettmann – Mondays, January 18 to February 22, 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Members \$110; nonmembers \$138.

Seed Bead Weaving: Spiral Rope Technique with Anita Gober – Wednesday, January 20, 9 a.m. to noon. Members \$57; nonmembers \$72.

Art Evening: Shorebird on Palm Bark with Jenny Licht – Thursday, January 21, 6 to 9 p.m. Members \$44; nonmembers \$55.

Zentangle with Meg Scott – Thursday, January 21, 9:30 a.m. to noon. Members \$35; nonmembers \$44.

Drawing Basics with Douglas David – Saturday, January 23, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Member \$125; nonmembers \$156.

Paint Seascapes in Oil with David Douglas – Monday and Tuesday, January 25 and 26, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Members \$250; nonmembers \$313.

Virtual Workshop: One Day Drawing Workshop: Ears with Francesco Gillia – Tuesday, January 26, 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. Members \$95; nonmembers \$119.

Art Evening: Glitzy Jellyfish on Canvas with Jenny Licht – Thursday, January 28, 6 to 9 p.m. Members \$55; nonmembers \$69.

Palette Knife Painting in Oil from Landscape Photography with Jan Atkielski – Friday and Saturday, January 29 and 30, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Members \$160; nonmembers \$200.

The health and safety of instructors, students, staff and patrons is a priority at BIG ARTS. Staff is following CDC recommendations and asks for your cooperation in best practices safety standards. All students and instructors must wear a mask and social distance. Class seating will be carefully spaced. Signage and procedures are posted in the facility. All rooms are sanitized between classes and class sizes will be limited.

Call 395-0900 or stop by the BIG ARTS center at 900 Dunlop Road on Sanibel to enroll. Preregistration is recommended. For complete course descriptions, workshop and class schedules, visit www.bigarts.org/workshops, or email info@bigarts.org.✱

Christmas

AT THE BEACH

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 25

BUFFET SEATINGS FROM NOON TO 6PM

ADULTS \$59 · CHILDREN 4-12 \$20 · CHILDREN 3 & UNDER FREE

Plus Tax & Gratuity

BUFFET HIGHLIGHTS

- Charcuterie Display & Iced Seafood Assortment
- Roasted Turkey Brined in Citrus, Champagne & Rosemary
- Rosemary-Dijon Prime Rib with Horseradish Cream
- Mustard-Tarragon Glazed Ham with Pineapple Salsa
- Crab & Lobster Stuffed Flounder with Sherry Cream Sauce
- Chef's Dessert Board with Christmas Cookies, Cakes & Pies

AND MUCH MORE!

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT 12:30PM TO 5:30PM

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Patience by Joan Mikelsons

images provided



Tranquility by Shah Hadjebi

show will also be available as a virtual exhibit starting December 21 at www.bigarts.org.

Each year, the juried show features original works of art with subjects in abstract and representational forms, covering themes both unusual and familiar. Working in a variety of media, including two- and three-dimensional pieces, some of the best artists in Florida have produced works to intrigue

the viewer.

The Art Council of Southwest Florida is a consortium comprised of 21 Southwest Florida art leagues.

Educator, writer, presenter, juror and artist Barbara Anderson Hill was the judge for this show. A resident of Sanibel during the 1970s and '80s, Hill was one of the founders of BIG ARTS. She owned and operated a pottery school on the island and was

adjunct professor at Edison Community College, now Florida SouthWestern State College. Hill has held numerous key positions at art and cultural institutions including exhibition curator, collections manager for the Florida Gulf Coast Art Center, Belleair; grants and major gifts manager for the John and Mabel Ringling Museum of Art, Sarasota; founding executive director and curator for the von Liebig Art Center, Naples; and executive director of the Edison-Ford Winter Estates Foundation, Fort Myers.

For more information, visit www.bigarts.org or www.sancapart.org.

BIG ARTS is located at 900 Dunlop Road on Sanibel.✪

Art League Juried Show Opens At BIG ARTS

The Sanibel-Captiva Art League's 45th annual Juried Art Show, in concert with the Art Council of Southwest Florida, is now open in Dunham Gallery at BIG ARTS. Entitled Exploration, this eclectic, multi-media exhibit will be on display through January 31 with viewing hours of Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The

Top 10 Books On The Island

1. *One by One* by Ruth Ware
 2. *Anxious People* by Fredrick Backman
 3. *The Vanishing Half* by Britt Bennett
 4. *Deacon King Kong* by James McBride
 5. *Nothing to See Here* by Kevin Wilson
 6. *Tinder Fella* by Jennifer Schiff
 7. *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson
 8. *Greenlights* by Matthew McConaughey
 9. *Daylight* by David Baldacci
 10. *Saving Freedom* by Joe Scarborough
- Courtesy MacIntosh Books and Paper.✪

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 Jean Le Boeuf, News-Press

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From left, Shell Islands Garden Club members Gloria Krekel, Barbara Wilgus, Lisa Newmeyer-Cochrane and Mimie DiRico decorated the Christmas tree with hand-painted miniature birdhouses photos provided

Sanibel Library Is Filled With Holiday Cheer

Sanibel Public Library is open for normal hours, and also offering its popular contactless curbside service. To use the service, place items on hold online at www.sanlib.org or make requests by calling the library at 472-2483. You will be notified when your items are ready for pickup. Patrons will have three days (excluding Saturday and Sunday) to pick up items. Hours for curbside pickup are Monday through Friday from noon to 3 p.m.

Members of the Shell Islands Garden Club decorated the Christmas tree in the theme of Our Aviary Friends, featuring miniature birdhouses hand-painted by garden club members. The tree is part of the permanent holiday display at the library.

The library's book sale room has lots of new fiction, coffee table books and many illustrated children's books. Most books are priced under \$4. The canvas library tote bags are \$15 and are made in the USA. There are 12 different colors from which to choose.

Youth Services Librarian Deanna Evans shares virtual stories and songs. Her online storytimes can be found on the children's page at www.sanlib.org/children.

The library offers cooking kits for patrons to check out and take home. Cardholders can borrow a paella or crêpe pan, tart pans, empanada press, cookie kits, novelty cake pans and other items. The kits are a great way to experiment with new cooking techniques. The library also offers more than a thousand cookbooks; from *America's Test Kitchen to Winner! Winner! Chicken Dinner* to Insta Pot, healthy cooking and baking.

If you are looking to stream holiday



Wendy Lambrix with holiday DVDs



Ian Wainwright with A Charlie Brown Christmas DVD and music

music, try the Freegal or Hoopla apps. Both offer hundreds of playlists including pop, rock-n-roll, country, jazz and classical. On Hoopla, you can hear classics like Vince Guaraldi's *Charlie Brown Christmas* or new Christmas music from Leslie Odom, Jr. Pentatonix, and Dolly Parton. Hoopla

continued on page 34

GOODBYE 2020, HELLO 2021

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31
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6:30PM - MIDNIGHT

ADULTS \$80 · CHILDREN 4-12 \$30 · CHILDREN 3 & UNDER FREE
Includes entertainment & buffet; alcohol is an additional cost.

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Baby Back Ribs	Taco Bar
Southern Shrimp & Grits	Pizza, Chicken Tenders & Brats
Jamaican Jerk Chicken	Popcorn Station & Ice Cream

ENTERTAINMENT HIGHLIGHTS

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Book Review

One By One

by Di Saggau



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

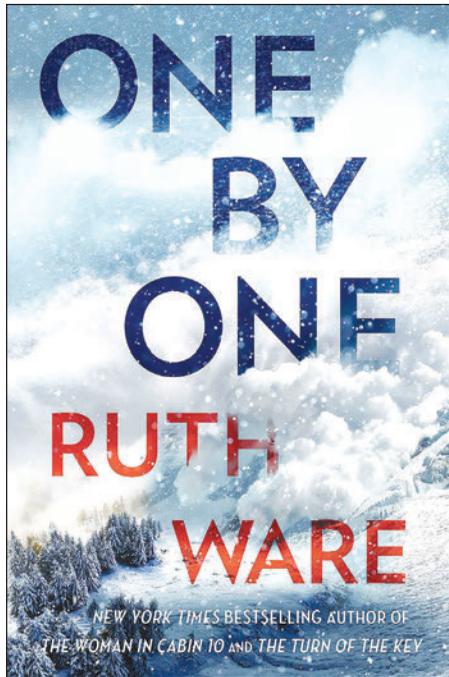


image provided

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

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

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

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

School Smart

by Shelley M. Greggs, NCSP



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

Britta K, Cape Coral

Britta,

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

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

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

Let your kids help out. There's a lot of extra work to do around the holidays

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

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

Some holiday traditions require children to be on their best behavior for long periods of time, in unfamiliar situations or even at mealtime with unusual holiday fare. Remember they are kids, and try to have reasonable expectations about their behavior. Make sure to allow your children to have lots of physical activity and downtime prior to such events, and try not to schedule more than one demanding event in a day. Everyone will enjoy themselves much better with some understanding on maneuvering some of the more difficult times. Hopefully these strategies will allow you and your children to enjoy the holidays more fully.

Shelley Greggs is adjunct faculty at Florida SouthWestern State College, where she teaches psychology and education courses. She is also a nationally certified school psychologist and consultant for School Consultation Services, a private educational consulting company. Questions for publication may be addressed to smgreggs@gmail.com. Not all questions submitted can be addressed through this publication.*

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From left: John Danner, sponsor and winner of most miles ridden; Joleen Raho, winner of most money collected; Richard Green, president of the Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club; and Steve Agius, chairman of Rotary District 6960 Wheelchair Committee photos provided

Rotary Happenings

submitted by Cindy Carter

Rotarian John Danner, pastor at Sanibel Congregational United Church of Christ, created the Wheels for Wheels fundraiser in honor of his father, Rev. Howard S.



