

Fort Myers Beach 26th Birthday Celebration

The Town of Fort Myers Beach will celebrate its 26th year of incorporation on Friday, December 31 with the return of the annual cupcake giveaway in Times Square and a fireworks display and ball drop.

The cupcake giveaway is from noon to 1 p.m. or until supplies last. It is a tradition begun by several families after the town incorporated in 1995.

The annual fireworks display will start at midnight from the pier at Lynn Hall Memorial Park near Times Square with the ball drop to take place in Times Square. The pier will be closed during the festivities. Town merchants provide financial support for this display.

Traffic is expected to be heavy in the downtown district for these events. Visitors should consider using the public transportation options offered by LeeTran, particularly the park and ride lot at the corner of Summerlin and Pine Ridge roads. LeeTran will be extending hours for its beach services until 1 a.m. Call



Fireworks on Fort Myers Beach

photo provided

533-8726 with any questions.

The Matanzas Pass Bridge will be closed to oncoming traffic from midnight to 1:30 a.m. Big Carlos Pass Bridge on the sound end of the island will be open.

For information about parking, text the word PARKING to 362-3224 or visit

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Exhibit To Open At New Arts Center

Florida-based artist Myra Roberts will show her Shellebrity exhibit at the Tribby Arts Center in Shell Point Retirement Community from Thursday, January 6 to Saturday, January 22. Roberts will be available for a meet and greet at the center to discuss her works on Friday, January 11 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Living on Sanibel for 25 years inspired Roberts to create the collection that includes new original watercolor and acrylic paintings of Sanibel beaches.

The beach-themed paintings encapsulate the essence of Sanibel. Roberts brings historical prints and her own stories to life through depictions of nature, shelling, beachgoers and wildlife.

Roberts donates funds and artwork to organizations such as the Holocaust Museum & Education Center of Southwest Florida; Ecostudies Institute of Mount

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Heron Dance by Myra Roberts

photo provided



Attendees at the Cape Coral Festival & Market Place

photos provided

Cape Coral Art Festival Nears

Artists and exhibitors have been named for the Cape Coral Art Festival & Market Place on Cape Coral Parkway during the weekend of January 8 and 9.

Presented by the Rotary Club of Cape Coral, the 37th annual event will include featured artists Craig Dietrich of Oceans & Africa photography and Scott Macklin of Fantasy Jewelry. This year's poster

artist is Girard J. Moravcik of Colorful Creations By GJM. Art on the Parkway will showcase the work of kindergarten through 12th grade students across the county.

Other notable named artists and crafters exhibiting include A Touch of Art, Artful Olive Wood, Copper Creations, Curtis Whitwam, 1923 Trading Co. and Leaves by Jenney.

A wide variety of market place exhibitors will join the festival this year, including Bath Fitter, Surfboardtables.com, Crushable Hats Inc., Silver Mine, Eco



Fantasy jewelry by Scott Macklin

Sparkle Cleaner, My Urban Poncho and Zah Crystal Files.

Several nonprofit exhibitors who will also be participating include the Alzheimer's Association, Artway on the Parkway, Cape Coral Art Center, Cape Coral Friends of Wildlife, Cape Coral Lions Club, Cape Coral Mayors Scholarship, Cape Coral Rotary Foundation, Cape Coral Social Club, EHL Fragile X Foundation Inc., Faith Generation, Fellowship of Christian Farmers International, Invest in America's

Veterans Foundation-Florida, Inc., Leading Latina Inc., Miracles in Action, Inc., New Resident Club of Cape Coral, Southwest Florida Military Museum & Library, Inc., Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra and The Brotherhood of Heroes Resource Center & Museum.

The Cape Coral Art Festival & Marketplace is sponsored by Waste Pro, Downtowner Car Wash, City of Cape Coral, Premiere Plus Realty – Stoutenburgh Group, Experience Real

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Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

Christmas Dawns With A Big Bang

by Gerri Reaves, PhD



Genevieve Smith (Bowen) recalls a Christmas morning in Fort Myers like no other. That Sunday morning in 1949, the 13-year-old – indeed, the entire town – was surprised in the pre-dawn hours by an explosion.

In her memoir, which resides in the archives of the Southwest Florida Historical Society, she recalls being awoken from “visions of sugar plums” to a series of booms and a “hysterical neighbor” in the living room who thought the world was ending.

That was certainly not the traditional Christmas her family imagined once her father, Reace Smith, arrived at 7 a.m. from his shift at the fire department. Their plans included breakfast at home, gift-giving, church service, visiting relatives, dinner and other holiday festivities.

All the plans were upended by an explosion and fire that destroyed the Florida Power & Light Co. and damaged the adjoining City Ice and Fuel Company on Lee Street. The fire was discovered just before 5 a.m., so it would have been dark as a series of explosions from overheated ammonia tanks resounded from Billy’s Creek to Page Field.

Pajama-clad people poured into the streets to see what had happened, and some instantly volunteered to help. Fortunately, the Central Fire Station was only a block away, at Anderson (now MLK, Jr. Boulevard) and Central avenues, and rainy weather also helped by preventing the spread of fire to surrounding residences.

Genevieve had a relatively close look at the scene of the disaster when she attended the First Presbyterian Church later that day. The church, which was located at Second and Royal Palm, as it still is today, was basically next door and north of the ice and fuel plant.

At the start of services, the fire had been extinguished, but equipment was still strewn about the scene. The damaged plant’s shattered windows, silhouetted against a gloomy rainy sky, reminded her of newsreels she had seen at local theaters.

The destruction was not confined to the plant. She saw sheets of metal roofing that were “rumped up like paper in a trash can” and violently thrown a block.



Other structures now stand on the property where the town’s first electric plant went into action on New Year’s Day 1898

photo by Gerri Reaves

Reports in *The News-Press* reflected her experience. The concussions shattered hundreds of windows within a three-block radius, and ammonia tanks, flaming boards and flying metal sheets, weighing up to 200 pounds, were propelled a block away.

That plant’s origins were woven into local history, for it had evolved from Albertus A. “Bertie” Gardner’s Seminole Power & Ice Company, which had provided Fort Myers with its first electric service at dusk on January 1, 1898.

The structures that were damaged in the fire that Christmas Day, however, did not date back when the first electric plant was housed in a modest small wooden building.

Gardner had sold his business in 1913 to Engineering and Utilities of New York (later known as Southern Utilities), and Florida Power and Light Company had subsequently bought it in 1925. Thus, the damaged structures were of concrete and brick. Repairs to the facilities began immediately and auxiliary power kicked in.

Amazingly, the city lacked power for only about an hour, and mobile transformers and other equipment arrived from other Florida cities to help. The damage was estimated at \$250,000.

As she wrote about that day decades later, Genevieve recalled it as more of a Thanksgiving than a regular Christmas. She remembered the peace and relief that reigned and the pastor’s thankful prayer that they were all saved from destruction, for no one died or was injured. She also recollected her own private prayer: “Thank you for the firemen and that Daddy didn’t get hurt.”

Take a stroll down Lee Street to see the site of the explosions and fire that started Christmas 1949 like no other Fort Myers had experienced. Then visit the following research centers to explore treasures like Genevieve Smith Bowen’s memoir.

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

The Lee County Black History Society is located at 1936 Henderson Avenue, adjacent to the Williams Academy Museum at Roberto Clemente Park. Call 332-8778 for the hours or visit www.leecountyblackhistorysociety.org.

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

Sources: Archives of the Southwest Florida Historical Society; *The History of the Fort Myers Fire Department: Nine Decades of Service* by Donald L. Stonestreet; and *The News-Press*.✪



City Ice & Power Plant, Lee St., Fort Myers, FL

This 1991 photo shows the abandoned plant, later demolished. The two-story section was the tank room and ice storage. photo courtesy SWFL Historical Society

THE RIVER WEEKLY NEWS

FROM THE BEACHES TO DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS

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Principal And Assistant Principal Of The Year

Kelly Stedman, principal at James Stephens Elementary, has been named Principal of the Year, and David Howdyshell, assistant principal at Estero High School, has been named Assistant Principal of the Year at the School District of Lee County. Their nominations for the state award in each category have been forwarded to the Florida Department of Education.

"I am absolutely honored to represent the hard work being done by all of the teachers, staff members, students and families at James Stephens Elementary," Stedman said. "The last six years have been dedicated to personalizing student instruction and creating an engaging learning environment for every student, and I am certain our focus in these areas is the reason for our success."

Stedman, who has been principal at James Stephens Elementary since August 2018, first joined the school in 2016 as assistant principal. Under her leadership this year, teachers have been able to close the achievement gap caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. She strategically budgeted and scheduled a guided reading framework into two grade levels and the students involved will be reading on level by January. She also developed a plan for third through fifth graders where at least three teachers would be able to provide student specific remediation and enrichment.

Stedman was previously the district's Assistant Principal of the Year for the 2016-17 school year, and she went on to be named Florida's 2017 Assistant Principal of the Year. She started her



Kelly Stedman



David Howdyshell

career with the district as a teacher in 2004 and, in 2014, was hired as assistant principal at Veterans Park Academy for the Arts.

Howdyshell has been the assistant principal at Estero High School since 2017. Previously, he was a math teacher at Estero and Oak Hammock Middle School. This year, he's been teaching three math classes on top of his administrative duties. He's created a weekly mentoring period for students to check their grades with teachers, get help as needed and participate in team-building activities. Howdyshell also increased student progress by monitoring and implementing extra small group instruction to keep students on track to graduate.

"I am very honored to be named AP of the Year as there are many other great assistant principals in this district positively impacting their staff and students," Howdyshell said. "It has been a blessing to work with really great students and educators throughout my career here in the county. I am very thankful for this awesome privilege to be able to serve in our schools."

The Florida Department of Education will announce the finalists for state Principal of the Year and Assistant Principal of the Year in January and the winners in late February or early March.✪

Believing In Girls Gala To Benefit Pace Center

Pace Center for Girls, Lee will hold its Believing in Girls Gala, a black-tie preferred fundraising event, at Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center on Saturday, February 5 from 5 to 9 p.m.

The outdoor event will feature cocktails, dinner, dancing as well as an array of live auction and raffle items, with all proceeds to benefit Pace Lee and its programs. The signature event is led by co-chairs Rebekah and Jeff Barney with Dwayne Bergmann and Luis Insignares.

Tickets are \$200 per person. Sponsorship opportunities are available, including extravaganza sponsorships at \$10,000, illumination sponsorships at \$7,500, enchanted sponsorships at \$5,000, ballroom table sponsors for \$1,500 and in-kind sponsorships.

Pace Lee provides girls and young women an opportunity for a better future through education, counseling, training and advocacy. Programs are based on the belief that all girls and young women, regardless of race, ethnicity or socioeconomic status, should be uniquely cared for, supported and encouraged to become the best versions of themselves

through a path of healing and recovery. The 2019-20 year saw 100 percent of students improve their academic performance, 97 percent had no involvement with the juvenile justice system within one year of exiting the program and 100 percent were either in school or gainfully employed after leaving Pace Lee.

"Pace Lee has seen great success in guiding girls to become strong, productive and contributing members of society," said Dwayne Bergmann, co-chair of the Believing in Girls Gala. "We are excited to enjoy an evening Under the Stars as we work to help more young women in our community find their voice and achieve their full potential."

For more information, visit www.pacecenter.org/locations/lee or call 425-2366.✪

Scholarship Winner

Jacob Hill of Fort Myers was among over 660 students who earned named Scholarships at Baldwin Wallace University this fall.

Hill, a graduate of Wiregrass Ranch High School majoring in sport management, earned the Vincent K. Petrella Scholarship and the William F. Grady Scholarship.✪



BAILEY-MATTHEWS

NATIONAL SHELL MUSEUM

2022 Season New Exhibits and Programs



Photo by Andrew West/The News-Press

EXHIBITS

RED, BLUE, GREEN:
An Introduction to Water Quality in Southwest Florida

January 15-June 10

Produced in partnership with Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation

BLACKWATER MOMENTS:
Nocturnal Photography of Open-Ocean Mollusks

December 10-May 30

LECTURES

Jan. 21: Environmental writer CYNTHIA BARNETT

Feb. 1: *The Soul of An Octopus* author SY MONTGOMERY (pictured)
This lecture is made possible by Fran Peters/Island Vacations

Feb. 16: Metropolitan Museum of Art curator BRADLEY STRAUCHEN-SCHERER

Mar. 15: Diver and photographer LINDA IANNIELLO

Apr. 6: News-Press visual journalist ANDREW WEST

Registration and details at ShellMuseum.org



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 ShellMuseum.org

Fort Myers Art:

Local Premiere Of Dark Comedy At Lab Theater



by Tom Hall

The Southwest Florida premiere of *Killer Joe* by Tracy Letts opens at The Laboratory Theater of Florida on Friday, January 14. There's no denying that every family has its secrets. But some family secrets are

darker than others.

With a plot that's pure *Pulp Fiction*, this dark comedy follows a dysfunctional family that hires a hitman to kill a relative with a sizable life insurance policy. As the weight of the world closes in on them, each morally bankrupt family member has their own reason for hiring an assassin to solve their problems. But they aren't the only one making plans and pulling strings. Letts holds nothing back as he mines delightful humor from the twisted reality of this Texas trailer park family.

Nykkie Rizley directs a cast that includes Justin Larsche as Joe, Steven Coe as Chris, Adrial McCloud as Dottie, Heather Johnson as Sharla and Ryan Adair making his Southwest Florida debut

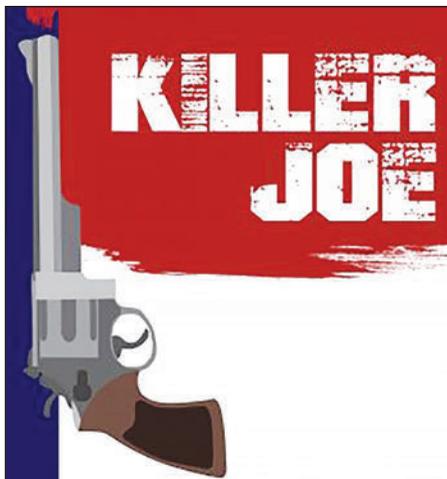


image courtesy www.artswfl.com

in the role of Ansel.

"*Killer Joe* is ripe with humor, sexuality, dysfunction, sweat and grit, and creepy uneasiness... all of the things I love about dissecting the underbelly of humanity," Rizley teases. "As Stephen King once said of why we love horror, 'this is a very peculiar sort of fun indeed.'"

"Slick, dirty, awkwardly hilarious and lovingly directed by Nykkie Rizley, *Killer Joe* is a delicious roller coaster of poor decisions," said Lab Theater Artistic Director Annette Trossbach. "Lab Theater veterans Steven Coe and Justin Larsche are beautifully matched by Lab Theater newcomer Ryan Adair, who plays the dim father-figure, Ansel. And Heather Johnson and Adrial McCloud

round out this talented cast. In a show with this much stage combat, trust and teamwork are imperative – our whole team here at Lab Theater is delighted to participate in and share this wild journey."

Killer Joe premiered off-Broadway in 1994. Letts went on to produce the screenplay for a film version of *Killer Joe*, which won him a Saturn Award nomination from the Academy of Science Fiction. The film *Killer Joe* was released in 2012 starring Matthew McConaughey, Emile Hirsch and Juno Temple.

Killer Joe runs through February 5. Play dates include January 14, 15, 20, 21, 22, 27, 28 and 29, as well as February 3, 4 and 5 at 8 p.m. Matinees will be held on January 16, 23 and 30 at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$30 each or \$10 for students with valid student IDs.

Laboratory Theater of Florida is located at 1634 Woodford Avenue in Fort Myers. For more information, COVID-19 protocols and tickets, call the box office at 218-0481 or visit www.laboratorytheaterflorida.com.

Artist Receives Prestigious ARTYA Emerald Award

Cape Coral artist, author and educator Kyra Belan has received the prestigious Art Tour International Magazine 2021 ARTYA Emerald Award. She is also the subject of a feature article by Yadira Roman and her colored pencil drawing of Frida Kahlo appears on the back cover

of the fall issue of *Art Tour International Magazine*. The issue, which celebrates the artists who received Artya awards, is available at Barnes & Noble Booksellers.

Belan also currently has work included in a feminist art exhibition at the Newhouse Center of Contemporary Art at Snug Harbor, New York. Titled *Don't Shut Up* and guest curated by Susan Grable and Stefany Benson, the exhibition draws attention to the suppression of women's voices in all important areas of decision-making in both government and the arts, which is still endemic in our male-dominated culture and patriarchal society. Consisting of the work of 46 female artists from across the U.S. and Canada who are working to challenge and disrupt the status quo through their ongoing artistic practice, the exhibition provides a platform for their voices in an effort to create awareness and to ensure that women's voices are heard and valued.

Belan is represented by Ceres Gallery in Chelsea, New York. She is presently producing artworks for an upcoming solo exhibition of paintings from her *Mother Threes* series, which will be shown at Ceres Gallery from May 18 to June 24.

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



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Author Lineup For Reading Festival

More than 20 acclaimed and bestselling authors are coming to Fort Myers to showcase their books and meet fans at the 23rd annual Southwest Florida Reading Festival on the Fort Myers Regional Library campus on Saturday, March 5 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Southwest Florida Reading Festival is a free, all-ages, annual outdoor event. Fans have the opportunity to listen to and meet a diverse lineup of bestselling authors, participate in contests and activities, and find the latest and greatest in books and technology. In addition to author appearances and autograph sessions, there will be food truck vendors, storytelling programs, arts and crafts, youth writing contests and a free book for every child and teenager.

The lineup of award-winning authors scheduled to attend includes adult authors Alafair Burke, Tim Dorsey, JA Jance, Nathaniel Philbrick, Kate Quinn and Brad Taylor. Some of the youth and teen authors are Adrianna Cuevas, Stacy McAnulty, Jenna Evans Welch, Alex Willan and Adrienne Young. For a complete list of authors, visit www.readfest.org.

"We are so excited to be able to introduce a new, mobile app (SWFL ReadFest) for the festival this year," said festival organizer Melissa Baker, manager of programming and community outreach for the Lee County Library System. "We encourage everyone to download the app to learn more about our fabulous authors and stay up to date about the event as it

develops."

In addition to the daylong community event, Lee County Library System will offer virtual components for festival participants to enjoy. Among the activities planned are virtual author presentations, an online book discussion, grab-and-go festival bingo and virtual reading and activity challenges through the READsquared app.

Attendees who want more exclusive access to meet and mingle with this year's festival authors can participate in An Evening with the Authors, a fundraising dinner scheduled to take place at the Edison Restaurant, Bar and Banquet Center, located at 3583 McGregor Boulevard in Fort Myers, on March 4.

The Southwest Florida Reading Festival is free and community-supported through donations, sponsorships and grants.

Fort Myers Regional Library is located at 2450 First Street in downtown Fort Myers. For more information, donations or tickets to the authors dinner, visit www.readfest.org or call 533-4832.*

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Art Festival

Estate Group, Destination Boat Club, NBC-2, Direct Impressions, Intergraphic 2.0, Lamar, *Happenings Magazine* and Arthur Printing.

Due to some last-minute cancellations, there are booth spaces still available. If interested, email chair@capecoralfestival.com.

The Cape Coral Art Festival & Market Place is located at 1209 Cape Coral Parkway East in Cape Coral. For more information, visit www.capecoralfestival.com.



ARC Animal Refuge Center

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

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

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www.SanCapBank.com



Junior Drag Racer Of The Year

Victoria Beaner had a very successful year in drag racing by finishing with 16 wins in 21 finals and placing first in two track championships along the way. The 10-year-old girl has become the driver to beat most weekends at dragstrips across the country and earned herself the title of Junior Drag Racer of The Year for her age group (age 6 to 9).

Beaner will move up to the 10- to 12-year-old division of junior dragsters where speeds climb to 75 mph and her passes down the track will be reduced to about eight seconds. "My goal when I get older is to go into Top Fuel (one of drag racing's top levels)," she said.

Beaner wouldn't mind a pass down the track in a jet dragster as well. She must wait seven more years before legally getting a driver's license, but that hasn't stopped her from learning everything she can about cars. This pint-size racer can change the oil, break down a motor and go on and on about her newest dragster.

Beaner covered over 27,500 miles and nine different states to race at 12 different tracks, some for the first time. Most of the time, the LaBelle resident is beating the boys as few girls compete in any form of racing. Even when she loses, she wins. She's winning by drawing attention to a sport traditionally run by boys. But, with each race, she sends a message that girls can do this too.

Beaner drives a car, best described as



Victoria Beaner photo provided

a small rocket, is learning to weld and is a part-time receptionist at her family's business. She won her first race against 18-year-olds. Off the track, Her education remains a focus. She is excelling academically as well, a grade ahead of most her age. She studies virtually with Liberty University Online Academy.

During the next season of her career, 10- to 12-year-old Division Junior Dragster, Beaner will be showing off her stuff at the Bradenton Motorsports Park NHRA Points Season Opener on Sunday, January 15. For more information, visit www.victoriabeaner.com.

Russian National Ballet Cancels Performance

One of the concerts for the 2022 Fort Myers Community Concert Association season has been cancelled due to concerns about their costumes and sets being shipped from Europe on a timely basis.

The Russian National Ballet, which was scheduled to perform *Swan Lake* at the Barbara B. Mann Performing Arts Hall on March 22, has cancelled its entire U.S. tour, according to Community Concert Association President Mary Lee Mann.

However, Mann was quick to book another concert to replace the ballet. The Bad Boys of Opera will perform on the same date. Season tickets already purchased, including for the new concert, will be mailed this month.

"What the ballet agents told me was that they are scheduled in Europe, ending in Spain and would normally ship their costumes at the end of the tour. Now they are afraid there will not be enough time between then and the scheduled start of the U.S. tour for the shipment of sets and costumes to arrive, be unloaded and delivered around the country," she said.

Barbara B. Mann Hall is located on the Florida SouthWestern College campus at 13350 FSW Parkway in Fort Myers. For individual tickets and season

tickets for all five performances of the Community Concert season, visit www.bbmmanpah.com, call 481-4849 or drop by the box office.

Continental Women To Meet

The Continental Women's Club will hold a luncheon meeting at The Hideaway Country Club on Thursday, January 6 at 11:30 a.m.

The program will feature Robin Tuthill and Thomas Hall, authors of *Female Pioneers of Fort Myers – Women Who Made a Difference in the City's Development*. Cost to attend the luncheon is \$24.

The Hideaway Country Club is located at 5670 Trailwinds Drive in Fort Myers. Call Liz Paul at 691-7561 for more information or to make a reservation.

New Hours For Science Center

Beginning in January, the IMAG History and Science Center will open Monday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Wednesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sundays from noon to 5 p.m.

The IMAG is located at 2000 Cranford Avenue in Fort Myers. For more information, call 243-0043 or visit www.theimag.org.

Churches/Temples

ALL FAITHS UNITARIAN CONGREGATION

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

ALL SAINTS BYZANTINE RITE CATHOLIC

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

ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX

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

BETH YESHUA MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE

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

BIBLESHAW

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

CHABAD LUBAVITCH ORTHODOX

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

CHAPEL OF CYPRESS COVE

Sunday 10 a.m., www.revtedalhouse@aol.com, 10200 Cypress Cove Circle, 850-3943.

CHAVURAT SHALOM

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

CHURCH OF THE CROSS

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

COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN

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

CROWN OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Sunday 8 and 10:45 a.m. Jan 1 – Easter; 9 a.m. after Easter – Dec 31. www.crownoflifelutheran.com.

[crownoflifelutheran.com](http://www.crownoflifelutheran.com). 5820 Daniels Pkwy, 482-2315.

REDEEMER CHURCH

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

CYPRESS LAKE PRESBYTERIAN

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

CYPRESS LAKE UNITED METHODIST

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

FAITH UNITED METHODIST

Sunday 9 and 11 a.m., 15690 McGregor Boulevard, 482-2030.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

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

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

Sunday 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m., 13545 American Colony Boulevard, 936-2511.

FORT MYERS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Sunday 10:30 a.m., 5916 Winkler Road, 437-4330.

FORT MYERS CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST;

Sunday 10 a.m., 8210 College Parkway, 482-3133.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF FORT MYERS

11 a.m. Sunday, www.fpcforymiers.org, 2438 Second Street, 239-334-2261

IONA-HOPE EPISCOPAL CONGREGATION

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

JESUS THE WORKER CATHOLIC

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

LAMB OF GOD

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

NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN

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

PEACE COMMUNITY

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

PEACE LUTHERAN

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

REDEEMER LUTHERAN

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

RIVER OF LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

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

SAMUDRABADRA BUDDHIST CENTER

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SAINT COLUMBKILLE CATHOLIC

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

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC

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

SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE METROPOLITAN

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

SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN

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

SAINT NICHOLAS MONASTERY

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

[ery.org](http://www.ery.org), 111 Evergreen Road, 997-2847.

ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CATHOLIC

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

SOUTHWEST BAPTIST

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

TEMPLE BETH EL SYNAGOGUE

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

TEMPLE JUDEA (CONSERVATIVE)

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

THE FAITH CENTER

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

THOMAS A. EDISON CONGREGATIONAL

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

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

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

UNITY OF FORT MYERS

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

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

WORD OF LIFE

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

ZION LUTHERAN

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

New Rules For Management Of Largemouth Bass

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) has approved rules to facilitate management for trophy largemouth bass. Staff has engaged stakeholders through angler creel surveys, a virtual public meeting, email outreach and signage at the effected resources listing the proposed rule changes. Stakeholder support was high.

The FWC manages largemouth bass for conservation and general angler success. As part of the Florida Trophy Bass Project, staff proposed customized management strategies focusing specifically on trophy bass production at four select waterbodies. The proposed regulations will protect large bass, allowing them to achieve the largest size possible. These efforts, coupled with the documentation and promotion of trophy bass caught in Florida, will help establish Florida as the Trophy Bass Capital of the World.

“As part of the Florida Trophy Bass Project, these four waterbodies will benefit from customized regulations designed to maximize trophy largemouth bass production,” said Commissioner Gary Lester.

The rule language includes:

Suwannee Lake FMA – 16-inch maximum length limit (ie, possession of fish over 16 inches prohibited) for largemouth bass, 15 fish daily bag limit for largemouth bass and circle hooks



Anglers with largemouth bass

photo provided

required when fishing with live bait greater than three inches in length.

Lake Victor FMA – 16-inch maximum length limit for largemouth bass, 15 fish daily bag limit for largemouth bass and circle hooks required when fishing with live bait greater than three inches in length.

Shop Lake at Tenoroc FMA – 16-inch maximum length limit for largemouth bass, no daily bag limit for largemouth bass and circle hooks required when fishing with live bait greater than three inches in length.

Fellsmere Water Management Area (Headwaters and Egan Lakes) – Catch and release of all largemouth bass, and circle hooks required when fishing with live bait greater than three inches in length.

View the FWC meeting agenda and documents at www.myfwc.com/commission.

New Stormwater Infrastructure Website

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Division of Water Restoration Assistance Nonpoint Source Management program has a new green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) website – <https://gsi.floridadep.gov>. The site is a resource where communities can learn what GSI is, why it matters, how to get started and how to implement projects that deliver environmental, social and economic benefits to communities.