Danner, Jr., a pastor and college professor who was struck by a drunk driver while biking and was paralyzed from the waist down, leaving him in a wheelchair for his remaining 17 years.

On John Danner's 60th birthday, he rode his bike from just north of Fort Lauderdale to Key West, a total of 190 miles as a fundraiser for wheelchairs. He was calling it Wheels for Wheels/60 for 60. His goal was to raise enough money to purchase 60 wheelchairs. He ended up raising an incredible \$22,000 by himself, and helped distribute over 200 wheelchairs in Trinidad later that year. Last year, in 2020 pre-COVID-19, Danner had the idea to ride his bike once again as a fundraiser for wheelchairs, a cause Rotary contributes to annually, and include Rotarians in the fundraiser. It would be called the Howard S. Danner, Jr. Wheels for Wheels Cycling Challenge. An impressive \$26,000 was raised in the first year of this cycling fundraiser. This allowed for the purchase and delivery of over 250 wheelchairs to Barbados and Trinidad.

This year, it was discussed and decided that a ride could again be completed, with minor changes to ensure the safety of all participants. An incredible \$23,000 was raised by the riders and their sponsors, which will enable the Wheelchair Foundation to purchase 280 wheelchairs for distribution to those who cannot afford one. "I am so pleased that this yearly effort honors the memory of my Dad, who spent 17 years as a paraplegic in a wheelchair. Over the two years of the club event in his name, and the first solo ride when I turned 60, we have funded close to 700 life-changing wheelchairs. Amazing!" said Danner. Danner also was recognized as



Team Freedom members 2020

the rider who rode the most miles for this challenge.

The Wheelchair Foundation is a nonprofit organization leading an international effort to create awareness of the needs and abilities of people with physical disabilities, to promote the joy of giving, create global friendship, and to deliver a wheelchair to every child, teen and adult in the world who needs one, but cannot afford one. For those people, the Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club and Wheelchair Foundation deliver hope, mobility and independence to many.

"The Sanibel-Captiva Rotary Club has long been a significant supporter of the Wheelchair Foundation and its mission to provide mobility and dignity to people in need throughout the world. This year, despite the challenges of a global pandemic, they have once again gone above and beyond expectations with this incredibly generous gift which will have an immediate and long lasting impact on the lives of so many. We give our heartfelt thanks to their members," said Steve Agius, Rotary Club of Bonita-Naples, chairman District 6960 Wheelchair Committee.

Joleen Raho, spokeswoman for Team Freedom said, "Our team came together

continued on page 38

Sanibel Captiva Island Vacation Rentals would like to say:



Rachel Walsh

Jackie Royka

Vilda Cadet

THANK YOU TO OUR OWNERS.

2020 has been quite the year for a lot of the wrong reasons. Fortunately for us, it's been quite the year for a lot of great reasons, too.

Through hard work, outstanding management, spot-on marketing and innovative programs - like our Rest Easy cancellation policy, Zero Contact check-in, exclusive Owner's Rewards and more - 2020 will be a record year for our company and those owners we proudly serve.

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Interested in learning how we can make 2021 a happier new year for you? Just reach out.



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Carmi Thompson

photo provided

Shell Club Awards Grant To Florida Graduate

University of Florida graduate student Carmi Thompson was recently awarded a \$2,500 grant from the Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club for a fossil shell study. Her research seeks to broaden the understanding of the role fossil mactrids – from the understudied bivalve family Mactridae – played in past habitats and by extension, the communities that existed in those ancient environments. This unique project will be carried out at the Florida Shell and Fill Quarry in Charlotte County, Florida, which has

vertical exposed sections up to 70 feet in height representing an interval of geologic time of approximately three million years. Students from the University of Florida, led by Thompson, along with volunteers from local fossil and shell clubs, will be recruited to help.

The Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club awards grants from the proceeds of its annual shell show. Grants are given toward education and research in the fields of conchology and malacology, as well as for conservation and water quality projects, primarily in Southwest Florida. There will be a virtual shell show in March 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic. For more information about the virtual show or to join the club, visit <https://sanibelshellclub.com>.

ISLAND SUN BUSINESS NEWSMAKERS

VIP Realty Group

The top producers for November at VIP Realty Group were: Ken King, top sales; Susan Dunn, top listings; and Lynda and Kit Traverso, top producers.✪



Ken King



Susan Dunn



Kit and Lynda Traversos



Tommy Wiley



Mary Bondurant

Kingfisher Real Estate

The top producers for November at Kingfisher Real Estate were: Tommy Wiley, top listing agent; and Mary Bondurant, top selling agent.✪

Pfeifer Realty Group

The top producer for November at Pfeifer Realty Group was Jennifer McSorely, top listing agent and top sales agent.✪



Jennifer McSorely



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\$14,899* in Citation 650 (\$11,500* in Citation I**) *Price and flight time based on one way flight from Northern Ohio to Punta Gorda. Price will vary from any SW Florida airport to your home town, call 800-247-8735 for a free personal Quote. **Citation I up to 4 passengers-Flight time 3 hrs. 15 min. Arrangements to transport your vehicle home can also be made.



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The SanibelSusan Team - all licensed: Susan Andrews, David Anderson, Lisa Murty, & Elise Carnes



1238 Isabel Dr in Sanibel Harbours including lot O with dock/lift in community boat basin - \$3,495,000



2311 West Gulf Dr, White Sands #23, ~1,350 sq. ft. 2 bedroom with den & income. \$1,099,000 turnkey



760 Sextant Dr, Mariner Pointe #411. roomy ground-level 3 bedroom with bay views. \$599,000 furnished



760 Sextant Dr, Mariner Pointe #541 with this bay view from glass-enclosed lanai, 2 bedrooms. \$515,000



5117 Sea Bell Rd, Blind Pass #E101, 1st level split-plan 2 bedroom with easy on-site rentals. \$499,000 furnished



1894 Farm Trail in Island Woods, lot for older-Florida-style single-family home in community with amenities. \$199,000

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SanibelSusan Realty listings under contract, closing soon...



Sandalfoot #2D2, 671 East Gulf Dr



1120 Olga Ave, Sanibel Shores



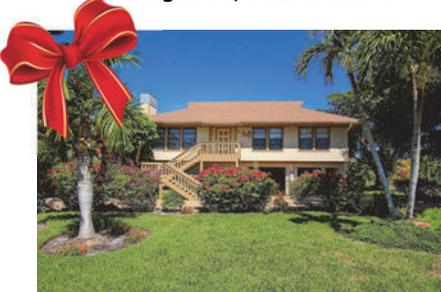
Mariner Pointe #522, 760 Sextant Dr



Compass Point #232, 1299 Middle Gulf Dr



Tarpon Beach #207, 2475 West Gulf Dr



1015 Fish Crow Rd, Gulf Shores



4566 Buck Key Rd, Sanibel Bayous



Lighthouse Point #117, 200 Periwinkle Way

Superior Interiors

Complete Rooms With Window Treatments



by Trinette Nelson

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

extra comfort while bringing style and sophistication into your home. Supplying not only a functional factor, window treatments are an accessory that can completely transform a room, giving it more depth and character.

Their addition is the perfect opportunity to express your personal style and make a room feel more complete.

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

Window treatments cannot be specified solely by the way they look. You should first assess all windows in your house and make treatment decisions based on the purpose of each room. All the spaces in your home function differently, so you'll need to explore different types of window treatments as well. For instance, you likely want the bedroom to be dimly lit or darkened for resting, so room-darkening curtains may apply here. A room that has beautiful natural light,

such as the home office or living room, can use a breezy set of sheers. Shade options which block little light but offer total privacy can be utilized in the bathroom.

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

the correct drapery hardware for the specific application must be used and be mindful of style here as well.

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

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

From page 29

Library

also offers holiday movies for adults and children.

Digital archives are now online. With nearly a thousand items, this ever-growing collection is a dynamic view of Sanibel's past. From the first homesteaders to important events in the island's recent history, the digital archive collects, preserves and provides access to all items that are valuable to island history. To see the images, newspapers, and oral histories, go to the homepage at www.sanlib.org. Seed development for this ongoing project is supported in part by the Roni Jo Freer Fund of the Sanibel Public Library Foundation.

An exhibition featuring memorabilia from Jay Norwood "Ding" Darling is

on display to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the refuge. You can also stop by the main entry lobby's selfie screen for a photo. Email a photo with "Ding," including his signature, and various birds of Sanibel overlaid on your selfie.

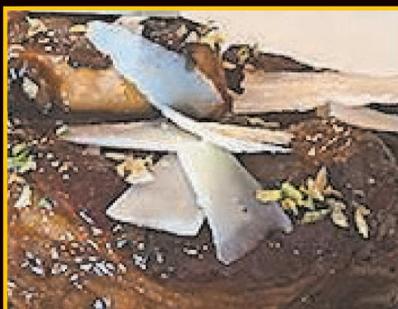
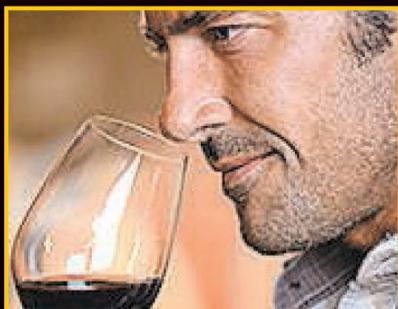
Public access computers, copiers, scanners and printers are available for use. Precautions are in place to help protect staff and patrons from COVID-19. Patrons have to maintain social distance inside the building and wear masks, (except for children under age 6). Staff is implementing safety and sanitizing procedures consistent with the CDC and Florida Department of Health guidelines.

Sanibel Public Library cards are available to all residents of Sanibel and Lee County at no charge. Visitor library cards are available for a \$10 annual fee. For more information, call 472-2483.*

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 - Private Setting Over One Acre Beachfront
- \$6,389,000**

4961 JOEWOOD DRIVE



PERFECT BEACH ESTATE

- 4 Br, 4 BA, Beautiful Beach Home, OVER 3,900 SF
 - Huge Ceilings, Skylights, Picture Windows, French Doors
 - Meticulous Grounds, Tropical Landscape, Two Beach Paths
- \$5,200,000**

16151/16155 CAPTIVA DRIVE



GULF TO BAY

- Two large parcels, Sunrise to Sunset, Dream Location
 - 2.18 Acres to Build your Dream Estate/Corporate compound
 - Gumbo Limbo Trees, Boat house & Observation deck
- \$8,950,000**

1314 SEASPRAY LANE



NEW 2020 CONSTRUCTION GULFRONT ESTATE HOME

- 5 BR /5.5 BA w/2 Master Suites & lounging areas
 - Great Rm w/ Soaring Beam Ceilings, Fantastic Woodwork
 - Amazing Multi-level Deck Space, Negative Edge Pool and Spa
- \$6,995,000**

15146 WILES DRIVE



BEACHFRONT COTTAGE

- 2 BR, 2 BA, Open concept, light & bright cottage
 - Great Investment opportunity w/ Weekly rentals
 - Perfect Island Getaway, your own piece of Paradise!
- \$2,389,000**

15261 CAPTIVA DRIVE



MODERN BAY ESTATE

- 4 BR, 4.5 BA, furnished home, 5,690 + SF under air
 - Open Concept, Amazing Chef's kitchen, Master retreat
 - Heated Pool/Spa, Deep-water dock/lift & private beach
- \$12,500,000**

6418 PINE AVENUE



SANIBEL ISLAND WATERFRONT

- 3 BR, 3 BA, Open Concept, 3,930 + S.F
 - Two Master Suites w/ screen lanais & plenty of space
 - Short Walk to beach or west end village
- \$1,849,000**

11520 WIGHTMAN LANE



STEPS TO THE BEACH

- Beautiful 3 BR, 2 BA, Pool/Spa Over 2,590 S.F.
 - Old Florida Style Home, w/ Lush Landscaped
 - Great Rental Income Potential, Beautiful Beach Home
- \$2,589,000**



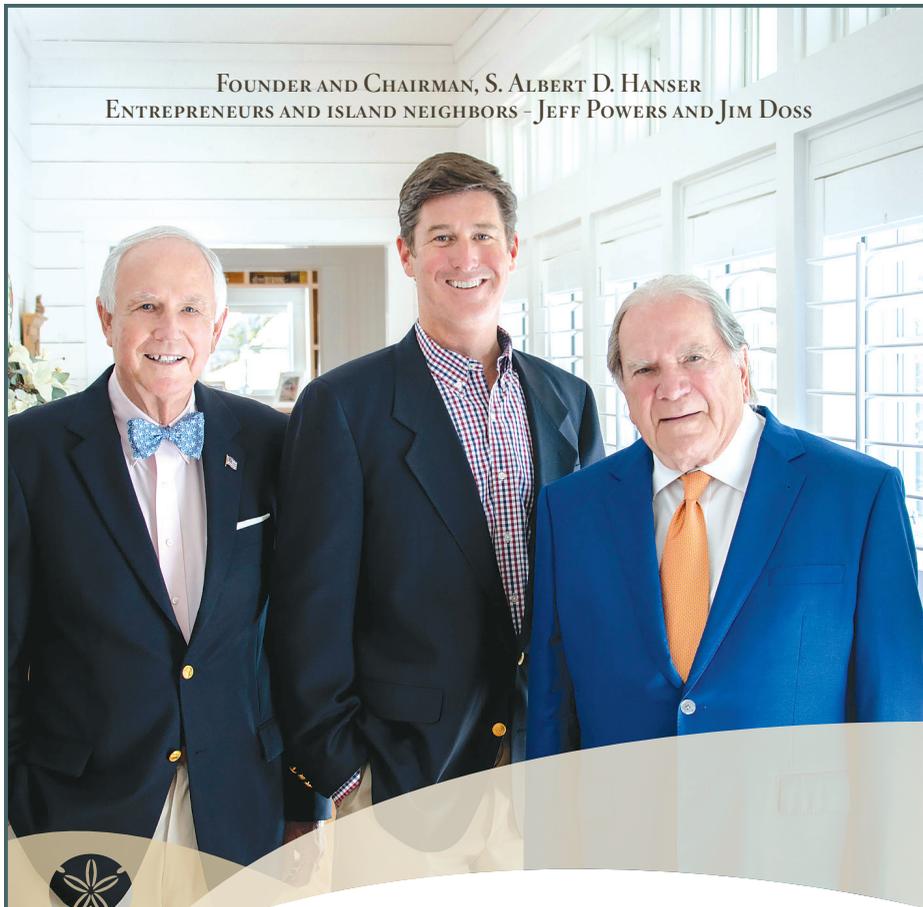
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Zonta Supports Anti-Violence Campaign

submitted by Sue Denham

At this time of the year, Zontians worldwide take action on the initiative Zonta Says NO to Violence Against Women. Launched nine years ago, the campaign involves 16 days of activism, which this year began on November 25, with strategies to reduce gender-based violence in all its forms.

A pandemic is a particularly vulnerable time for women and girls, and the ability to provide help has also become more challenging. However, violence against women continues to be a global issue, and Zontians in dozens of countries have come up with ideas that can work during COVID-19 restrictions.

Through its service and advocacy team, the Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva is placing shells painted orange – the theme color of the campaign – in public places on Sanibel, labeled with the number for the national domestic violence hotline, 1-800-799-SAFE (7233). You may find one in a parking lot, on a bench at a shopping center, on the causeway islands, or even on the beach. And if you know someone who might need help, pick up the shell and pass it on.

According to Kate Sergeant, Zonta's advocacy chair, the shells will continue to be "planted" until supplies are depleted.

Other ideas from Zonta clubs around the world include a billboard in Birmingham, Alabama with a domestic violence phone number to call; in



Zontian Jan Alden with a supply of shells bearing the national domestic violence hotline number photo provided

Rotterdam, along a main road, flags were installed bearing the "Zonta Says NO" message; and in Geelong, Australia, signage to balance the "Zonta Says NO" message with some that state "Zonta Says Yes to Gender Equality."

The Zonta Club of Sanibel-Captiva is a service organization of professionals working together to provide hands-on assistance, advocacy and funds to empower women and girls on the islands, in Lee County and around the world through Zonta International. For more information, visit www.zontasancap.com; follow Zonta Sanibel-Captiva on Facebook, and "like" Zonta Sanibel-Captiva (@zontasancap) on Instagram.*

League Of Voters Hosting Candidate Forum

Beginning in March, Sanibel residents will see new faces on the Sanibel City Council.

Three openings on the council will be filled in the Sanibel municipal election on March 2. It is too early to know who or how many may be vying for these seats. Candidate qualifying takes place from January 11 to 15 and at that time, it will be announced who the candidates will be.

It is the mission of the League of Women Voters to encourage informed and active participation in government. For over 100 years, the public has held the league in high regard for its work on candidate debates and forums. Therefore, it is important to follow universal best practices to ensure fair and well executed candidate events.

The Sanibel league hosts candidate forums in a credible, non-partisan setting.

Since its founding in 2010, the Sanibel league has successfully hosted a number of candidate events moderated by qualified professionals. Questions are posed in a balanced way including questions from the audience.

The Sanibel league will host a candidate forum on Tuesday, February 2 from 5:30 to 7 p.m. Moderator will be Professor Roger Green, head of the political science department at FGCU. Dr. Green has

worked with the Sanibel league previously and always receives high marks for integrity and fairness. Voters will come away with the ability to compare and contrast the candidates on the issues facing the city council today and in the future.

Because of the many in-person issues with the pandemic and to assure that everyone is safe, this forum will be held as a virtual webinar for which you will be provided a link once you register. More details will follow on the website, lwvsanibel.org, on Facebook and in local papers. If you have question, email lwvsanibel@gmail.com.

Lee County (www.lee.vote) has published important dates to consider as you plan your vote in the City of Sanibel election on March 2:

Monday, February 1 is the deadline to register to vote, if you are not already a registered Florida voter;

Saturday, February 20 is the deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot to be mailed in to Sanibel. This is also the last day to return your ballot through the mail.

If you are going to drop off your vote by mail ballot, you may hand deliver it to the Supervisor of Elections office or branch office no later than 7 p.m. on election day. You may also use the drop-off boxes at the branch locations in Fort Myers, 13180 Cleveland Avenue or 2480 Thompson Street, 3rd floor.

For more information, call 533-8683 or visit www.lee.vote. You may also check your registration status and ask about precinct locations on Sanibel.*



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 - Panoramic Beach views. Private Pool and Spa
 - Fully Furnished. Turn key
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1306 Seaspray Lane, Sanibel



- Gorgeous & exclusive gulf front estate residence
 - 5 Bdrms/5 Baths. Private Pool
 - New roof. Impact Windows and Doors
 - Beautifully decorated. Private community w/ tennis.
- \$4,650,000

16970 Captiva Dr., Captiva



- Prime Location on Captiva Gold Coast.
 - 100' of Beach Frontage
 - Western Exposure Direct Sunset Views.
 - Live the Island dream.
- \$3,995,000

490 Sawgrass Place, Sanibel



- Gorgeous Euro Finishes in Beautiful Setting
 - 3BR, 2.5BA, Flowing Floor Plan, Lifestyle Exterior
 - Stunning Pool, Well-Appointed Gem
 - Private, Near W. Gulf Drive, Steps to Beach
- \$1,595,000

4850 Laurel Lane – Palmetto Point



- Beautiful Waterfront Views
 - Terrific Deep Water Boating
 - Wonderful Family Home w/ Pool
 - Premier Waterfront Community in SWFL
- New Price \$949,000

2515/2517 Wulfert Road, Sanibel



- Vacant Lot, #14 Green, lake & fairway views.
 - Wonderful Southern Exposure.
 - Awesome amenities. Dining, Golf, Tennis & Fitness.
- \$259,000

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Life Insurance

Estate Planning



J. Brendan Ryan, CLU, ChFC, MSFS

You have certainly heard of estate planning. And, if you are like most people, you probably have at least some understanding of what it means.

you name a beneficiary for a qualified retirement plan.