“I encourage our stakeholders to visit the new GSI website. This site complements our agency's ongoing efforts to protect Florida's water resources by providing case studies, technical guidance and information about funding offered by DEP for green stormwater infrastructure,” said DEP Deputy Secretary for Ecosystems Restoration Adam Blalock. “Information will be kept up to date with the latest research and technical guidance in coordination with our partners at the University of Florida, Florida State University, the water management districts and local municipalities.”

The new website showcases green stormwater infrastructure success stories

along with technical resources to assist in project planning. These resources will assist communities in determining which stormwater best management practices are most appropriate for an area, evaluating costs and maintenance requirements and estimating nutrient reduction effectiveness.

Examples of green stormwater infrastructure include:

Bioswales – Vegetated, shallow, landscaped feature designed to capture, treat and infiltrate stormwater runoff.

Tree boxes – Stormwater control measures around individual trees (usually in a downtown or main street streetscape) that collect and treat stormwater prior to discharge into the storm sewer system or subsoil.

Permeable pavement – Porous urban surface that catches precipitation and surface runoff, allowing it to slowly infiltrate the soil below.

“This new website will be a great resource for anyone needing information on GSI – from the general public, to local elected officials, to consultants and engineers,” said Dr. Eban Bean, assistant professor and extension specialist of urban water resources engineering at the University of Florida. “They did a great job making all the information available in one place, no matter what you are looking for – research, funding and case studies especially. It is really going to spread GSI awareness.”

Plant Smart

Willow Dock

by Gerri Reaves

You won't find native willow dock (*Rumex verticillatus*) in gardening centers, but you'll likely see this widespread member of the buckwheat, or knotweed, family out and about.

Like many wildflowers that many people consider weeds, it volunteers and thrives on its own.

Its native range includes not only Florida but the eastern half of the U.S. and Canada and even into northern Mexico.

Another common name, swamp dock, refers to its love of soggy freshwater habitats such as swamps, marshes and the edges of streams, as well as roadsides, ditches, or disturbed areas.

Leaves are lanceolate to elliptic with pointed tips and tapered at the base. The leaf edges, which are sometimes wavy, are arranged alternately on erect stems three to five feet tall.

The drooping greenish or whitish flowers are petal-less and have six stamens surrounded by green tepals. Tepals are the outer parts of the flower, so named because they are not easily classified as either sepals or petals.

The flowers are whorled, or verticillate, thus the term *verticillatus* in the binomial.

Blooms can appear just about any time of year, but most likely in summer.

This species has a taproot, which adds to drought tolerance.

Willow dock is pollinated by wind and produces a dry, one-seeded fruit.

Sources: *The Guide to Florida Wildflowers* by Walter Kingsley Taylor, <https://en.wikipedia.org>, www.iNaturalist.org, and <http://floranorthamerica.org>.

Plant Smart explores the diverse flora of South Florida. ✨



Native willow dock prefers moist areas such as swamps, marshes and bogs

photo by Gerri Reaves

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Just Enjoy Fishing



by Capt. Matt Mitchell

Yet another week of amazing weather meant another week of nonstop fishing. With December high temperatures in the 80s for the entire month, water

temperatures have stayed in what can be described as that magical range. Catch-and-release snook fishing has been on fire with 30-plus fish trips being the normal.

With conditions being so perfect, the snook are in an early spring-like pattern. I have been catching them basically anywhere from the passes to deep into the back country. One thing all the hot snook spots have had in common is moving tide. Seeing so many snook staged up around the passes is not a normal thing for the month of December.

Minus low tides and warm water are what dreams are made of for me. Throw in a blacked-out live well full of shiners and my job is as much fun as can be. Along with the snook, we are also catching redfish in the mix; our big one this week measured 32 inches. Larger trout have been more difficult to come by with most of the trout on the flats being less than the 15-inch minimum. Hungry schools of jacks having been popping up most places I target snook.

Bait is now being found out on the



Lydia from Indiana with a redfish that completed the slam for the day's fishing

photo provided

flats again instead of the deeper water of the causeway bridges where it usually is found during winters. Water temperature again is the reason for this. Conditions continue on the warmer side as it just makes our fishing action so consistent.

With so many visitors from up north filling up my boats, we are continually asked about what fish clients can take for

a meal. Unfortunately, there is still not much available to harvest. With water temperatures so high, our sheephead bite has still not kicked off. Once you explain why we have the closure and then let them experience how good our fishing is, the thought of dinner quickly goes away. What's most important is the incredible rebound we have seen in our

fishery in the past years thanks to both the better management of water quality along with the harvest closure of snook and redfish.

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.

Guidelines For Nesting Birds

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) approved continued development of species conservation measures and permitting guidelines for four state-listed beach-nesting bird species, including the American oystercatcher, snowy plover, least tern and black skimmer. All four species are included in one set of draft guidelines, available at www.myfwc.com/wildlifehabitats/wildlife/species-guidelines.

Staff will return to a future FWC meeting for final approval of the guidelines. For more information on Florida's shorebirds, go to www.myfwc.com/shorebirds.

The guidelines are designed to be a tool for landowners, consultants, agency partners and other interested parties on how to conserve these species. They provide species-specific information on key issues relevant to real-world conservation.

For an overview of how Florida conserves imperiled species, visit www.myfwc.com/imperiled.

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From page 1 Birthday

www.fmbgov.com under Things to Do and Parking. The town's Beach and Street Enforcement (BASE) team monitors town spaces and posts the percentage of their availability at 11 a.m., 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. daily. The town operates several hundred pay-for-parking spaces in and near the downtown district and beach accesses, and there are also several commercial lots.

For information about New Year's Eve activities and entertainment in retail and restaurant establishments, visit www.fortmyersbeach.org.

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Dave Doane with his co-worker Jesse

CROW Case Of The Week:

Gopher Tortoise

by Bob Petcher



The gopher tortoise (*Gopherus polyphemus*) is a terrestrial reptile, averaging nine to 11 inches in length when fully grown. At CROW, a juvenile gopher tortoise was admitted

from Lehigh Acres after being attacked by a dog. The incident was witnessed by the finder who provided details on the intake paperwork.

"We estimate this patient to be 3 to 5 years old. Despite the patient's small size, they are considered a juvenile gopher tortoise given their complete brown carapace coloration. We consider patients adults when they reach sexual maturity, approximately over 10 years, depending on sex," said Dr. Laura Kellow, CROW veterinary intern. "It is extremely helpful when our finders give us as much detail as possible since we cannot ask the patients what happened, as much as we wish otherwise."

Upon examination, veterinarians found the turtle to be severely dehydrated, with a shell fracture.

"The gopher tortoise has a fracture of his carapace. On top of their bony shell, tortoises have keratin scutes, which are types of protein that we find in our hair,



Patient #21-6188 recovering from a shell fracture due to a dog bite photo by Haillie Mesics

nails, etcetera," said Dr. Kellow. "We evaluate the carapace based on a scute numbering system. The patient has a fracture to the marginal scutes, which is the outermost edge of the carapace right over the right front limb."

Veterinarians expressed concern for systemic infection secondary to the dog attack wounds. The patient was given antibiotics and pain medication.

"Unlike the popular myth that dog mouths are cleaner than human mouths, dogs carry a large variety of bacteria in their mouths," said Dr. Kellow. "When a dog or a cat bites an animal, they track that bacteria and potentially any bacteria from the patient's skin into deep wounds.

These wounds are perfect places for bacteria to grow, particularly the deeper they are. When we have a patient that presents with a dog or cat attack, we evaluate their mentation closely and overall health status with bloodwork given our concern for potential sepsis, or bacteria in the bloodstream."

The fracture will need some repair. "Unfortunately, the fracture is highly unstable and is already showing signs that (the fractured bone) is dying off from lack of blood supply. Luckily for this particular patient, the fracture is relatively minor, meaning that it just involves these marginal scutes and not deeper structures," said Dr. Kellow. "In this particular case, we

will likely remove this bit of fractured bone, and the patient will heal well with a small defect to the marginal scutes on that side. Tortoise fracture repairs are highly individual and depend heavily on what structures are involved, how deep the fractures are and the degree of tension at the fracture site. No two are the same, and we always use the latest scientific techniques and principles to guide treatment."

The tortoise will continue to be monitored under supportive care. Dr. Charlotte Cournoyer, CROW veterinary intern, provided an update after the patient spent a few more days at the clinic.

"The patient is doing well at this time, and we will continue to monitor the fracture closely to decide when to remove that piece of marginal scute bone, if required," she said. "The patient will remain in care until the fracture site is healed and infection is cleared. It does not need to stay due to age. Tortoises are solitary and thrive, even when very young, on their own. When this patient recovers, it will be returned to a safe place near the area it was found since it likely has a burrow in this area, and it is incredibly important that they are returned to their home range."

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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Choral Group To Perform At Local Churches

Start your New Year off with the rich sounds of Rachmaninoff's *Vespers* from the All Night Vigil service of the Russian Orthodox liturgy, performed by Choral Artistry.



Dr. Trent Brown

Concerts are scheduled at Sanibel Community Church on Friday, January 7 at 7 p.m., St. Mary's Episcopal in Bonita Springs on Saturday, January 8 at 7 p.m. and Trinity by the Cove Episcopal in Naples on Sunday, January 9 at 4 p.m. There is no charge for admission but free-will donations will be accepted.

Formerly performing as The Symphonic Chorale of SWFL, these are Choral Artistry's first community-wide performances under its new name, which was announced in August at the beginning of its 10th anniversary/Take2 Season.

"Sung in Russian, *Vespers* is all acapella, definitely a challenge, and remarkable for the musical independence of each line," said Choral Artistry's Artistic Director Dr. Trent Brown. "Rachmaninoff was most excited and passionate about this work and it is one of his few choral

compositions."

The concert will also include Rachmaninoff's *Vocalise* featuring soprano soloist Kate Lucander, Alexander Gretchaninoff's *Our Father* and a Russian folk tune or two.

On Friday and Saturday, January 28 and 29, Choral Artistry will host a 10th anniversary celebration of its popular SingOut!SWFL Choral Festival in Fort Myers, where all community and visitor singers get to "join the chorus" (without audition) for a weekend of singing and camaraderie.

This Sing Out! celebration will feature the most popular choruses and solos from Handel's *Messiah*, a much beloved work sung by choruses around the world.

This theme commemorates the Symphonic Chorale's inaugural performance, *Messiah* at the Mann, at Barbara Mann Hall in 2011 as well as its first SingOut! *Messiah* Festival in 2013. The festival runs from 7 to 9 p.m. on Friday and from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday.

The weekend will conclude with a free Sing Out! *Messiah* Festival Concert performed by the festival chorus with chamber orchestra at 7 p.m.

The festival will be held at New Hope Presbyterian Church, located at 10051 Plantation Road off Colonial Boulevard in Fort Myers.

For more information, visit www.choralartistry.org, email contact@choralartistry.org or call 560-5695. Students may participate for free and a discount is available for groups of five or more singers registering together.*

Museum Expands Access For Lee County Residents

The Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum recently established two new programs aimed at giving more people across Lee County a chance to experience the educational impact of its shell collection, aquariums, touch pools and marine life.

The first initiative, Lee County Sunday Afternoons, grants half-price admission to the museum on Sundays from noon to 5 p.m. for Lee County residents who provide proof of residence such as a driver's license or utility bill.

The second initiative, Community Access Program, is a free access program whereby the museum partners with service and support agencies throughout Lee County to distribute free admission passes to low-income Lee County residents and other populations that are underserved or disadvantaged. Passes are valid for free single-day admission to the museum without expiration date.

"Our hope is that by lowering economic barriers for neighbors to enjoy the museum, we will increase access and educational opportunity, and the museum's role as a local and regional community resource," said Sam Ankersen, Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum executive director.

Funding for these initiatives is made possible by an anonymous donor.

Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum

is a natural history museum and the only museum in the United States devoted solely to shells and mollusks. Permanent exhibitions on view include the Great Hall of Shells, the Beyond Shells living gallery of aquariums and over 50 species of marine life.

Bailey-Matthews National Shell Museum is located at 3075 Sanibel-Captiva Road. It is open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, visit www.shellmuseum.org or call 395-2233.*

Blessings In A Backpack Receives Funds

Blessings in a Backpack SWFL recently received a generous \$20,000 donation from Suncoast Credit Union that will help provide weekend meals for students in need at Tice Elementary School.

"We are so fortunate to have businesses that continue to support Blessings in a Backpack and our mission to help local children," said Cecilia St. Arnold, Blessings in a Backpack executive director. "Suncoast Credit Union's generous donation will help to feed school children in need over the weekend during the school year. It is generous support like this which helps make a better future possible for local children and for our community."

Suncoast Credit Union Foundation's goal is to promote the education, health and emotional well-being of children through scholarships and contributions to public schools, medical research and development, family support organizations and other charitable programs that directly benefit children.

"Donations to Blessings in a Backpack help to feed children who aren't always sure where their next meal will come from. When they have food over the weekend, they can come to school Monday morning and focus on learning rather than an empty stomach," added St. Arnold. "We are able to provide this assistance because of the help and participation of wonderful local businesses in our community."

It only takes \$115 to provide meals for 36 weekends for one school-age child. This past school year, Blessings was able to feed 5,300 children. Their goal for the upcoming year is to provide weekend meals for 6,000 children.*

Honor Society Inductee

Emily Javedan of Fort Myers was recently initiated into the Johns Hopkins University Circle of Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK), the National Leadership Honor Society. The society welcomed more than 1,100 new initiates from 41 universities during November 2021.