But how does one get started in a deliberate process of formal estate planning? Many people simply have the spontaneous insight that they need to get their affairs in order and begin the process with a phone call. For others, it comes as a recommendation from one or another advisor, such as an insurance agent, financial advisor, accountant, etc.

After talking things over with one's spouse about how assets should be distributed at the death of either or both of them, the first step should be to select an experienced estate planning attorney and go in to see that attorney for an initial interview.

How do you find such an attorney? If you do not already know one, ask friends and associates who they use and whether they are happy with the relationship. If that does not work, the local bar association, which is the professional association of practicing attorneys in your area, can give you names.

That is the beginning of your estate planning team. Your attorney will want to work with your other advisors to lay out the best possible arrangements for meeting the planning goals that you will have established through consultation

For some people, estate planning may be very simple, nothing more than writing a will. For others, it may include not just a will but also one or more trusts, new life insurance, powers of appointment, a living will and other legal instruments.

Once these documents are executed,

they should be reviewed from time to time with the attorney and other advisors. Circumstances, affections and family dynamics change, and these documents in many cases need to be changed and updated accordingly.

A few additional considerations:

If you want to have a say about how your property is distributed and even who could be named as the guardian of your underage children, do not ignore estate planning. For those who die without a will, the state writes one under the laws of intestacy. These laws spell out who gets what property left behind by those who die "intestate." You may not like the outcome.

Do not be tempted to get a book and write your own legal documents. Attorneys take courses in this area to be sure that no mistakes are made, no laws are ignored, no invalid provisions are included. Errors or confusion often lead to messy, lengthy and expensive contests of the will in court.

Unless you have named your estate as beneficiary of your life insurance or qualified retirement plans – or else have named no beneficiary at all – your will does not affect the payment of those death benefits. And no future change that you make in beneficiary designations affects your will. But your planning should be sure to coordinate these policies with the provisions of your will to be sure that your goals are achieved.

J. Brendan Ryan is a Cincinnati insurance agent. He can be reached at jbryanclu@aol.com.✱

From page 31

Rotary Happenings

easily as we all passionately believe every person deserves to live a life of freedom and dignity that each wheelchair provides, regardless of the ability to pay. Knowing many wheelchairs end up near Rotary clubs that can help distribute, maintain and repurpose each chair when appropriate is just good management. I am so thankful for every Team Freedom member who chose to stand in the gap and support those in need. Together, our team purchased \$4,300 or 43 wheelchairs out of approximately 200 wheelchairs and counting, for this event." Raho and Team Freedom were honored as the winner of most money collected at a recent Rotary meeting.

The Sanibel-Captiva Rotary will be holding a hybrid meeting both on Zoom and in person at The Dunes Golf and Tennis Club. To attend a meeting in person, email Bill Harkey at William.Harkey@gmail.com by Wednesday. The number of people who may attend in person is limited to 20. Another option to join us for meetings is through our club's Zoom meeting on Fridays. Doors open at 7 a.m. and the meeting begins at 7:30 a.m.

The Sanibel-Captiva Rotary will continue to meet by Zoom meetings until further notice on Friday mornings at 7:30 a.m. You may arrive as early as 7 a.m. to chat with other members. To be included, call Rotary at 472-7257.✱

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1



2



3

1. Magazine Ready Home in the Sanctuary – Sanibel

- 5 BR/ 5/1 BA property situated on the bay & intercoastal waterway and framed in by the Sanctuary's signature 4th hole.
- Boasting 11,000sqft, the interior finishes include luxurious accent wall of glass, walk-in wine cellar, marble inspired Cambria counters, statement light fixtures & over a million dollars in updates.
- **\$2,998,000** Euro 2,658,932

2. Shell Harbor Direct Access Lot – Sanibel

- Build your dream home on Sanibel's East End. This corner lot with boat dock & lift offers direct access and can accommodate a large boat or sailboat
- **\$1,345,000** Euro 1,245,064

3. Duplex Style Home on Sanibel

- Unique property in the heart of Sanibel fit for a family compound or vacation retreat
- Features two separate 3 bed/3 bath residences each with a 2 car garage. Pool, spa, & garden area
- **\$859,000** Euro 725,801

4. Remodeled in Victoria Cove – East End / Sanibel

- 4 BR + Den / 4 BA home, steps to the beach with private boat dock & 16K lift
- Gorgeously remodeled, large porches, private pool & spa, sundeck with Gulf views
- **\$2,300,000** Euro 1,936,499

5. On The Wiles Side – Captiva

- 3 BR/ 2 BA home that just completed a total remodel with attention to every detail
- Fabulous pool oasis with tropical flora and steps to beach access
- **\$1,975,000** Euro 1,813,860

6. Near Beach Home off West Gulf Drive – Sanibel

- Fully furnished 3 BR/ 2 BA home (Currently configured as a 2 BR)
- Recently remodeled with coastal finishes, impact resistant windows
- **\$649,500** Euro 547,486



4



5



6



7



8



9

7. South Seas Beach Home – Captiva

- 4 BR/ 3 BA two story fully remodeled beach home.
- Open kitchen, vaulted ceilings, impact windows
- Daily sunsets from the open & enclosed lanai space including top floor private deck off master
- **\$3,375,000** Euro 3,045,341

8. On East End Across from Beach w/ Boat Dock

- 3 BR/ 3.5 BA + den and loft in Eastwood Landings w/ tennis, boat dock, & beach access
- Main floor master, fully mitigated, high ceilings, & screen enclosed pool
- **\$1,390,000** Euro 1,173,466

9. Updated Tropical Beach Condo at Loggerhead Cay -Sanibel

- 2 BR/2 BA condo with remodeled kitchen, baths, French doors, plantation shutters, & Gulf views from lanai
- Large pool, pet friendly, & weekly rentals make this a great option for families and investors
- **\$699,000** Euro 590,172

10. Captiva Village Home with Stunning Gulf Views

- 3 BR/ 4 BA fully remodeled home designed to take advantage of Gulf views from every level
- Wood floors, stainless steel kitchen, stone fireplace, multiple lanais, large master suite, grotto inspired pool w/ hot tub, wet bar, & shower
- **\$3,395,000** Euro 3,021,269

11. 4 bedroom Home on Intersecting Canal – Sanibel

- 4 BR/ 4 BA home with boat dock, lift, and private pool
- Large kitchen, private elevator, multiple lanai's including rooftop deck with Bay views
- **\$2,195,000** Euro 1,853,259

12. Bright & Airy Condo in The Sanctuary

- Spacious 3 BR/ 3.5 BA condo with private garage & elevator to private entrance that lives like a home
- Tropical landscaped golf course views, abundance of natural light throughout, 10 ft ceilings with crown molding
- **\$749,900** Euro 632,117



10



11



12

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Will Power

Gifting As The Year Ends



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

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

Me too!

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

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

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

So Randy transfers \$30,000 each to Stanley and to Shelley. This would be a taxable gift exceeding the \$15,000 per beneficiary rule unless Shelia agrees to "split the gift" by signing a Gift Tax Return Form 709. Shelia is not affected by splitting the gift, nor are her children affected. In this example, Randy is gifting money from Randy's separate bank account. Shelia may therefore still give \$15,000 each to her children and grandchildren. In fact, Shelia can ask Randy to split the gifts to her children, Kyle and Isaac, to give them \$30,000 each as well so Shelia can write those checks directly from her account.

In addition to gifts of money, many of my clients tell me that they intend to give other items, such as valuable art or jewelry. In order for a gift to be considered "tax free"

and to remove it from the estate for federal estate tax purposes, the donor must actually transfer custody of the asset to the donee. Let's illustrate this by another example.

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

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

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

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

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

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Mussels Continue As Twins Affiliate

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

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

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

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

continued on page 44

How's The Market? Ask Ann

In addition to reporting weekly Real Estate activity on Sanibel, I generally give my opinion both "pro" and "con" on specific segments of our market. Let's talk about vacant Sanibel lots. My husband and I have built three homes on Sanibel over a 30-year period and have owned 7 other lots. Learning some things the hard way, we became aware of Sanibel's codes and issues like wetlands, coverage area allowed, gopher tortoise habitats, setbacks, clearing issues, surveys and reasonable timeframes in regard to building a new home.

We know the lot market and believe we bring "value" to both lot buyers and sellers. Currently, there are 54 lots on the market listed in our MLS system. In the last five weeks, we sold and closed two lots and have another three lots under contract. We have our eye on four lots we believe are quality, well priced sites. We also believe the vacant lot market is vanishing and we start to see "tear down" homes as the only alternative. In closing, our home and condos continue to sell quickly. Our major issue is lack of inventory... good for the Sellers and challenging for a Buyer.

Closed Sales going back one week: 6 Homes, 3 Condos & 1 Vacant Lot

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1610 Middle Gulf Dr. F6 Spanish Cay - \$280,000 | 1125 Captains Walk St. - \$736,000 |
| 2840 West Gulf Dr. #43 Seashells - \$427,000 | 4345 Gulf Pines Dr. - \$775,000 |
| 5775 Baltusrol Ct. Ibis at The Sanctuary 202 - \$475,000 | 1467 Sand Castle Rd. - \$790,000 |
| 5251 Indian Ct. - \$600,000 | 1720 Dixie Beach Blvd. - \$925,000 |
| 2480 Library Way - \$600,000 | 1133 Golden Olive Ct. - \$2,300,000 |

Call or email me with any questions. Stay safe.

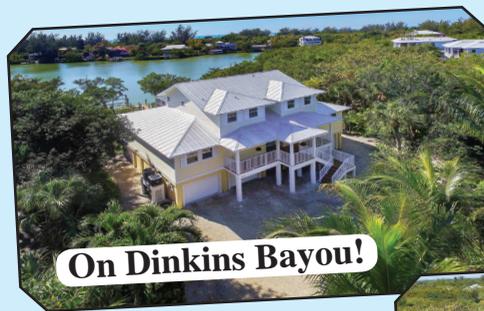


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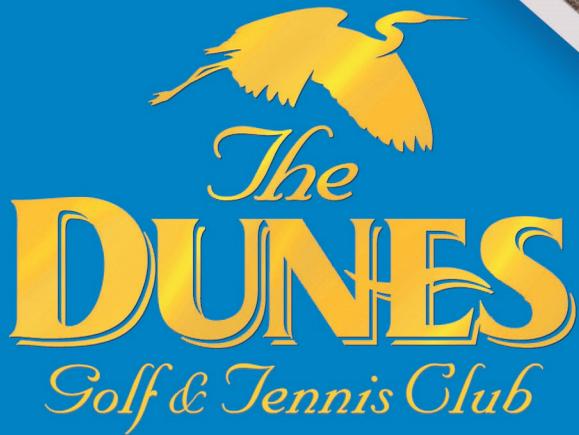
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Frankly Speaking

by Howard Prager



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

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

commissioner of the ACC. He starts in February. We'll miss him in Evanston. He did a good job of turning the perennial "Mildcats" to Wildcats as well as building some spectacular new training facilities/recreation gym on campus. *Sports Business Journal* named him Athletic Director of the Year in 2018

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

As typical near the end of the season, several coaches were shown the door including Lovie Smith of Illinois, Gus Malzahn of Auburn, Kevin Sumlin of Arizona, Blake Anderson of Arkansas State (resigned), Matt Viator of UL-Monroe, Steve Campbell of South Alabama, and earlier this season Derek Mason of Vanderbilt, Will Muschamp of South Carolina and Gary Andersen of Utah State. Speaking of which, Utah State players voted not to play last weekend against Colorado State, and not due to the pandemic. The team made the decision following some negative comments reportedly made by Utah State University President Noelle Cockett regarding the religious and cultural background of the team's interim head coach, Frank Maile. "We thought it would be best by not playing the game to make this kind of statement," Garrett Larson,

a quarterback on the team, said to CNN affiliate KUTV. "On Tuesday, December 8th, the Utah State University Football Leadership Council held a zoom meeting with Noelle Cockett, president of USU, and John Hartwell, the athletic director. The purpose of the meeting was to have a say in the search for our new head coach. During the meeting, we voiced our support for Interim Head Coach Frank Maile. In response to our comments, their primary concern was his religious and cultural background. Players, stating their diverse faiths and backgrounds, then jumped to Coach Frank Maile's defense in treating everyone with love, equality and fairness." If Maile is not embraced at USU as the next head coach, may he find a better place to coach, as do all the coaches now out of work.

According to *The New York Times*, "Following years of protests, the Cleveland Indians have decided to change their team name, moving away from a name and image that has long been criticized as racist." This past summer, Cleveland did away with the cartoon image of Chief Wahoo as they started the process of deciding what to do with their name. As you know, the former NFL Washington Redskins have been playing this year as Washington Football Team to stop using a name long considered a racial slur. "The transition to a new name involves many logistical considerations, including work with uniform manufacturers and companies that produce other team equipment

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

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

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

SPORTS QUIZ

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

ANSWERS

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

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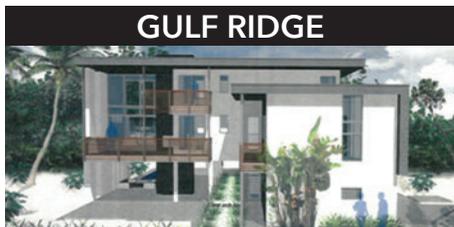
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Health First

Magnesium Is Key For Good Health



by Julie Rosenberg, MD

Magnesium is a mineral found in the earth, sea, plants, animals and humans. The adult body contains about 25 grams of magnesium, 50 to 60 percent of

which is found in bone. The remainder of magnesium in the body is in muscles, soft tissues and fluids, including blood.

Magnesium is involved in hundreds of biochemical reactions in your body and is vital for many bodily functions. Magnesium is necessary for your cells to make energy, to stabilize cellular membranes and to help your muscles relax. Ensuring that you take in enough magnesium can help prevent or treat chronic diseases, including type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and migraine headache.

The daily recommended dietary allowances for elemental magnesium for adults are: 400 to 420mg for men and 310 to 320mg for women. The following foods are good sources of magnesium: pumpkin seeds, spinach, swiss chard, kelp, dark chocolate, black beans, quinoa,

wheat bran, almonds and cashews. Most individuals do not get enough magnesium through diet alone, although deficiency symptoms are uncommon in otherwise healthy people.

Magnesium supplements are widely available, inexpensive and generally well tolerated. Supplement forms that are well absorbed include magnesium citrate, glycinate or aspartate. Avoid magnesium carbonate, sulfate, gluconate and oxide supplements, which are poorly absorbed. If you have a medical condition, be sure to check with your doctor or pharmacist before initiating magnesium supplementation. Magnesium in supplements can interact with some types of antibiotics and other medications.

Following are six important health benefits of magnesium.

Anti-Inflammatory Benefits – Low magnesium intake is linked to chronic inflammation, one of the drivers of aging, obesity and chronic disease. Magnesium has been shown to help fight inflammation. It helps to regulate inflammatory substances in the body and reduces the inflammatory biomarker, C-Reactive Protein.

Diabetes Support – Magnesium plays an important role in glucose control and insulin metabolism. Insulin resistance, a condition characterized by an impaired ability of muscle and liver cells to properly absorb sugar from the bloodstream, often develops before type 2 diabetes. High levels of insulin accompany insulin resistance. This may lead to loss of magnesium through the urine, and low magnesium levels. Most, but not

all, people with type 2 diabetes have low magnesium. Supplementing with magnesium has been shown to reduce both insulin resistance and blood sugar levels. Thus, magnesium may play a role in diabetes management.

Migraine Prevention – Migraine headaches are painful and debilitating. Magnesium can help to prevent and treat migraines, as it relaxes blood vessels and allows them to dilate, reducing the spasms and constrictions common with migraines. In addition to regulating inflammatory substances, magnesium also regulates the action of brain neurotransmitters, which may play a role in migraines when unbalanced.

Bone Health – Bone is a composite tissue containing mineral (hydroxyapatite), matrix (collagen and non-collagenous proteins), cells and water. Magnesium is essential for healthy bone formation. Magnesium deficiency contributes to osteoporosis by limiting hydroxyapatite crystal formation in bone, impacting the secretion and the activity of parathyroid hormone (a regulator of calcium and phosphate) and by promoting low grade inflammation. Magnesium supplementation may improve bone health both directly and indirectly, as it helps to regulate both calcium and vitamin D, two other vital nutrients for bone health.

Cardiovascular Health – Magnesium plays a key role in muscle contraction and relaxation. Optimal intake of magnesium supports cardiovascular health. Because magnesium helps blood vessels relax, it supports blood pressure regulation. Magnesium deficiency can increase a person's risk of cardiovascular problems. This is due, in part, to its roles on a cellular level. Physicians sometimes use magnesium as a component of treatment for congestive heart failure to reduce the risk of abnormal heart rhythm.

Mood Regulation – Magnesium plays a role in many of the pathways, enzymes, hormones and neurotransmitters involved in mood regulation. High stress leads to an increase in magnesium elimination from the body. Low magnesium levels are also associated with anxiety and depression.

Studies have shown that magnesium can help to reduce symptoms of both anxiety and depression.

In summary, adequate magnesium intake is essential for normal bodily function. Most people don't get enough magnesium from diet alone and should consider taking a daily dietary supplement. Consult your healthcare practitioner before taking any supplement, especially if you have underlying medical conditions.

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

From page 40

Twins Affiliate

Mauer, Justin Morneau, Miguel Sano, Max Kepler, Jose Berrios and Byron Buxton.

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

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

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Lions Club Hears About Estate Planning

Steve Greenstein, executive vice president of The Sanibel Captiva Trust Company spoke via Zoom at the November meeting of the Sanibel Captiva Lions Club. The topic of his talk was How to Talk to Your Heirs About Managing Inherited Wealth.



Steve Greenstein

Greenstein stressed the power of communication to reduce the potential family disputes and hard feelings when the estate is settled. He said studies show that over 80 percent of family members felt that they were fairly treated when they received advanced communication on the estate plan. He indicated that there are three paths that people seem to follow in discussing estate plans: not at all; a little bit goes a long way; and tell all.

A frank discussion with heirs gives parents and children an opportunity to discuss how personal as well as financial assets should be distributed. Who wants the silverware and china? Who wants the artwork? Why did you collect all those matchbook covers, why they are valuable, and how you would like them distributed?

Why do you plan to leave different amounts of assets to different members of the family?

He explained that fair does not necessarily mean equal. The needs of one child may be greater than the needs of another. An open discussion of the issues will help both the parents and the heirs understand and accept the distribution.

Greenstein suggested that there should be a meeting with mom, dad, daughter, and son. This meeting should also include any trust officers and the estate attorney. This will give all parties involved a chance to meet each other, review the estate plan and give a fuller understanding of the nature of any trust documents and how the assets are to flow after the parents are deceased.

The Sanibel Captiva Lions Club has been serving the Sanibel and Captiva communities for over 50 years. While the Lions Club is most known for its effort to eliminate preventable blindness, the club serves citizens of the Islands and greater Southwest Florida in a variety of ways. The local club is part of Lions Club International, the largest service organization in the world with over 1.4 million members in chapters in over 200 countries.