Students initiated into the society must be sophomores, juniors, seniors, or graduate/professional students in the top 35 percent of their class; demonstrate leadership experience in at least one of the five pillars; and embrace the ODK ideals. Fewer than five percent of students on a campus are invited to join yearly.*

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Challenge Grant For Nonprofit Campaign

A \$500,000 challenge grant has been awarded to Valerie's House as the cornerstone of a \$3 million capital campaign to help the nonprofit organization build a permanent home and expand grief support services for children.

The challenge grant was awarded by philanthropists David and Linda Lucas, who have been long-time supporters of Valerie's House. The nonprofit has one year to raise funds to match the \$500,000, according to Valerie's House Founder and CEO Angela Melvin.

"We are very grateful for the generosity of David and Linda Lucas, who are passionate about helping others. David lost his own father at a very young age and would have been a Valerie's House child himself, if our program had existed then," Melvin said.

The new Valerie's House location will be built on a one-acre parcel donated by the City of Fort Myers on Veronica Shoemaker Boulevard near Winkler Road. The 7,000 square foot facility will



A rendering of a new Valerie's House Forever Home

photo provided

include healing rooms, therapy rooms and a volcano room with punching bags and other tools to allow children to release tension and anger in a healthy and safe way. A memorial wall will commemorate loved ones who have died, and outdoor space will be designed for both reflection and fun.

"The Valerie's House Forever Home

will be a special place for all grieving children in Southwest Florida to connect with one another and learn the tools to heal after they have experienced the loss of someone they love," Melvin said.

The new home also will serve as the administrative headquarters for Valerie's House and will allow the non-profit to expand and reach the growing number of

children who need help.

Melvin said Valerie's House board members and volunteers have already raised about half the funds for the \$3 million project through in-kind and financial pledges. The recent \$500,000 challenge grant from David Lucas is especially significant and includes sponsorship and room-naming opportunities ranging from \$5,000 to \$100,000.

One in nine children in Florida is predicted to lose a parent or sibling before age 21, according to the 2020 Childhood Bereavement Estimation Model. Since its opening in 2016, Valerie's House has helped almost 2,000 children grieve the loss of a loved one.

Valerie's House currently offers support groups and other activities at a home on 1762 Fowler Street in Fort Myers and a home in Naples at 819 Myrtle Terrace. Group meetings are also held at First United Methodist Church in Punta Gorda. Valerie's House is a United Way partner agency and is fully supported by community donations.

To review the sponsorship opportunities and see a 3D animation of the new home, visit www.valereshouse.org/capital-campaign.

Texting 911 For Emergencies Now Operational

Text-to-911 became fully operational for all residents and visitors of Lee County on December 15. The Lee Board of County Commissioners and Lee County Sheriff's Office have confirmed that county residents and visitors now can send a text to 911 in an emergency.

Placing a voice call to 911 remains the most effective method for requesting emergency assistance.

Text-to-911 should only be used when the caller is deaf or hard of hearing; experiencing a medical event that makes clear speech difficult; or is in a dangerous situation where it is not possible to safely make a voice call, such as an active shooter, domestic violence incident or home invasion. Text-to-911 is only for emergencies. It is a crime to text or call 911 as a "test" or with a false report.

When texting to 911 in an emergency:

Enter 911 in the "To" field (do not use dashes between numbers);

Give your exact location and type of emergency;

Keep it brief;

Be prepared to answer questions and follow instructions from the 911 call taker;

Do not use slang, abbreviations, GIFs or emojis;

Do not send to more than one person as group texts are not received;

Do not text and drive;

Do not send photos and videos.

A text or data plan is required to text to 911 and regular rates apply. Mobile carriers handle texts to 911 like any other message. You can experience the same service speeds or delays, depending on network strength in your area.

The Lee Board of County Commissioners is committed to public safety technology initiatives. Text-to-911 is one of several initiatives planned in the next few months. Other projects include:

The operational launch of the new Government Communications Network P25 project in February, improving the capacity and resiliency of countywide emergency communications.

The arrival of Next Generation 911 in April, allowing the public to share videos, images and texts with emergency call centers and improving the handling of 911 calls in Lee County.

For more information about texting 911, visit www.leegov.com/911.



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Book Review

Our Woman In Moscow



by Di Saggau

Our Woman in Moscow by Beatriz Williams is a Cold War tale of espionage and family devotion. It weaves a fascinating story of two sisters, a family divided by chance,

choices and geo-political theories. The action takes place between 1940 and 1952 in America, Italy, England and Russia.

Two sisters orphaned at an early age share loss and a dramatic shift in their lives. They are fraternal twins and seem to be vastly different physically and psychologically. Ruth is blond, tall and self-assured with a position in the glamorous world of New York fashion modeling. Her sister Iris is brunette, petite and shy.

In 1948, Iris vanished from her London home with her American diplomat husband and their two children. People are shocked by their disappearance and wonder about their involvement with the Soviet intelligence service. Or have they defected to Moscow with vital secrets?

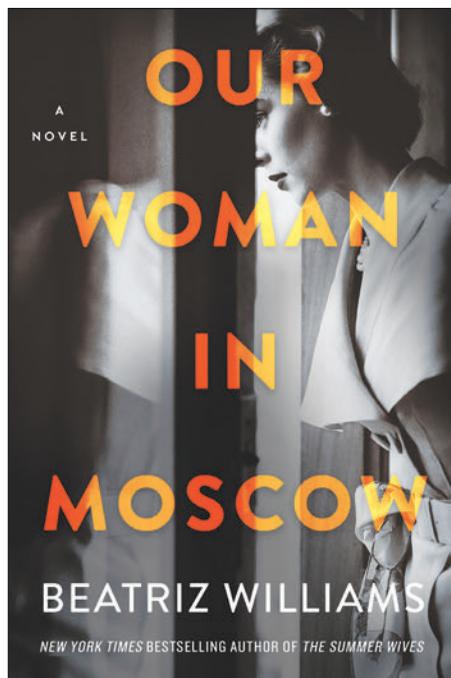


image provided

Ruth receives a postcard from Iris four years later and immediately flies to Moscow, posing as the wife of a counterintelligence agent named Sumner Fox. They have an interesting relationship. It's all part of a plot to extract Iris and her family from behind the Iron Curtain.

As the sisters race toward safety, a dedicated Soviet KGB officer, Lyudmila, forces them to make a heartbreaking choice. Lyudmila has never left the

Soviet Union and does not even possess a passport. To travel overseas is to bring attention to yourself, and she has enough to do in Moscow, stamping out the sparks of a counterrevolution.

Our Woman in Moscow is full of action with interesting characters and a conclusion you don't see coming. I found it to be a gripping read with suspense and high drama.*

School Smart



by Shelley M. Greggs, NCSP

Dear Readers, Here

is my annual reminder that some of the best gifts you can give your children this holiday season or anytime are gifts from the heart. During this busy time of year, think about giving your children some extra support by choosing highly expressive words that convey a strong belief in your child. Kids quickly forget their new toys, but they will not forget your words of love, encouragement and praise.

Sometimes, though, parents find it difficult to express their thoughts and support for their children. Here is a list of highly expressive and meaningful phrases that child psychologist Yekaterina Kes has put together to use with your child. All of them will help your child to understand the depth of your love and affection for them. What could be a better present to them than that?

Expressing belief in your child:

- I trust you
- I believe in you
- I respect your decision
- It won't be easy, but I'm certain you'll do it
- You're doing everything right
- You understand this perfectly
- How did you manage to do this so well?
- Teach me how you do it, so I can succeed like you
- You can do it better than I can
- You're better at this than me

Crediting their hard work:

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

Being thankful for the time you spend together:

- I really appreciate you spending time with me
- I can't wait to play with you tomorrow
- It's so interesting to do this with you
- I really enjoyed playing with you

I'm so glad you're at home with me I'm having so much fun being with you

Helping them evaluate their own performance:

- What do you think about this?
- You must be so proud!
- What's the thing your most proud of?
- What's your opinion on this?
- How would you evaluate your own work?

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

Being thankful for their help:

- Thank you so much for doing this
- I'm so grateful that you helped me with this
- You really helped me out
- Thanks for understanding
- I don't know what I would have done without you
- Without your help I wouldn't have succeeded
- You helped me to get through this quicker

The house is so tidy thanks to you

Describing what you see:
Your bedroom is so clean!
Wow, you've made your bed!
Fantastic!

There are so many beautiful colors in this picture!

I can see that you really tried hard I noticed that you cleared the table yourself. Well done!

Describing how you feel:
I just love spending time with you so much

I'm so happy when you're at home I love being part of your team I love hearing your opinion I'm so incredibly grateful that I have you

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

Shelley Greggs is former faculty at Florida SouthWestern State College, where she taught psychology and education courses. She is also a nationally certified school psychologist and consultant for School Consultation Services, a private educational consulting company. To contact her, email smgreggs@gmail.com or visit www.schoolconsultationservices.com.*

From page 1

Exhibit

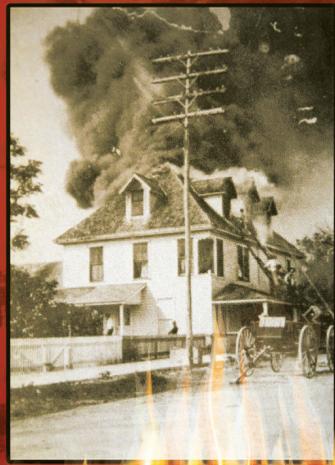
Vernon, Washington; Clinic for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife; Sanibel-Captiva Conservation Foundation; and SanCap Cares/Golisano Children's Hospital of Southwest Florida. She was recognized with a WGPU 2016 MAKERS award, which is given to women who make a lasting impact in Southwest Florida. Her paintings are in public and private collections across the United States and Europe.

Roberts has received letters of endorsement from the likes of Hillary Rodham Clinton and the Jane Goodall Institute for her Faces of Anne Frank project.

The Tribby Arts Center is located within Shell Point Retirement Community at 17281 On Par Boulevard in Fort Myers.*

EPIC FIRES OF FORT MYERS

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

THOMAS P. HALL

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

Summit On Physical And Mental Wellness

Registration is open for the inaugural Find it Within Yourself Summit at the Collaboratory on Saturday, January 8.



Christin Collins

The summit will provide an avenue for attendees to heal and release old beliefs and limitations. The speakers will share ways to live a purpose-driven life and shift mindsets to step into 2022 with a refreshed and energized perspective.

Global health and wellness executive Christin Collins, a certified workplace mindfulness facilitator, holistic executive coach and best-selling author on Amazon, offers individual and corporate workshops to combat burnout, increase engagement and reduce turnover. A sought-after speaker, Collins will be speaking at the TEDxWestshore conference in Tampa in February 2022. She has received many honors for her philanthropic endeavors including being honored as one of *Gulfshore Life's*

Woman of the Year and *The News-Press* Person of the Year.

The Find it Within Yourself Summit will also feature international plant-based chef Carey Cohill and globally recognized executive coach Heather Christie. Cohill has helped thousands of women start their wellness journey. She is the creator of several best-selling courses, including The 10 Day Plant Over Processed Challenge, The VIP Hallway, The Plant Powered Hallway and In the Kitchen with Carey Cohill. Throughout her coaching career, Christie was ranked No. 1 and No. 2 top female coaches in the world. As a lawyer and former lobbyist, she brings a new approach to coaching and training to help executives and emerging leaders improve corporate and personal performance.

General admission tickets are \$299 and a limited number of VIP tickets are available at \$999. The VIP experience includes a Friday evening Breathwork Workshop at The Salt Cave with clinical hypnotherapist Carolyn Beauchamp followed by a private wine dinner, sunrise yoga on Saturday morning with yoga master Sarah Mitchell, a 10-day weight loss program with Chef Cohill and two group coaching sessions with Collins. Sponsor opportunities range from \$500 to \$1,000.

The Collaboratory is located at 2031 Jackson Street in downtown Fort Myers. To learn more about the summit or to register, visit www.christincollins.com/coaching-and-workshops.*

Lee County Clerk To Retire

After nearly four decades of public service to Lee County, Clerk of the Court & Comptroller Linda Doggett has announced her retirement effective February 18.



Linda Doggett

Doggett was first elected in 2012. Prior to her election, she worked in the clerk's office in various leadership positions dating back to 1984.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities this office has afforded me both professionally and in service to the community for the past 37.5 years," Doggett said. "I am also very proud to have led a talented team of professionals who work hard every day to serve the people of Lee County," Doggett said.

Under her tenure as clerk, Doggett implemented many changes to enhance services using the latest technologies. While clerk, she led the transition of the internal audit department to an accredited inspector general for Lee County government. Over the years, the clerk's inspector general has saved millions of taxpayer dollars by stopping

real and potential fraud, waste and abuse in Lee County.

In addition, the clerk's office opened a self-help center, providing essential court services at no cost to taxpayers. The office also partnered with legal aid to provide free 20-minute attorney consultations for customers who are struggling to represent themselves in the complex court system.

In recent years, many paperless processes were implemented to enhance efficiencies through the office. Services were also expanded online to provide customers with added convenience. The office launched partnerships with TurboCourt to allow customers to easily file court cases. TeleClerk video conferencing was also launched for customers during the pandemic to provide uninterrupted services.

Doggett points to her team of professional and caring clerks as the key to the office being recognized as a model of excellence for local government.

"To ensure Lee County continues to receive the quality service they have come to expect from our office, I have recommended Gov. DeSantis appoint our Chief Operating Officer Kevin Karnes to finish my term," Doggett said. "Mr. Karnes has the knowledge, skills and experience required to perform the job. He is highly qualified to lead the clerk's office."

Karnes currently oversees more than 300 of the office's 325 employees.

For more information about the clerk's office, visit www.leeclerk.org.*

Leisure Airline To Resume Service

Air Transat, Canada's number one leisure airline, has returned service to Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW) with nonstop flights between Montreal, Canada (YUL) and Fort Myers (RSW) seasonally.