Sanibel Captiva Lions Club holds regular dinner meetings on the first and third Wednesday of the month throughout the year. Visiting Lions or other interested parties are welcome to attend. For more information, contact Steven Schulz at P.O. Box 391, Sanibel, FL 33957 or 233-6261, or visit the website at www.sanibelcaptivalionsclub.org.

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

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

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

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

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

For more information, visit www.leehealth.org.

Visitation Changes For Lee Health Facilities

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

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

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

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



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Beautifulife:

Angels



by Kay Casperson

This time of year, many people are celebrating with the angels, from singing Christmas songs about them, putting angels on their treetops, and decorating their homes with

beautiful figurines. But I believe that angels are among us every day of the year, not just at Christmastime.

I have always been fascinated with the angels. I used to have a book called *Angel Wisdom*, a daily meditation book about what the angels would do in various situations. I read a passage from this book 20 years ago at a fundraising event held on Captiva Island to raise money to preserve nature. That same event is where I met my husband, and we are celebrating 20 years of being together this month.

It was such a coincidence that I read this particular passage the morning of this event to help preserve nature with the Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation. I asked to share it on stage with the many guests that were there to help raise funds. The passage that I read was about how angels want us to preserve nature and enjoy the beautiful plants, animals and benefits.

My Mom passed five years ago this January. She was a singer and had a beautiful voice like an angel. I gave the eulogy at her celebration of life. I talked about how I envision her in heaven singing with the angels. When I fly in an airplane, I pray every time over the plane for our safety. I imagine angels surrounding my aircraft, including my Mom. It may sound crazy to some of you, but I know that when you pray, if you believe enough to envision things happening, that is true faith.

We miss people the most on special occasions and the holidays. It is the time that we celebrate together, express our love, and send greetings of joy, peace and happiness to each other. But missing people that have passed in our lives doesn't have to be sad. It can also be a joyful celebration knowing that they are angels among us. They are there to guide us, help protect us and to continue steering us towards our best and most beautiful life.

My affirmation for you this week is: "I will celebrate and embrace the angels that surround me and guide me today and every day."

Merry Christmas!

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

dearRPharmacist

Six Holiday Plants That Make You Sick



by Suzy Cohen, RPh

Dear Readers:

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

reach of children and pets.

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

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

Holly Berries – Boughs of holly offer homeowners some stunning holiday decor options, but the berries are toxic to pets and people. It can cause local irritation in your mouth as well as severe diarrhea, vomiting, dehydration, drowsiness, the jitters and physical weakness. The holly leaves are prickly so those aren't safe either, but it's really the berries that are the most harmful because they contain cyanogenic glycosides, as well as another toxin that acts similarly to theophylline.

Christmas Trees – If you love the scent of a beautiful living spruce tree, and bring one home for the holidays, I recommend you feed it with plain water. Don't use the commercial preservatives because most brands can cause stomach upset, nausea, vomiting and eye irritation. Whether or not

this causes sensitivity is really dependent on what your tree preservative contains. Pathogens like bacteria and fungus will grow in stagnant water, so make sure you keep the water fresh.

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

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

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

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

The Holidays And Drug Addiction

Narconon reminds families that as you are spending time with family and friends this holiday season, be on the lookout for signs that a loved one may be struggling with addiction to drugs or alcohol. Be mindful of the things that will actually tell you whether or not they are doing well. If you notice that things aren't right, you need to be prepared to confront them and get them into treatment.

For more information on how to confront your loved one, visit www.narconon-suncoast.org/blog/how-to-confront-your-addict-this-holiday-season.html. Call 1-877-841-5509 for a no cost screening or referral.*

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Doctor and Dietician

Tips For A Strong Immune System



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

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

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

Reduce Unnecessary Stress – Assess what you find stressful and find ways to eliminate them. I know that I always felt that I had to carry on certain traditions – like sending Christmas cards, making dozens of homemade cookies, finding the perfect gifts for everyone and entertaining as the hostess with the mostest. Well, guess what? I got over it! No more cards. Only a few cookies.

And much more casual get-togethers. Send e-cards or letters or post your card on social media. Get together with a friend who loves to bake and make a few items together. Go potluck for gatherings.

Get enough sleep – We cannot emphasize the importance of sleep. Make getting enough sleep a priority. Most require seven or eight hours of sleep each night and even more during periods of extra stress.

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

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

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

Include immune-stimulating foods – Vegetables: green leafy, broccoli, cabbage, peppers, Brussels sprouts, onions, beets, tomatoes, carrots, asparagus, cauliflower, yams, pumpkin; Legumes: soybeans, garbanzo beans, kidney beans, lentils, navy beans, split peas, black-eyed peas, pinto beans; Fish: cod, halibut, salmon, tuna, trout,

bass, sole, haddock, sardines; Oils: (cold-pressed and unrefined “extra-virgin”) flax seed oil, primrose oil, borage oil, hemp oil, olive oil, sesame oil, fish oils; Other: brewer's yeast, garlic, vinegar, mustard, salsa, curry, cinnamon, ginger, green tea, cayenne, stevia, kelp, spirulina, bee pollen, wheat germ.

Here's to a happy, healthy, holiday

season for all!

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

Got A Problem?
Dr. Connie Is In

by Constance Clancy

Q: Is it ok to multitask?

A: When one does multitask, there is a greater change of feeling overwhelmed.

In our high tech world, we are led to believe we can

do it all, and multitasking becomes a common thread. For example, many people feel they can talk on the phone, e-mail, check a text message, post on facetime and cook dinner all at once! When it comes to our brain, at best a two-task limit is the most we can handle without that overwhelm.

What happens is the brain loses track of all the tasks that need to be processed, then something called the stress response is set off, which likely

indicates you will fight, flee or freeze. It's all too much. There is research that even indicates multitasking may even impair cognitive control. One study even showed how multitasking took 40 percent longer to get something done. Stress from multitasking can also contribute to more errors, making multi-tasking a waste of all you were trying to do in the first place.

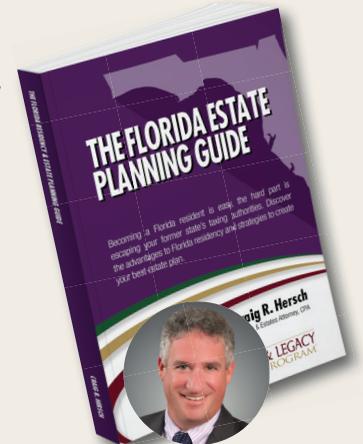
It truly is best to stop everything you are doing when things get out of hand. Take a deep breath and follow your breathing for a moment. Be present, in the here and now, and allow your mind to rest and your body to relax. Once you are feeling calm and centered, select one item to focus on at a time, and when that is complete, focus on the next. You will accomplish it much better than trying to multitask.

*Constance Clancy, EdD, LMHC, LPC, NCC is a licensed mental health therapist, hypnotherapist, author and holistic stress management instructor. If you have a question, email Constance at drconstanceclancy@gmail.com or visit www.drconstanceclancy.com.**

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

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- On Call Captiva Deputy..... 477-1000
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- Fire Department, Captiva 472-9494
- Florida Marine Patrol..... 332-6966
- Florida Highway Patrol 278-7100
- Poison Control..... 1-800-282-3171
- Chamber of Commerce..... 472-1080
- City Council 472-4135
- City Building Department..... 472-4555
- City Manager 472-3700
- City Planning & Code Enforcement Department 472-4136
- City Public Works 472-6397
- Library, Sanibel 472-2483
- Library, Captiva 239-533-4890
- Lee County Mosquito Control 239-694-2174
- Post Office, Sanibel 472-1573
- Post Office, Sanibel (toll free) 800-275-8777
- Post Office, Captiva..... 472-1674
- Sanibel Community House..... 472-2155
- Center 4 Life, Senior Center..... 472-5743
- ARTS**
- Arcade Theater..... 332-4488
- Art League Of Fort Myers..... 275-3970
- BIG ARTS..... 395-0900
- Broadway Palm Dinner Theatre 278-4422
- Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers 288-2535
- Gulf Coast Symphony..... 277-1700
- Herb Strauss Schoolhouse Theater..... 472-6862
- Lee County Alliance for the Arts 939-2787
- Naples Philharmonic..... 597-1111
- Sanibel Music Festival 336-7999
- Sanibel-Captiva Art League sancapart.org
- Southwest Florida Symphony 418-0996
- Symphonic Chorale of Southwest Florida 560-5695
- CLUBS & ORGANIZATIONS**
- ABWA..... <http://abwasanibelcaptiva.org>
- American Legion Post 123..... 472-9979
- Angel Flight SE 1-877-4AN-ANGEL
- Audubon of SWFL..... <https://www.audubonswfl.org/>
- Audubon Society..... 472-3744
- Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum 395-2233
- CHR Community Housing & Resources 472-1189
- Community Foundation of Sanibel-Captiva 274-5900
- COTI Committee of the Islands coti@coti.org
- CROW, Clinic For The Rehabilitation of Wildlife..... 472-3644
- Disabled Am Vets #108 (San-Cap Rep Ted Tyson) 211 984-5920
- FISH OF SANCAP Neighbors Helping Neighbors 472-4775
- FISH OF SANCAP 24-hr service..... 472-0404
- Horticultural Society of the Islands..... 472-6940
- Horticulture and Tea Society of Sanibel and Captiva . 472-8334
- JN "Ding" Darling National Wildlife Refuge 472-1100
- Kiwanis Club 677-7299
- League of Women Voters sanibelLWV@gmail.com
- Lions Club, Jeff MacDonald..... 302-521-1158
- Master Gardeners of the Islands 472-6940
- Military Officers Assc. of America, Alex MacKenzie .. 395-9232
- Newcomers 472-9332
- Notre Dame Club of Southwest Florida 768-0417
- Optimist Club..... 472-0836
- PAWS, Protection of Animal Welfare Society . . . 239-313-6918
- Progressive Club of the Islands pcisancap@gmail.com
- Rotary Club 472-7257 or 472-0141
- Sanibel Bike Club sanibelbicycleclub.org
- Sanibel Beautification Inc. 470-2866
- Sanibel-Captiva Orchid Society..... 472-6940
- Sanibel-Captiva Power Squadron . . . www.sancapboating.club
- Sanibel-Captiva Republican Caucus..... 395-0819
- Sanibel-Captiva Shell Club..... 267-7291
- Sanibel Historical Museum & Village 472-4648
- Sanibel Island Fishing Club..... 472-8994
- Sanibel Youth Soccer..... 395-2040
- SCCF Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation..... 472-2329
- SCCF Sea Turtle Hotline..... 978-728-3663
- Shell Islands Garden Club 246-8875
- United Way of Lee County - 24 hour helpline 211 . . . 433-2000
- Zonta Club 728-1971

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PUZZLES

Answers on page 55



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

SCRAMBLERS

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

Entice

PARENT

Fable

GLEEND

Entering

DARWIN

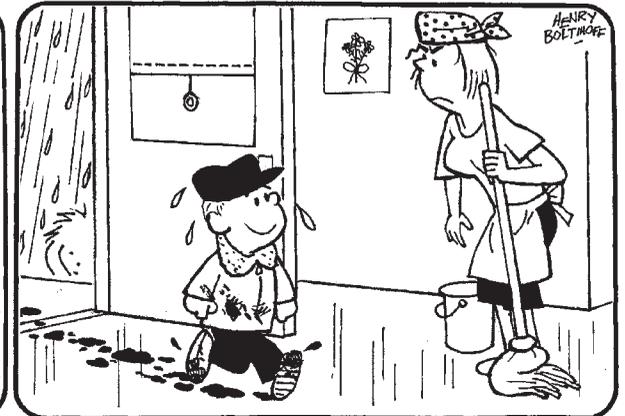
Impede

HERDIN

TODAY'S WORD

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



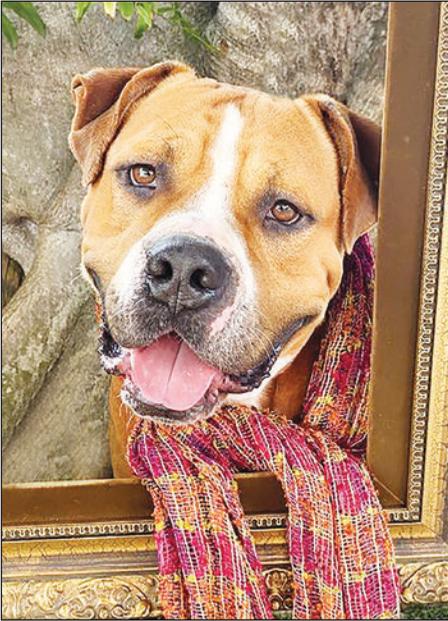
Differences: 1. Bandanna is backward. 2. Picture has been added. 3. Shade is lower. 4. Bucket has no water. 5. Boy's hat is different. 6. Broom handle is taller.

To Play Sudoku:

Complete the grid so that every row, column and every 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (the same number cannot appear more than once in a row, column or 3x3 box.) There is no guessing and no math involved, just logic.

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

PETS OF THE WEEK



Salvador ID# A834140 photos provided



Rosa ID# A832493

Lee County Domestic Animal Services

Salvador And Rosa

Hello, my name is Salvador. I have been patiently waiting for a home in time for the holidays. I am a 4-year-old male mastiff mix who's calm, well-mannered and very huggable. I'm also a work of art. So what's the hang up? What's not to like about a handsome dog that allows you to dress him up for a photo shoot?! Come on over and see me. My adoption fee is \$75.

Hi, I'm Rosa. I am a 10-year-old female domestic shorthair who's not only practical

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

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

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

Hospitals Earn Top Quality And Safety Award

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

My Stars ★★★★★

FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 14, 2020

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

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

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

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

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

on to other matters.

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

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

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

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

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

Aquarius (January 20 to February

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

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

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

MOMENTS IN TIME

• On Dec. 23, 1620, one week after the Mayflower arrived at Plymouth harbor in present-day Massachusetts, construction of the first permanent European settlement in New England begins. The term "Pilgrim" was derived from a manuscript in which Gov. Bradford spoke of the "saints" who traveled to the New World as "pilgrimes."

• On Dec. 22, 1808, Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 5 in C Minor, Op. 67 made its world premiere. The Fifth Symphony is instantly recognizable by its powerful four-note opening motif – three short Gs followed

by a long E-flat.

• On Dec. 25, 1880, Layne Hall is born in Mississippi. When he died in 1990, Hall was the oldest licensed driver in the U.S. In nearly 75 years on the road, Hall never got a speeding ticket or citation of any kind.

• On Dec. 26, 1917, President Woodrow Wilson announces the nationalization of a majority of the country's railroads under the Federal Possession and Control Act due to World War I. Two days later, the United States Railroad Administration seized control.

• On Dec. 24, 1923, President Calvin Coolidge touches a button and lights up the first national Christmas tree to grace the White House grounds. The tree was the first to be decorated with electric lights – a strand of 2,500 red, white and green bulbs.

• On Dec. 27, 1932, at the height of the Great Depression, thousands turn out for the opening of Radio City Music Hall in New York City. Designed as a place where ordinary people could see quality entertainment, it remains the largest indoor theater in the world.

• On Dec. 21, 1975, in Vienna, Austria, Carlos the Jackal leads a raid on a meeting of the Organization of

continued on page 54

PUZZLES

Answers on page 55

Super Crossword

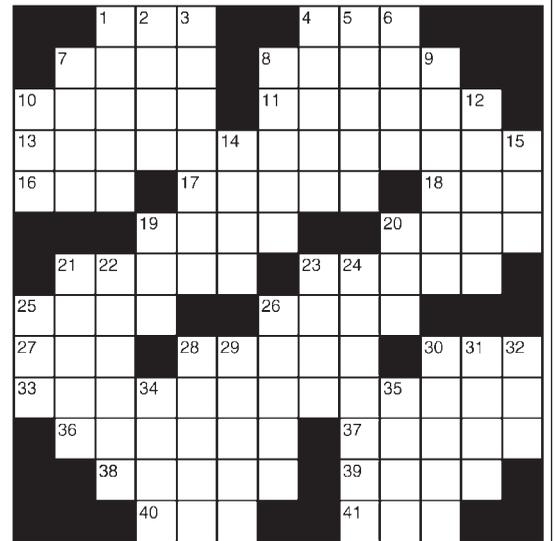
FILM CLASSES

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

King Crossword

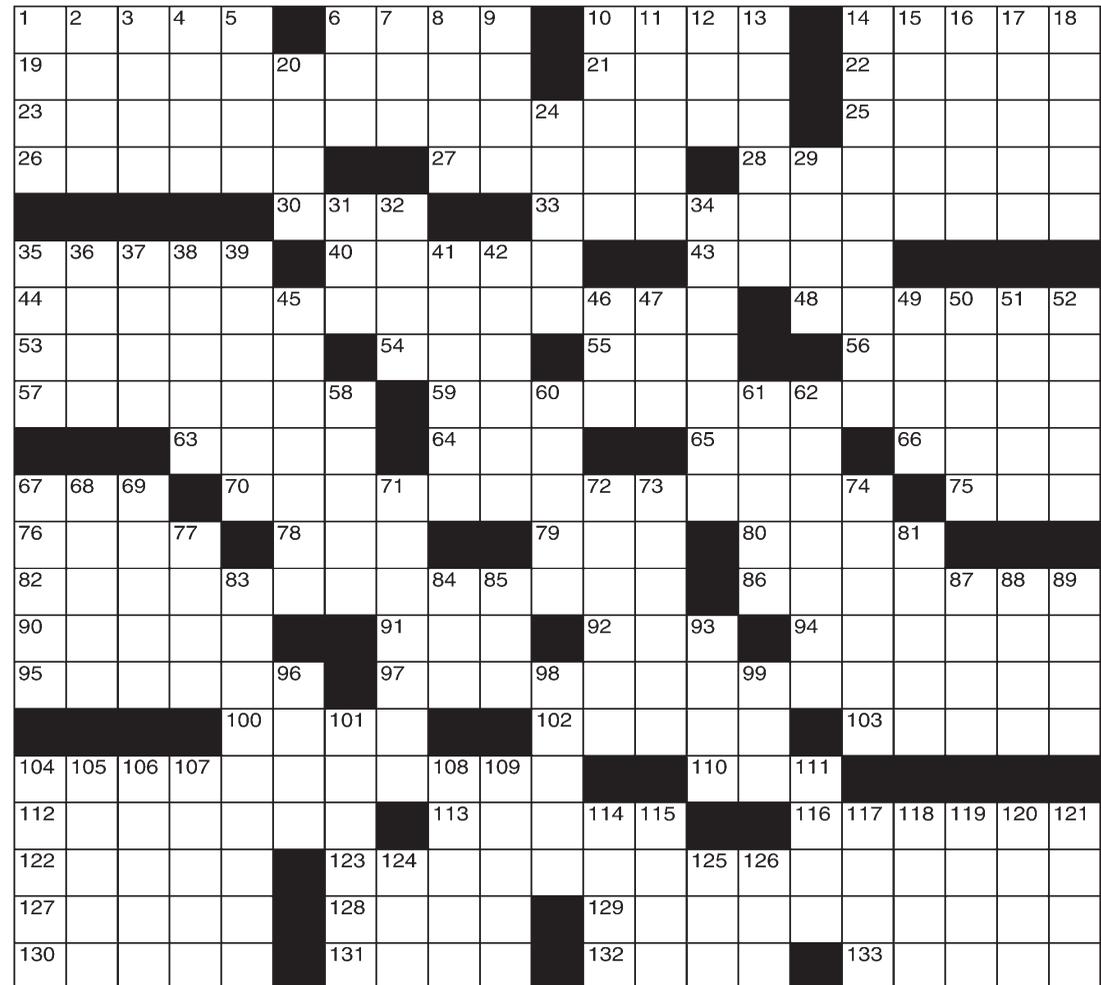
ACROSS

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



DOWN

- 1 Give a leg up
- 2 One
- 3 Tuneful
- 4 Spanish wine
- 5 Mad
- 6 Tavern offering
- 7 Forehead
- 14 Kindle competitor
- 15 Genetic stuff
- 19 Young fellow
- 20 Put into words
- 21 Try for a two-pointer
- 22 Queasiness