Air Transat to 60 international

destinations in more than 25 countries in the Americas and Europe, offers domestic and connecting flights within Canada, and carries some five million passengers every year. To book a flight or find out more information, visit www.airtransat.com.

For more information about Southwest Florida International Airport, visit www.flylcpa.com or www.facebook.com/flylcpa.

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Will Power

'Tis The Season



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

First off, I want to wish all my readers a Merry Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year; 2021 certainly was chock full of surprises. I thought that by now we would have been through the worst of the pandemic, especially since vaccines are available. On the tax and estate planning front, concerns about increased taxes and the elimination of certain planning techniques might have occurred. So far, Congress hasn't passed a bill on these measures, and we're still uncertain whether they'll be able to.

Does this mean that you should forgo estate planning?

The answer to this, as you might imagine a board certified attorney to say, is that you should always make sure that your plan is up to date and that it achieves your objectives.

If you're a new Florida resident, now is the time to update your plan to Florida law. Even if your northern attorney told you that your plan is "just fine," I would urge you to have it reviewed. Nuances to Florida law could result in unintended consequences, both legal and tax. One of the most common areas of concern is your Florida home. Our state has very specific statutes that govern how a home can be bequeathed if you are married or if you have minor children. Failure to comply with these laws results in

the state determining who inherits your home rather than your will or trust.

While the gift and estate tax exemption amount is currently \$11.7 million, and slated to increase to \$12.6 million on January 1, legislation may reduce these amounts. Even if Congress can't pass a new tax bill, the current exemptions sunset on December 31, 2025. Unless you plan to pass away before then, if your estate's value exceeds \$6.5 million, which is the amount that the exemption is expected to be, then now is the time to consider more advanced estate planning strategies beyond your revocable trust.

Income tax planning is another area that I find lacking in many estate plans. There are a variety of strategies available to mitigate the income tax burden that your beneficiaries will one day face. But those strategies need to be employed within your plan before you die. This is true especially if you own significant IRA, 401(k) or other qualified retirement accounts, annuities, or unrealized capital gains.

Florida law affords new opportunities for capital gains tax planning for married couples. We now have a community property opt-in statute. If your plan meets the statutory requirements, the surviving spouse may receive a full step up in tax cost basis at the first spouse's death, eliminating the unrealized capital gains of your assets and accounts. Failure to comply with the statutes results in only a step up of the first decedent spouse's assets, or for joint accounts, one-half of a step up.

Community property status is not appropriate for everyone. You should check with a qualified estate planning attorney to determine if it is right for you.

There are other reasons to review your estate plan. Don't put it off simply because Congress can't seem to pass a new law.

In the meantime, I wish you and yours a very happy holiday season.

©2021 Craig R. Hersch. Learn more at www.floridaestateplanning.com.✪

Siegel Elected To Airports Council International

Ben Siegel, CPA, CM, executive director of the Lee County Port Authority (LCPA), has been elected by Airports Council International-North America (ACI-NA) to a two-year term on the U.S. Policy Council, the policy-making body for federal government programs, legislation and regulations affecting airport operators.

The council sets ACI-NA's government relations activities to represent and advocate the interests of U.S. airports before Congress and the administration, particularly with the Department of Transportation, Federal Aviation Administration and Department of Homeland Security. Among the council's focus areas is securing adequate relief funding, which will be critical as airports work to keep infrastructure safe, operational and ready for the future.

Siegel is responsible for the administration, operations and development of Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW) and Page Field (FMY) in Fort Myers. He has been with the Lee County Port Authority since 1992 and is an experienced airport executive with an extensive background in business and finance. He is currently overseeing the construction completion of a new airport traffic control tower and a three-year, \$331-million terminal expansion project at Southwest Florida International Airport. Siegel is a certified member of the American Association of Airport Executives, as well as a member of the Florida Airports Council, Airports Council International-North America, Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He holds a bachelor of science in business administration from the University of South Florida and is a certified public accountant.

ACI-NA represents local, regional

and state governing bodies that own and operate commercial airports in the United States and Canada. ACI-NA member airports enplane more than 95 percent of the domestic and virtually all the international airline passenger and cargo traffic in North America. For more information, visit www.airportscouncil.org.

Southwest Florida International Airport served nearly six million passengers in 2020 and is one of the top 50 U.S. airports for passenger traffic. Page Field provides services to business and private aviators and accommodated more than 126,000 aircraft operations in 2020. No ad valorem taxes are used for airport operations or construction. For more information, visit www.flylcpa.com.✪

Foundation Awards Grant For New Workshop

Hope Healthcare is helping individuals with Parkinson's disease manage and prevent difficulties in speech and swallowing, symptoms which affect about 75 percent of all people with the disease.

Hope Healthcare recently completed an eight-week Speak Easy workshop funded by a \$5,500 community grant from the Parkinson's Foundation. The free program, led by speech-language pathologist Mary Sprumelli, provided education and resources to help participants improve speech for everyday conversation while offering preventive guidance for issues with swallowing. Participants also received voice-activated Hi VOLT bracelets, which calibrate voice levels and encourage wearers to speak louder.

The Parkinson's Foundation community grant program funds community-based education and outreach programs addressing unmet needs.

The Hope Parkinson Program works closely with like-minded community

organizations to provide a network of resources and education for people affected by Parkinson's disease and related movement disorders. As a community service provided by Hope Healthcare, membership is provided at no charge to participants and care partners. For more information, visit www.hopeparkinson.org.✪

Family Initiative Responds To New Data

Last week the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention released new data suggesting an increase in prevalence of children diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) from one in 54 children to one in 44 children. The new data, collected in 2018 and from a dozen states, showed an uptick in autism diagnoses from the previous data set collected in 2016. The CDC also reported children in the U.S. are being diagnosed with autism at younger ages. Children were 50 percent more likely to be diagnosed in 2018 than 2014 by age 4.

"The CDC data released last week serves as another reminder of the great need across our region for the expansion of autism support and resources," said David Brown, president and co-founder of Family Initiative. "We should take solace that we are making some progress in identifying children at an earlier age, so they can access services which will improve their developmental outcomes."

As populations continue to grow and early signs of autism are diagnosed, the need for additional services also increases. Family Initiative works with children and young adults on the spectrum and provides applied behavior analysis, occupational therapy, social skills training groups and more.

To learn more about all of Family Initiative's programs, visit www.fi-florida.org.✪

Organization Advisory Board

Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida's 2022 Business Hall of Fame Advisory Board will be led by Event Chair Stacey L. Herring of Morgan Stanley Private Bank, and Laureate Chair Gail Markham of Markham Norton Mosteller Wright & Company, PA. The 2022 Business Hall of Fame will take place at the Ritz Carlton Golf Resort on April 19.

Additional members of the board include Jason Brewer, Truist Bank; Andrew Buschle, Bank of America Private Bank; Blase Ciabaton, Naples Print Source; Jenny Lynn Dunn, Wasmer Schroeder Strategies Charles Schwab Investment Management, Inc.; Talisha Faber, Cushman & Wakefield Commercial Property SWFL; Brian Glaeser, State Farm Insurance Companies; Elaine Hawkins, Private Client Insurance Services; Jan-Erik Hustrulid, Owen-Ames-Kimball Company; Craig Sherman, Cogent Bank; Sandy Stilwell Youngquist, Stilwell Enterprises & Restaurant Group; Vicki Tracy, Gulf Coast International Properties; Michael Traficante, Grant Fridkin Pearson, PA; and Sharon Torregrossa, VIP Realty Group, Inc.

Advisory board members are responsible for selecting the laureates for the 2022 Junior Achievement Business Hall of Fame, which recognizes three outstanding entrepreneurs from Lee or Collier county who demonstrate strong leadership and inspire young students through their professional accomplishments and commitment to the community. The laureates will be honored during the dinner and awards ceremony in April.

For more information on the event or to learn more about sponsorship opportunities and purchasing tickets, visit www.jaswfl.org. Inquiries can also be directed to Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida at 225-2590 or info@jaswfl.org.✪

Superior Interiors

Window Treatment Ideas For Every Room



by Linda Coin

Accessories and accent pieces have a way of bringing a room together and making it feel more complete. A room filled with pieces of art, throw pillows, cozy blankets, coffee table books

and other trinkets can help you ensure a wholesome feel throughout your home. Another critical element that can help you achieve this satisfaction (and that many tend to forget about) are window treatments.

Window treatments are not only a lovely wall accessory, they can also control the amount of heat and cold that enter your living space depending on the season, and protect your furniture from fading due to exposure to UV rays.

Whether you're looking for window treatments for an extra layer of privacy or you feel like your windows are just missing something, there's a great option for every room.

Here are our window treatment recommendations based on the specific space in your home:

Your workspace needs optimal natural lighting – this will make it easier to concentrate on your projects and ensure clear focus from start to finish. Sheer curtains provide a subtle layer of privacy while brightening the room with ease.

The bedroom is another place that can benefit from natural lighting during the day, but this is also a space that deserves the most privacy. Honeycomb shades can filter out some of the light but offer optimal privacy when you need it most.

The dining room is a great place to wind down with family and friends after a long day of work, wining and dining with your favorite drinks and food. Roman shades are made of bamboo or lightweight fabric, so they let some light in but cannot be seen through. Since they fold up in pleats as they are raised, you can bring in partial light and maintain some privacy depending on the time of day or your mood.

For many, the living room is one of the most important spaces in the home for aesthetics because it's a place to entertain; it's a place to make a strong first impression on your guests as well. Floor-to-ceiling treatments are great for stylistic purposes, but they can also make your walls look taller based on their placement.

The kitchen is just like the home office in the sense that it's a workplace. The more natural lighting, the better. And since privacy isn't the most important worry in this area of your home, valance treatments make a perfect choice. They add a hint of style to your windows and ensure you're getting the most out of the natural lighting. You can also layer valances over blinds or

longer treatments for a formal approach to style.

With so many window treatment options on the market, it can be difficult to decide which ones will help your home feel cozy and complete. If you need assistance navigating the styles, a design professional

Terrapin Conservation Measures Ratified

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) approved regulation changes in an effort to further diamondback terrapin conservation.

Throughout their range, diamondback terrapin populations are in decline due to a variety of issues including habitat loss, unsustainable collection from the wild due to growing popularity in the global pet market, predation and road mortality. Because of overlapping habitat, there is also a potential for terrapins to be accidentally killed in blue crab traps.

Beginning March 1, the collection of diamondback terrapins from the wild will be prohibited with exception of collection for scientific research with a permit. Also, people who have diamondback terrapins as pets before March 1 may legally keep these animals but must obtain a no-cost permit. The FWC also directed staff to explore options regarding captive breeding of diamondback terrapins, including

morphs such as albinos, and to bring that topic back to a future commission meeting. In addition, by March 1, all recreational blue crab traps will be required to have rigid funnel openings no larger than two by six inches at the narrowest point or two- by six-inch bycatch reduction devices (BRD) installed.

BRDs can reduce incidental terrapin mortality by keeping terrapins from entering crab traps and are intended to have little impact on blue crab catch.

For more information, including the December 2021 commission meeting presentation, visit www.myfwc.com/commission.

Diamondback terrapins are medium-sized turtles that live in brackish water habitats statewide, including salt marshes, barrier islands, mangrove swamps, tidal creeks and rivers. They eat a variety of foods including snails, crabs, clams, mussels, worms, fish and plants. Five subspecies occur in Florida, three of which can be found nowhere else in the world. For more information on diamondback terrapins, visit www.myfwc.com/terrapin. For more information on these diamondback terrapin regulation changes, visit www.myfwc.com/freshwaterturtles.

Lee Health Foundation Board Of Trustees

Newly elected trustees for the 2022 Lee Health Foundation Board of Trustees are Ryan Carter, Richard Forman, William Gruver, David Klein, Garrett Richter and John Quinn. J. Pason Gaddis returns as chairperson.

Trustees help guide philanthropic initiatives for Lee Health Foundation, which has supported lifesaving health and wellness programs in Southwest Florida for more than 25 years. Since 1995, the foundation, its supporters and trustees have made it possible for Lee Health to serve a growing community with comprehensive medical services close to home. Thanks to the generosity of the Southwest Florida community and dedication of the trustees, Lee Health Foundation's fiscal impact for 2021 included 4,000 donors raising more than \$17 million.

"Lee Health is fortunate to have outstanding community leaders join us in our vision to be a national leader in health and wellbeing, by empowering healthier lives through care and compassion," said Chris Simoneau, Lee Health's chief foundation and development officer. "Lee Health Foundation trustees have provided outstanding guidance and advice to our foundation team, and they donate

generously their talent and treasure."

Gaddis, co-founder and CEO of Florida Media Group, has served on the foundation board since 2016 and is a laureate for Junior Achievement of Southwest Florida's Business Hall of Fame, Lee County.

Returning to their roles are Dr. James W. Orr, Jr. as vice chairperson, Dominic Cameratta as treasurer, and Jennifer Parisi as secretary of the board.

Returning trustees are David Call, Joseph R. Catti, Dr. Paul DiGiorgi, Jenny Gezella, Chetan Gulati, Kristin Haag, George Hamilton, Matt Hanson, Charles K. Idelson, Al Kinkle, Susan McGrogan, Fred Pezeshkan, Dr. F. Brett Shannon and Sandy Stilwell Youngquist.

Ex-officio trustees are Dr. Larry Antonucci, David Collins, Gary Gold, Jim Eberz, Sue Lester and Armando Llechu. The board's emeriti committee includes Amanda Cross, Dorothy Fitzgerald, Joe Gammons, Frank Haskell, chairperson Elaine Hawkins and Garrett Reasoner.

Lee Health Foundation's committee chairpersons include: executive committee, Gaddis; finance committee, Cameratta; nominating and governance committee, Parisi; and development committee, Gezella. Additional community leaders who also serve on committees include Bill Cronin, Tarek Salhab and Austin Williams.

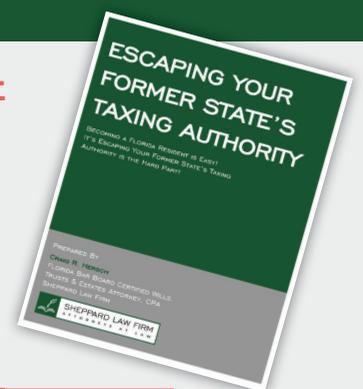
Lee Health Foundation expresses gratitude for the following individuals' past service to Lee Health and the community: Lori Shafer, Pablo Veintimilla and Scotty Wood.✪

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Frankly Speaking

by Howard Prager



With Christmas upon us, I want to share some of the gifts we've received from sports these past few weeks.

Is Tiger Woods the greatest golfer? Was he being foolish driving too fast and

having an accident that almost killed him? Is it exciting to be able to see him play again? The answer to all three is yes, as he played in the PNC tournament last weekend with his 12-year old son, Charlie. Truly a miracle to see him play – and even to walk – again, nine months after the accident. Doctors even thought they would have to amputate his legs. This could be one of the greatest comebacks of all time, but even if it's just a limited comeback, those who marvel at his play got to see a couple of fabulous drives in the tournament. And a second place finish. Not bad.

Western Kentucky playing a bowl game (the Boca Raton Bowl) may not have been on many people's watch list, mine included. But if you did, you not only saw a fun bowl game (lots of offense), you saw records being set. QB Bailey Zappe capped his record-setting season by passing for 5,977 yards and 62 touchdowns for the Hilltoppers (9-5).

He topped the previous FBS marks of 5,833 yards set by Texas Tech's BJ Symons in 2003 and 60 touchdowns set by LSU's Joe Burrow in the Tigers' run to the national championship in the 2019 season. In this game, he threw for 422 yards and six touchdowns as Western Kentucky beat Appalachian State who lost a bowl game for the first time, 59-38. A number of athletes opted out of playing in bowl games this year. That's a shame for them, but a boost for athletes like Zappe, who may not have been as well-known despite his numbers, but certainly is now. It's also a boost for an area ravaged by tornados just two weeks ago. I used to read from sportswriters "which city needs this win the most?" Bowling Green, Kentucky, your hometown team brought you some smiles this season as you rebuild your homes and lives.

The Saints own the Bucs and Tom Brady. It's that simple. Whoever the QB, they find a way to win and shut Brady down. This past Sunday night they did it with only three FGs. But they held Brady scoreless for the first time since 2006. Several receivers were out for Tampa Bay, but this is Tom Terrific, and he did have his favorite receiver, Gronk, in the game.

Speaking of shutting down, just a year ago we were excited that games were even being played, and the NBA was figuring out how to use the bubble. Now with the Omicron variation and more positive COVID tests in all sports, will we be going back there? I haven't read about fan outbreaks, just about players. The NBA cancelled five games last week, the NFL has moved games to help players get out

of the protocol, the NHL has cancelled games, several college hoops matchups were cancelled and even in tennis, Rafael Nadal who tested negatively all week in Abu Dhabi, has come down with a positive test and is most likely out of his next tournament. It's time for players to exhibit greater caution and for the professional leagues to figure out how to keep teams and players safer. In the meantime on Monday, the NBA came out with new protocols to make it easier for teams to sign replacement players. We've learned what we need to do to play it safe, now we just need to implement that.

Can you hear what I hear? No. Our good news story of the week comes from the Good News Network and KCBS. "A varsity football team in California is impressing the state's athletic world, as the limited 23-player roster has gone undefeated 12-0 though all 23 players and their coach are deaf. They don't play in a hard-of-hearing league, they are beating hearing teams by huge margins, all the while using American Sign Language to communicate on the field.

The Cubs varsity team from Riverside, California have no pedigree of success. They've lost every single game for the previous seven seasons. Now their incredible transformation, which has landed the school in the division championship game for the first time in its history, has drawn an endless stream of well-wishes and messages, including from NFL franchises.

"Now we're just destroying every game. We're showing the world we can play. We're not losing anymore," wide receiver Jory Valencia said. Added running back Enos Zornoza: "We can do anything. Deaf people can do anything; we're not this stereotype that's out there. We're breaking news that we can do it right. And not just our school here but other schools for the deaf can do it as well."

The Cinderella story was not to have the most storybook of endings, as the Cubs fell short in their Division Final against Faith Baptist, who had made the final 18 times in the last 37 years. "It feels overwhelming," Cubs head coach Keith Adams told NBC LA. "It's been nonstop, getting messages, you know, congratulations and well-wishes. My email is blowing up. The Tennessee Titans have sent me congratulations. It's just been amazing."

No coach. You and your team are amazing. From not winning to going undefeated and by large margins? With less than half the players of other teams and all deaf? May your success be shouted – and signed – from the highest of rafters. I hope you all feel as good about this story as I do. Merry Christmas and happy holidays dear 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 to press@islandsunnews.com.

Season Changes For Grouper And Snapper

Several species of grouper and snapper will either be open or closed to harvest in gulf and Atlantic state waters starting January 1.

Red grouper will reopen to recreational harvest in gulf state waters (excluding Monroe County).

Blackfin, silk, queen and wenchman snappers will reopen to recreational and commercial harvest in gulf state waters.

Gag grouper will close to recreational harvest in gulf state waters.

Gag, black, red, yellowmouth and

yellowfin grouper as well as scamp, red hind, rock hind, coney and graysby will close to recreational and commercial harvest in Atlantic state waters (including Monroe County).

If you are boating or fishing in the Atlantic this winter, be on the lookout for North Atlantic right whales. These endangered mammals are extremely hard to spot and collisions have caused costly damage to boats, put passengers and crew at risk, and injured and killed right whales. With fewer than 350 left, right whales are one of the world's most endangered large whale species. Learn more about what you can do to prevent right whale collisions at www.myfwc.com/research by clicking "Wildlife."

For more on these regulations, visit www.myfwc.com/marine.

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SPORTS QUIZ

1. In 1999, Ray Rhodes compiled a record of 8-8 in his only season as head coach of what NFL team?
2. Name the NHL player from Sweden who served as captain of the Ottawa Senators from 1999-2013.
3. What punch – illegal in most combat sports – is a blow to the back of the head or neck, or the base of the skull?
4. Who scored 47 points to lead the Texas Tech Lady Raiders to an 84-82 win versus Ohio State in the 1993 NCAA Women's Basketball Tournament championship game?
5. What university's basketball arena has an unoccupied seat reserved in honor of coaching legend Henry Iba?
6. What is the name of the slow, high-arching, off-speed pitch developed in the 1940s by Pittsburgh Pirates righthander Rip Sewell?
7. Name the Basketball Hall of Famer from Serbia who had his No. 21 jersey retired by the Sacramento Kings.

ANSWERS

1. The Green Bay Packers. 2. Daniel Alfredsson. 3. A rabbit punch. 4. Sheryl Swoopes. 5. Oklahoma State University. 6. The Ephemus pitch. 7. Wade Davis.

Doctor and Dietician

12 Ways Of Christmas



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

Most of us know the song *The Twelve Days of Christmas*, but do we remember what this time signifies other than a somewhat annoying Christmas carol? The 12 days of Christmas is the period for Christians that marks the time between the birth of Christ and the coming of the Magi, or the three wise men. For some, back in the day, the 12-day period was marked by observing the feast of days of various saints and planning Christmas-related activities. For most now, however, things go back to business as usual after December 25. Why not make sure we let the spirit of Christmas, kindness and giving last the whole year and make it a daily choice? Let's take some time to change the 12 days into 12 ways of Christmas.

1. Gratitude: Saying thank you is a gift in and of itself, but putting it into writing makes it even more special. Who can you bless today with a card or letter of thanks?

2. Kindness: Look for a way to surprise someone with a gift or act of kindness. Let someone check out in front of you in line. Pay another table's meal at a restaurant. Random acts of kindness make the world a much better place.

3. Care: Consider a way you can help those less fortunate by volunteering to serve meals, bring canned goods to a local food pantry (FISH or Harry Chapin Food Bank), or even purchase a gift card for someone who is struggling and give it to them anonymously. Bring some homemade soup to someone who is recovering.

4. Word of blessing: Share a word,

Bible verse, or poem that has meaning to you that might encourage someone else. Send it via a hand-written note, text, or email. It lets someone else know you took the time to think of them.

5. Support: Some local businesses may be suffering during these times or have experienced tragic events. Make it a point to stop by their stores or order a meal or purchase some goods. Give an extra tip to someone in the service industry.

6. Patience: Find ways to bless those closest to you – spouse, child, parent, or sibling. Tell them how much you love them and appreciate them. Don't sweat the small stuff and just "get over it!" Life is too darn short.

7. Time: Give someone your undivided attention. Call. Stop by. Put down your phone.

8. Prayer: Many people have many needs these days – make it a point to pray for those needs. Write it down when someone asks for prayer or good thoughts, then follow up.

9. Generosity: Consider giving to someone outside of your family/friends. Show your appreciation to a local delivery person, pharmacist, store clerk, hairstylist, mail carrier, police officer, or local charity – or some other person in your life. You know they will appreciate it.

10. A well-loved book: Do you have a special book that means a lot to you? Share it with a friend with a note about what it meant to you. People have lost the art of reading. Get back to it.

11. Hospitality: Find a way to help/serve those near you. Run an errand, grocery shop, take in their trash cans – just provide little ways to show you care. Invite a neighbor to share a cup of coffee or a meal.

12. Humility: Make a point of allowing someone else to go first. Slow down. Chill. Share some peace with a fellow human. Remember, life is not just about ourselves.

Wishing you all a blessed and beautiful upcoming holiday season and new year 2022. Let us be the ones who make it a good one.

*This information is not intended to treat, cure or diagnose your condition. Ross Hauser, MD, and Marion Hauser, MS, RD, established Caring Medical in 1991. Caring Medical Florida and the Hauser Neck Center are located in Fort Myers. They can be reached at info@caringmedical.com.**

dearPharmacist

Five Strategies To Stop Sugar Cravings Now



by Suzy
Cohen, RPH

Dear Readers: I feel like in winter I go into hibernation mode and put on weight and just crawl into bed earlier than I should. Do you feel that way when it

gets dark at 5 p.m.? Do you want to eat whenever you watch the news or a scary movie? It happens to all of us, you're not alone.

If your cravings have increased due to going overboard on holiday treats, or even from stress and the current early darkness of winter, then read on because I have some simple, natural solutions that you can try. And, I want to emphasize that this is very important to your immune system.

Curb the crave and start today. Trying the following five things is the first and only commitment you have to make today. You can always revise the plan, have a little donut and then get back on track.

1. Drink something instead – Take notice of how many times you go to the fridge and open the door. The next time you do that, open the freezer instead and get the ice cubes. Put them in a glass of water, or iced tea and drink instead of eating. This also hydrates you and reduces your risk of headache.

2. Cinnamon – Cinnamon has well-known ability to help your insulin and blood sugar levels, which in turn, reduces cravings. Sprinkle it on some green apple slices, sweet potatoes or coffee.

3. Minimize grains – This is a hard one but you can do it. If you eat a lot of bread, rolls or buns, then reduce that. These are lacking in fiber and they provide empty calories that spike your blood sugar which then later crashes. I suddenly see in my mind's eye a mouth-watering foot-long sub, but that is a heavy carb hit for me, so I prefer more meat and less bread. A change in ratios! So for me, I'd order a

wrap, or make it an open-face sandwich and toss the top bun. Effective.

4. *Gymnema sylvestre* – This has been studied extensively and is able to help support regeneration of pancreatic cells that have the job of lowering your blood sugar. The more of those pancreatic islet cells the better and, unfortunately, those get destroyed sometimes for people in an autoimmune type of fight.

5. Take a whiff of peppermint – Peppermint is known to reduce cravings and you could just drink some herbal peppermint tea with your meal (or right before) and see if that helps you to reduce portions. Also, you could sniff the essential oil.

I have the same love of sugar as you. We would die without consuming some type of glucose, but that is different than carbs and sugar all day. I have a longer, extended version of this article which you can receive by subscribing to my free newsletter at www.suzycohen.com.

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

Chronic Disease Program

Lee Health, along with the Self-Management Resource Center (SMRC), is offering a research-based chronic disease self-management program virtually or on location beginning in January.

Virtual sessions for the It's All About You program will be held on Tuesdays beginning January 11 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. and Thursdays beginning January 13 from 10 a.m. to noon. The Thursday sessions will also be held at the same time at the Lake Kennedy Center, 400 Santa Barbara Boulevard, in Cape Coral.

The free workshop is two hours once a week for six weeks. It is designed for people age 18 or older with chronic health conditions to help them learn ways to better manage their chronic conditions and the symptoms that often accompany chronic health conditions.

For more information or to register, call 424-3121.*

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THE RIVER

WEEKLY NEWS
FROM THE BEACHES TO DOWNTOWN FORT MYERS

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

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

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

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

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

PUZZLES

Answers on page 23



"He must be considering marriage —
 he's started taking me to _____
 restaurants."

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!