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

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

- Autopilot
- Axis
- Bind
- Camera
- Controller
- Fly away
- Gimbal
- GoPro
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- Octocopter
- Payload
- Pitch
- Roll
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Redfish Pass Tides

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

Point Ybel Tides

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

Punta Rassa Tides

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

Cape Coral Bridge Tides

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

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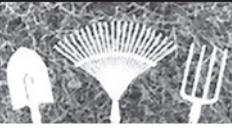
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From page 49

Moments In Time

Petroleum Exporting Countries, killing three people and taking 63 hostages. Carlos evaded capture until 1994, when French agents found him hiding in the Sudan.

NOW HERE'S A TIP

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

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

- After-Christmas sales are a great time to buy not only gift wrap (look for solid colors that you can use all year long),

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

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

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

STRANGE BUT TRUE

- Pine cones have genders. Male pine cones shed pollen and female pine cones make seeds. When the wind blows pollen into the female cones, the seeds become

pollinated.

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

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

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

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

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

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

- There is a town in India called Santa Claus.

- Ever wonder how the tradition of leaving hand and footprints in front of Grauman's Chinese Theater in Hollywood

got started? By accident – when silent film actress Norma Talmadge stepped on wet cement.

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

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

- Selfies now cause more deaths than shark attacks.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

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

– Emilia Clarke

TRIVIA TEST

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

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Royal Shell is looking for
someone that can work
every Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Rate of pay \$12 per hour.

You will check in with various managers to
ensure that guests and associates have
what they need at the point and time
they need it. Transponder provided
and use of company vehicle.

You must be able to pass a background
screening and a driver's license screening.
Please call 239-333-3569 for details.
12/11 * TFN

BOATS-CANOES-KAYAKS

BOAT LIFT RENTAL WANTED

Looking for long-term rental of a
boat lift on Sanibel or Captiva with
direct ocean access.
Call Jim at 603-930-4549.
10/30 * TFN

FOR SALE

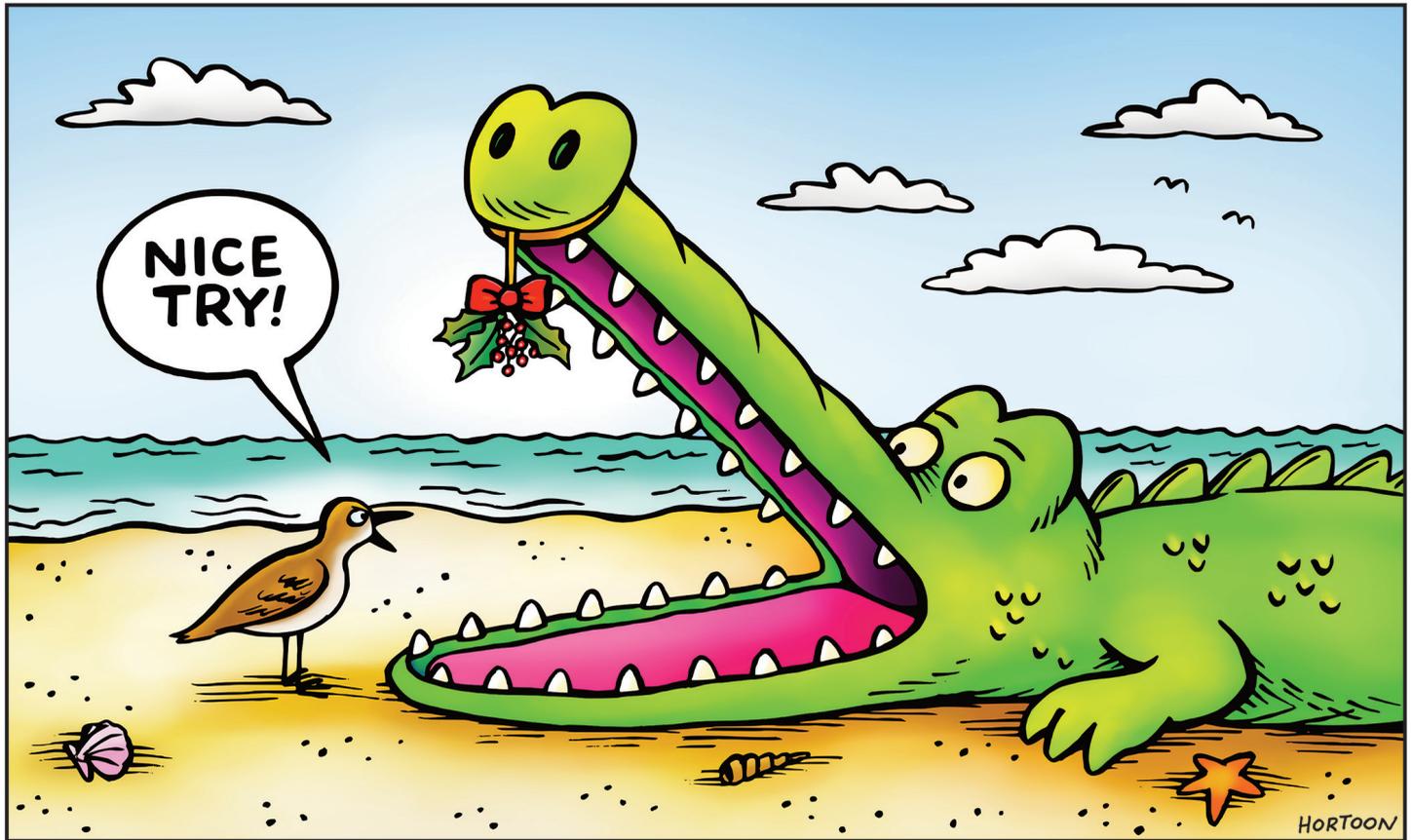
APPLIANCES

- White LG Dishwasher – Mint Condition
 - White LG 30" French Door Refrigerator – One tiny dent on front – barely noticeable
 - White Kenmore oven with white cooktop – Mint Condition.
- Non-smoking household. Single Mother,
empty nester so not a lot of usage.
Selling due to renovation in kitchen.
Email for pictures or appointment to see
them. LisaSanibel@centurylink.net
12/11 * TFN

To advertise in the Island Sun and The River Weekly News call 395-1213

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

HORTOONS



TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. My Heart Will Go On 2. A rope-sole canvas shoe 3. Ford Motor Co. 4. Bourier 5. Dried fruits and spices 6. New Orleans, Louisiana. The other nickname is The Big Easy. 7. A puffing 8. Charmin bathroom tissue 9. Cathy 10. 1960

SCRAMBLERS ANSWER

- Entrap
- Legend;
- Inward;
- Hinder

Today's Word
RETIRING

PUZZLE ANSWERS

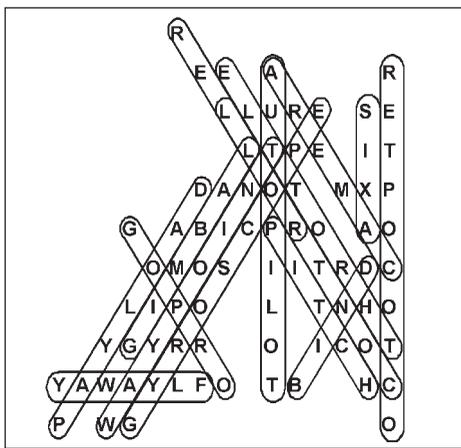
SUPER CROSSWORD

STASH I SAK LADD FARES
HIPPODROME ARIA IVANA
UNSOLVED MYSTERY RAITT
TOOTED OSAKA OPENSEA
SAN BESTWESTERN
PRANK LITHE ALOT
RECOILINHORROR NOMADS
ODENSE ORR BOT RENEW
MODESTO ONLINEROMANCE
TUTU WEE SADNIKE
TAG PUTINTO ACTION ESP
OTRA CONNSA DRAB
DOUBLEFANTASY SIDETWO
ANERA NOS EMI ZITHER
DELANO GREATADVENTURE
KNEE MSNBC EASES
TRAGICDRAMA ERR
BURUNDI CITES ATOMIC
OLLIE THEDIVINECOMEDY
NEEDS EELS ENUMERATES
ESSSES DRAIT NETS TREAT

KING CROSSWORD

BUM JAB
BONE BENES
BROIL ARGENT
BOSTON TERRIER
CWT DOOZY VAN
LION SERA
SNACK ZEALS
SHAD BEVY
IOU HOURI YOU
BOSTON ROCKERS
TERRAN TASTE
AUDIT EYES
EER DOS

MAGIC MAZE



SUDOKU

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

Top 10 Real Estate Sales

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

From our family of restaurants to you
Happy Holidays!

Our Captiva location will be open Christmas Day.



Sanibel • Captiva • Ft. Myers Beach • Downtown St. Pete Pier



WWW.DOCFORDS.COM



THE ORIGINAL
YUCATAN SHRIMP!

Visit Our Sister Locations on Ft. Myers Beach
The Dixie Fish Co. & The Whale