Acute
HARPS

Charm
ELAPSE

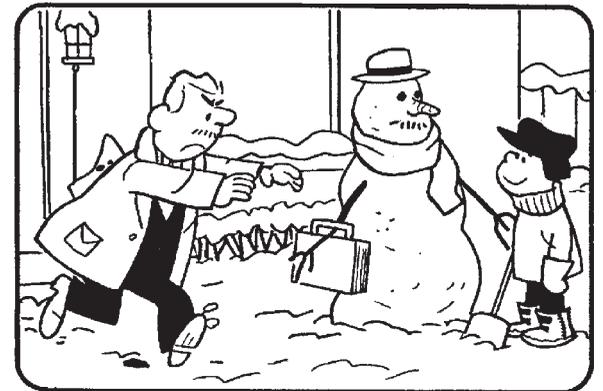
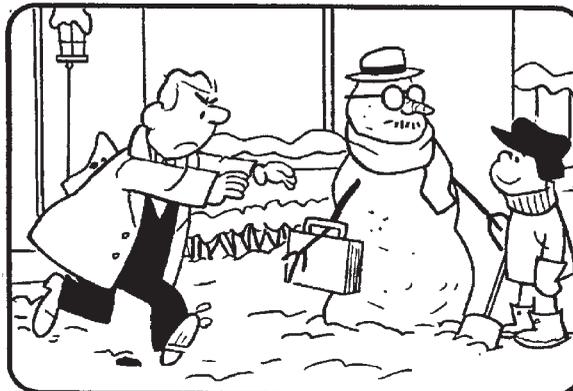
Salad
LEAK

Rude
SCARS

TODAY'S WORD

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Mustache is added. 2. Glasses are removed. 3. Boots are different. 4. Pocket is added. 5. Pants are different. 6. Buttons are missing.

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

To Play Sudoku:

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

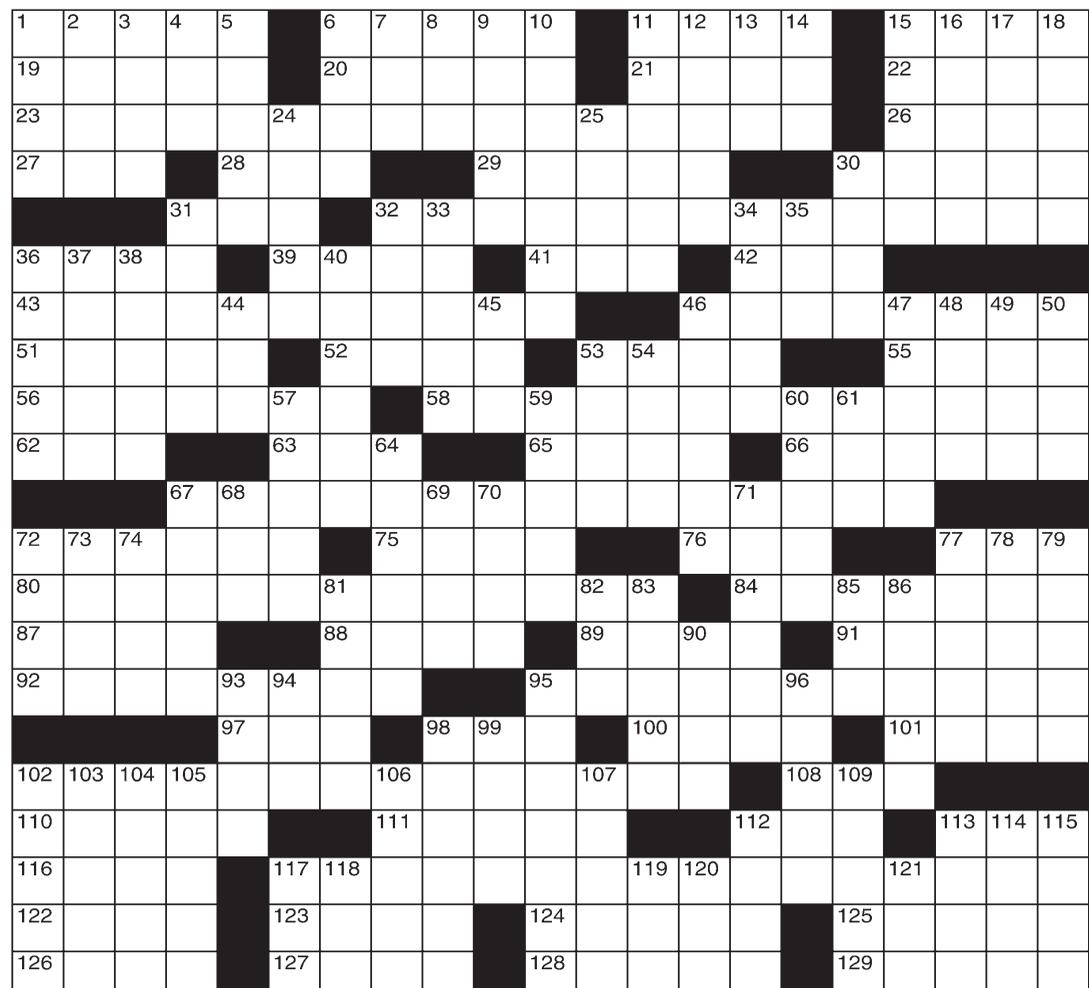
PUZZLES

Answers on page 23

Super Crossword

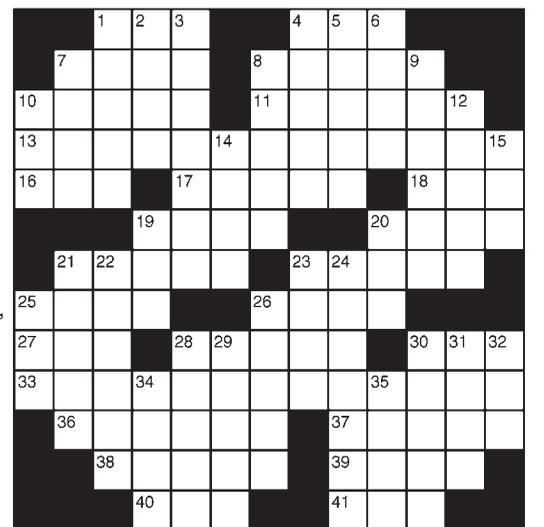
ENGLISH QUINTET

- ACROSS**
- 1 Tribal carving
 - 6 Beatle Ringo
 - 11 Depict with bias
 - 15 Ellipsoidal
 - 19 Earthy tone, to a Brit
 - 20 Magazine release
 - 21 Irene of "Fame"
 - 22 Central point
 - 23 He played Jim Dial on "Murphy Brown"
 - 26 Kazan with three Tonys
 - 27 Carp in a garden pond
 - 28 Football's Manning
 - 29 "— my way!" ("Scram!")
 - 30 Cathedrals' main areas
 - 31 Necklace of 12-Down
 - 32 Strong product-selling influence
 - 36 Toon skunk Le Pew
 - 39 Nonstick cookware brand
 - 41 Ending for priest
 - 42 In-favor vote
 - 43 Partly joking
 - 46 Shabby hotels
 - 51 Striped stone
 - 52 "Are you — out?"
 - 53 Currency of Belgium
 - 55 Dormant
 - 56 Able to feel
 - 58 Taking a rolling pin to
 - 62 Period
 - 63 Add- — (extras)
 - 65 Brings a civil action
 - 66 Snare loops
 - 67 What the Australian Open is played on
 - 72 Druids, e.g.
 - 75 Burn soother
 - 76 Bruins' Bobby
 - 77 Purpose
 - 80 Black Protestant denom. since 1821
 - 84 Have coming
 - 87 Green shade
 - 88 Blood-related
 - 89 Daddy
 - 91 Pond buildup
 - 92 Expected saviors
 - 95 Gave a worthy effort
 - 97 — -ray Disc
 - 98 Long-headed antelope
 - 100 Florence's river
 - 101 Pod items
 - 102 Franz Liszt piano piece in 3/4 time
 - 108 Purpose
 - 110 In regard to
 - 111 Conga relative
 - 112 Standoffish
 - 113 Animal kept in the house
 - 116 Feudal VIP
 - 117 Crossing during a journey
 - 122 Balladeer
 - 123 Green shade vehicle make
 - 124 Ho-hum feeling
 - 125 Volunteer's offer to be sent
 - 126 Disaffirm
 - 127 Male tabbies
 - 128 Regards as
 - 129 Sequence found in this puzzle's nine longest answers
 - DOWN**
 - 1 Tick follower
 - 2 Eight, in Madrid
 - 3 Bangkok resident
 - 4 Fumble
 - 5 Rumble
 - 6 "Yes, yes!," in Mexico
 - 7 "For shame!"
 - 8 "Just — suspected!"
 - 9 Bit of hearsay
 - 10 Reprimands
 - 11 Actors Baio and Wolf
 - 12 A Hawaiian Island
 - 13 Work unit, in physics
 - 14 Sound of a crying baby
 - 15 Ryan of "Love Story"
 - 16 Swedish vehicle make
 - 17 Ta-ta, to Tati
 - 18 Most minor
 - 24 Aristocratic
 - 25 Numbered hwys.
 - 30 Scholastic sports org.
 - 31 Some turns and jabs
 - 32 Principal
 - 33 Standoffish
 - 34 Tarp material
 - 35 "I didn't know that!"
 - 36 Period
 - 37 Avid
 - 38 First strategy
 - 40 Buddy
 - 44 Viking locale
 - 45 E-address
 - 46 Plaster painting
 - 47 Archie Bunker, e.g.
 - 48 Hubbubs
 - 49 Model binder
 - 50 U.S. Open units
 - 53 Sewing case
 - 54 Beehive State college team
 - 57 Bodily trunk
 - 59 Ed of "Roots"
 - 60 Habituate (to)
 - 61 Negative conjunction
 - 64 Neat piles
 - 67 Visibility reducers
 - 68 DiFranco of song
 - 69 Pre-coll., in education
 - 70 Pluralizable word
 - 71 Appoint to holy office
 - 72 Oahu tree
 - 73 French gal pal
 - 74 Tiara stones
 - 77 Have a tiff
 - 78 She divorced Donald
 - 79 Intersects
 - 81 Bible book after Micah
 - 82 Tax form pro
 - 83 Went to town on
 - 85 Plant pouch
 - 86 Run off to tie the knot
 - 89 Cuzco locale
 - 93 "Likely story!"
 - 94 "Thrilla in Manila" boxer
 - 95 Spoke indistinctly and softly
 - 96 Put one's finger on, say
 - 98 "R.I.P." sites
 - 99 City in Alaska
 - 102 Legitimate
 - 103 Superior to
 - 104 Sophia of "Two Women"
 - 105 Froth-filled
 - 106 Pious song
 - 107 "Common Sense" writer Thomas
 - 109 Aleppo locale
 - 112 Possible reply to "That so?"
 - 113 Hungarian sheepdog
 - 114 Kellogg's waffle brand
 - 115 Holier-than- —
 - 117 Blast source
 - 118 — Grande
 - 119 Dir. from Little Rock to Chicago
 - 120 Juicy Fruit, e.g.
 - 121 Bullring yell



King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 PC port
 - 4 Roast VIPs
 - 7 — cheese dressing
 - 8 Some tides
 - 10 Coffee-break hr.
 - 11 Mistakes in print
 - 13 Mitch Hedberg and Margaret Cho, for two
 - 16 Standard
 - 17 Cyber-commerce
 - 18 To and —
 - 19 Greet
 - 20 "Roots" author Haley
 - 21 Racing shell
 - 23 Red-tag events
 - 25 Poker variety
 - 26 \$ dispensers
 - 27 1040 org.
 - 28 Mideast peninsula
 - 30 Mimic
 - 33 "Don't slouch!"
 - 36 Spud
 - 37 Thin nails
 - 38 Brick worker
 - 39 Used car sites
 - 40 Med. plan option
 - 41 Away from WSW
 - 9 Repress
 - 10 Recipe abbr.
 - 12 Farm units
 - 14 Gas co., for one
 - 15 Boston team, for short
 - 19 Paul Newman film
 - 20 Gore and Franken
 - 21 Vegas area
 - 22 Convention
 - 23 Luminary
 - 24 Good-natured
 - 25 Venus, to Serena
 - 26 Playwright Chekhov
 - 28 Tic
 - 29 "Life — short ..."
 - 30 Marble type
 - 31 Prof's degrees
 - 32 UFO crew
 - 34 Hexagonal state
 - 35 Press agent?
- DOWN**
- 1 Of an arm bone
 - 2 Writer O'Casey
 - 3 Unfair treatment
 - 4 "Thank you, Henri"
 - 5 Yule tune
 - 6 Pesky email
 - 7 Alpha follower
 - 8 Himalayan



MAGIC MAZE ● WHITE —

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally
 Unlisted clue hint: THE STAFF OF LIFE

- | | | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|--------|
| Board | Elephant | Pine | Sale |
| Chocolate | Gloves | Rhinoceros | Washed |
| Christmas | Meat | Rice | Wine |
| Corpuscle | Phosphorus | Russian | |



Pan Seared and Bacon Wrapped Mullet

photo courtesy Fresh From Florida



Pan Seared and Bacon Wrapped Mullet

- 4 (4-6 ounce) Mullet fillets
- 2 tablespoons honey
- 4 strips bacon
- ½ cup barbecue sauce (your favorite)
- 1 tablespoon oil, for cooking
- Sea salt and fresh ground pepper, to taste

In a small bowl mix the barbecue sauce and honey together and set aside.

Preheat a pan over medium-high heat. Season fillets with salt and pepper then wrap each with one strip of bacon. Add oil to pan and place the bacon-wrapped fillets into hot pan. Sear each side for three minutes or until the bacon is crispy and the fish is cooked thoroughly. Remove from pan and brush a thin layer of honey barbecue onto each fillet. Serve warm.*

PETS OF THE WEEK



Silas ID# A894911

photos provided

Lee County Domestic Animal Services

Silas And Lilly

Hello, my name is Silas. I'm a blue 3-year-old male pit bull mix. I'm definitely on the nice list this year. I'm not just an adorable face, I'm an all-around very good boy. I asked Santa for a loving home for the holidays. Any family that adopts me will have joy to come for many years. My adoption fee is \$20.

Hi, my name is Lilly. I'm a black tabby 11-year-old female domestic medium hair. I'm the center's super senior and an elegant lady with impeccable manners. I'm very self-sufficient and yearn for a home for the holidays. I will curl up contentedly in your lap like it was made for me. If love,



Lilly ID# A480301

loyalty and affection is what you seek in a companion, I'm the pet for you. My adoption fee is waived.

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

My Stars ★★★★★

FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 20, 2021

Aries (March 21 to April 19) I know, dear Lamb, that you don't like anyone trying to take charge of one of your projects, but try to be a bit more flexible. A new idea could help hasten a positive result.

Taurus (April 20 to May 20) I'm sure, like the time-thrifty Taurus that you are, that you've done much of your holiday shopping. But don't relax yet. Wrap those gifts now to save yourself lots of unwanted pressure.

Gemini (May 21 to June 20) Be receptive when a family member or friend asks to confide in you. Your positive reaction could ensure that he or she will have a happy holiday experience.

Cancer (June 21 to July 22) Don't be rushed into wrapping up that workplace problem. Consider leaving it until after the holidays. This way you'll have the facts you need to reach the right resolution.

Leo (July 23 to August 22) You'll get news that will make you glow brighter

than the lights of the holiday season. Be sure to use what you learn both carefully and kindly, to avoid giving the wrong impression.

Virgo (August 23 to September 22) That frayed relationship could be mended in time for the holidays if you were more flexible. Give a little, and you could get back a lot more than you imagined.

Libra (September 23 to October 22) Things might not seem to be settling down as quickly as you would prefer. But it might be just a little holiday time flutter. You'll soon get news that will lead to more stability.

Scorpio (October 23 to November 21) Stop getting so involved in everyone's personal problems that you lose precious time with loved ones. Remember, even the Supreme Court closes for the holidays.

Sagittarius (November 22 to December 21) All signs point to a bright holiday, with all of those pesky problems finally resolved in your favor. Share the good times with people you love and, of course, who love you.

Capricorn (December 22 to January 19) Your plans should not be

set in stone and cemented over. Leave some openings in case you need to make changes. Spend the holidays with your nearest and dearest.

Aquarius (January 20 to February 18) Surprise! This holiday finds you on the receiving end of the generosity of those who are usually the recipients of so much that you give so freely and lovingly.

Pisces (February 19 to March 20) That piece of good news assures that you'll be swimming in clearer, calmer waters this holiday season. There might be a storm or two ahead, but you'll weather it all in fine style.

Born This Week: You have a flair for seeing things as you'd like them to be, as well as a gift for turning your perceptions into reality.

MOMENTS IN TIME

- On December 30, 1803, Francis Lewis, signer of the Declaration of Independence, dies in New York City at age 90. Lewis' patriotism came at a high cost: The British army destroyed his Long Island estate and took his wife prisoner in 1776.

- On January 1, 1863, farmer Daniel Freeman submits the first claim under the new Homestead Act for a property in Nebraska. By the 1890s, many homesteaders found that farming 160 acres of such dry land was nearly impossible, and at least half the original claims were abandoned.

- On December 27, 1944, during World War II, President Franklin Roosevelt gives orders to seize properties belonging to the Montgomery Ward company because it refused to comply with a labor collective bargaining agreement. Roosevelt said strikes in wartime cannot be condoned.

- On December 29, 1956, the *New York Times* leaks news that the United States is preparing a major policy statement on the Middle East. The Eisenhower Doctrine would proclaim that the U.S. would use force in the Middle East to contain Soviet aggression.

- On December 31, 1968, the Soviet Union's TU-144 supersonic airliner makes its first flight, months ahead of the Anglo-French Concorde. In 1965, the French had arrested Sergei Pavlov,

continued on page 22

 FRIDAY Sunny High: 70 Low: 58	 SATURDAY Sunny High: 71 Low: 60	 SUNDAY Sunny High: 72 Low: 59	 MONDAY Partly Cloudy High: 74 Low: 64	 TUESDAY Sunny High: 76 Low: 63	 WEDNESDAY Sunny High: 77 Low: 66	 THURSDAY Sunny High: 74 Low: 62
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Redfish Pass Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	2:53 am	10:34 am	5:58 pm	9:47 pm
Sat	3:54 am	11:17 am	6:29 pm	11:20 pm
Sun	5:10 am	12:01 pm	7:01 pm	None
Mon	6:45 am	12:50 am	7:34 pm	12:45 pm
Tue	8:32 am	2:09 am	8:09 pm	1:29 pm
Wed	10:15 am	3:17 am	8:46 pm	2:11 pm
Thu	11:46 am	4:17 am	9:26 pm	2:49 pm

Point Ybel Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	1:58 am	10:36 am	5:03 pm	9:49 pm
Sat	2:59 am	11:19 am	5:34 pm	11:22 pm
Sun	4:15 am	12:03 pm	6:06 pm	None
Mon	5:50 am	12:52 am	6:39 pm	12:47 pm
Tue	7:37 am	2:11 am	7:14 pm	1:31 pm
Wed	9:20 am	3:19 am	7:51 pm	2:13 pm
Thu	10:51 am	4:19 am	8:31 pm	2:51 pm

Punta Rassa Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	2:22 am	10:31 am	5:27 pm	9:46 pm
Sat	3:28 am	11:12 am	6:09 pm	11:02 pm
Sun	4:50 am	12:05 pm	6:47 pm	None
Mon	6:49 am	1:05 am	7:20 pm	1:08 pm
Tue	8:16 am	2:15 am	7:51 pm	2:00 pm
Wed	9:38 am	3:12 am	8:26 pm	2:45 pm
Thu	10:54 am	4:08 am	9:12 pm	3:30 pm

Cape Coral Bridge Tides

Day	High	Low	High	Low
Fri	5:03 am	1:50 pm	8:08 pm	None
Sat	6:04 am	1:03 am	8:39 pm	2:33 pm
Sun	7:20 am	2:36 am	9:11 pm	3:17 pm
Mon	8:55 am	4:06 am	9:44 pm	4:01 pm
Tue	10:42 am	5:25 am	10:19 pm	4:45 pm
Wed	12:25 pm	6:33 am	10:56 pm	5:27 pm
Thu	1:56 pm	7:33 am	11:36 pm	6:05 pm

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Christmas Tree Safety Tips

With so much happening during the holidays, Lee County Electric Cooperative (LCEC) reminds residents that it is essential to keep the following safety tips in mind for your Christmas tree to save on electricity and keep you and your family safe.

Water your tree often. Keep an eye on the lights and cords. Should you notice any damage or issues, remove the lights and cord immediately and replace with a new set.

Don't leave your Christmas tree on for prolonged periods of time, especially overnight. Not only will keeping the tree lights on add to your electric bill, but it could cause a fire if your tree is overly dry.

Don't overload your electrical outlets. Pay attention to safety instructions on your lights.

For more ways to stay safe around electricity, visit www.lcec.net.

From page 20

Moments In Time

head of the Paris office of the Soviet airliner Aeroflot, for illegally obtaining classified information about France's supersonic project.

• On December 28, 1973, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn's "literary investigation" of the police-state system in the Soviet Union, "The Gulag Archipelago, 1918-1956," is published in Paris. On February 12, 1974, Solzhenitsyn was arrested, stripped of his citizenship and

deported.

• On January 2, 1980, in response to the December 1979 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, President Jimmy Carter asks the Senate to postpone action on the SALT II nuclear weapons treaty. Carter feared that the Soviet invasion could lead to its gaining control over much of the world's oil supplies.

NOW HERE'S A TIP

- Save the peel on oranges and grapefruits. You can toss them on a fire for a nice smell.
- Fold and snip a coffee filter into a paper snowflake. Lay over an iced cookie or cake to sift a sugar design on top.
- "When planning to visit my hometown for the holidays, I set aside a few hours to take the kids to the park or a nice playground. I message all my old friends and classmates with kids (Facebook is great for this) a few weeks ahead of time and let them know when I'll be there. It's great to catch up while the kids play, and even if no one shows up, we still have a fun break." – FL in California
- "When there are big family jobs to be done (like getting ready for the holidays), we write all the tasks down on slips of paper and put them in a hat. We take turns choosing tasks until all the paper is divvied out. Sometimes we trade, but we all get a fair chore list." – VO in Oregon
- Make a holiday cheese ball simply: Combine a package of cream cheese with a cup of finely shredded cheese (your choice) and 1/3 cup sour cream or plain Greek yogurt. Form into a ball,

roll in coating of your choice (dried fruit pieces, chopped nuts, spices, etc.) and chill. Wrap in a pretty cellophane bag and bring with pita chips, crackers or pretzels as a hostess gift.

• "Wax drippings from candles can be scraped off of most hard surfaces with the side of a credit card." – TE in Kansas

STRANGE BUT TRUE

- In Germany, you are allowed to drive your car naked, but not get out of it naked.
- A high-school principal once disciplined a student by making him sit in the basement while reading the U.S. Constitution. The punishment must have taken effect, because said student (who also memorized parts of the document) was Thurgood Marshall, who grew up to become the first Black Supreme Court justice.
- Male orb-weaver spiders give back rubs to their mates so they don't get eaten.
- "Mbuki-mvuki" is a Bantu word for the irresistible urge to strip off your clothes while dancing.
- In 2002, Saddam Hussein's campaign theme song for re-election was Whitney Houston's *I Will Always Love You*.
- For a single day in August 1998 and another in October 2018, Topeka, Kansas, renamed itself "ToPikachu" to mark the release of different Pokemon games.
- Pule, the world's rarest cheese, is made from donkey milk, something that was widely believed impossible since the liquid doesn't coagulate. However,

Serbian cheesemaker Slobodan Simic discovered a solution and now sells his cheese for over \$500 per pound.

- The Saturday falling closest to April 1 is International Tom Hanks Day.
- MLB pitcher Turk Wendell, "baseball's favorite oddball," would not only brush his teeth every inning, but at the start of same, would turn and wave to the center fielder and wait for him to wave back before proceeding.
- There are more English speakers in China than in the United States.
- In 1994, a man was arrested for dressing as the Grim Reaper and standing and staring into the windows of a home for the elderly.

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"The best teacher in the world is someone who loves what he or she does, and just loves it in front of you." – Fred Rogers

TRIVIA TEST

1. **Science:** How long does it take for light to travel from the Sun to Earth?
2. **Television:** Which comedian used the catchphrase "one ringie dingie, two ringie dingies" in a TV character sketch?
3. **Measurements:** How many centimeters are equivalent to 100 inches?
4. **U.S. Presidents:** Who is the only president to serve nonconsecutive terms?
5. **Language:** How many languages are spoken in the world today?
6. **Government:** Which branch of

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4/24 * TFN

HORTOONS



- U.S. government is responsible for making laws?
- 7. **Sports:** Which famous baseball pitcher's nickname is "The Chairman of the Board"?
- 8. **Food & Drink:** What type of food do the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles love?
- 9. **Geography:** Which ocean does Bermuda lie in?
- 10. **Math:** What is a prime number?

TRIVIA ANSWERS

1. Eight minutes, 20 seconds 2. Lily Tomlin, as telephone operator Ernestine 3. 254 4. Grover Cleveland 5. More than 7,000 6. The legislative branch -- U.S. House and Senate 7. Whitey Ford 8. Pizza 9. Atlantic and 10. A number that is only divisible by itself

SCRAMBLERS ANSWER

1. Sharp 2. Please; 3. Kale; 4. Crass
 Today's Word
CHEAP

PUZZLE ANSWERS

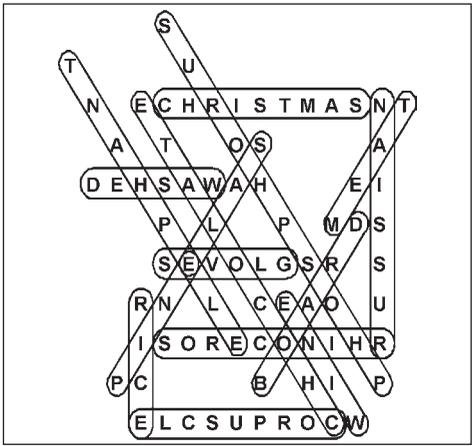
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3	1	2	5	4	9	8	6	7
7	5	6	3	8	1	9	4	2
4	8	9	6	2	7	3	1	5
6	9	3	1	5	8	2	7	4
1	7	4	2	9	6	5	3	8
5	2	8	7	3	4	1	9	6
8	4	1	9	6	2	7	5	3
2	3	7	4	1	5	6	8	9
9	6	5	8	7	3	4	2	1

Top 10 Real Estate Sales

Subdivision	City	Year Built	Square Footage	Listing Price	Selling Price	Days On Market
Lugano	Miromar Lakes	2020	6,374	\$6,500,000	\$6,500,000	0
Castelli	Miromar Lakes	2007	5,732	\$6,350,000	\$6,200,000	64
Rookery Lake	Bonita Springs	2000	5,775	\$4,400,000	\$4,000,000	73
Metes And Bounds	Sanibel	2018	3,800	\$3,849,000	\$3,800,000	631
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	2020	3,812	\$2,750,000	\$2,750,000	2
Ibis Cove	Bonita Springs	1994	4,798	\$1,995,000	\$2,255,500	8
Shriver	Fort Myers	2015	3,017	\$2,195,000	\$2,085,000	28
Sanibel Isles	Sanibel	1984	2,198	\$1,995,000	\$1,996,000	2
Dunes At Sanibel Island	Sanibel	2006	3,409	\$1,950,000	\$1,890,000	89
Shell Harbor	Sanibel	1974	2,996	\$1,795,000	\$1,865,000	6

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