



Artwork by Eileen McGrath

## Arts For ACT Opening Exhibit, Artists Reception

Arts for ACT Gallery, 2265 First Street in downtown Fort Myers, will host an opening reception on Friday, January 1 from 6 to 10 p.m. for the January featured artists, watercolorist Cheryl Fausel and landscape painter Barb Albin, exhibiting in the main gallery. Off the main gallery are works by Linda Benson and in the middle gallery, mixed media artist Eileen McGrath will be shown. This exhibit will continue through February 1.

Fausel is a prize-winning artist with her work owned and exhibited both in the United States and Europe. Recently, she was juried into an international show in China out of almost 3,000 entries. Her work has been juried into and exhibited in many national as well as local exhibitions. In addition to painting, she has been asked to judge several art shows to include – for the third time – the Art Fest of Fort Myers. When asked why she works so hard even in retirement, she replied, “Because being an artist is not a job, but who I am.”

Albin has been in over 400 juried and invitational shows. She is a graduate of Northern Illinois University. She also attended the School of the Art Institute of Chicago,

continued on page 16

## Nature Walk At Lakes Park

Take a nature walk with a bird patrol guide at Lakes Regional Park on Saturday, January 2, beginning at 8 a.m. The tour is free with paid parking.

Enter the Lakes Park gate from Gladiolus. Turn right. Drive to the end of the road, continue through the parking lot to shelter A7, located near the train station.

This easy walk along clear paths offers an opportunity to see birds in native vegetation with experienced bird patrol guides pointing out the many species in Lakes Park, a Lee County birding hot spot and crucial nesting area for many birds. Wear comfortable shoes, and dress to be outside. Bring water, sunscreen and binoculars.

For more information, call 533-7580 or 533-7576. This tour is provided in cooperation with Lee County Parks and Recreation.✱



Little blue heron photo by Meg Rousher

## Festival Of Trees Committee Announces People's Choice Winners

For the ninth straight year, Southwest Floridians flocked to the Fort Myers River District to visit Goodwill Industries' annual Festival of Trees. More than 2,000 ballots were cast in the festival's People's Choice Awards, in which visitors can vote for their favorite trees. The festival is Goodwill's largest fundraiser of the year.

“The competition for the People's Choice Awards has become a big part of the festival,” said Goodwill spokesperson Madison Mitchell. “Everyone always has a hard time picking their favorites. The tree designers definitely get into some friendly competition over it, too.”

Most coveted is the Best All-Around Award, which this year was presented to long-time festival participant Univision, for its Magic of the Nutcracker tree. The nine-foot tree was decorated with nutcrackers, red ribbons and gold tone ornaments. The tree also came with a full page ad in *D'Latinos Magazine*, a 49-inch LG Ultra 4K HDTV, Dinner at Komoon Thai Sushi & Ceviche, and 10 Univision VIP box tickets for Florida Everblades vs. Brampton at Germain Arena. The overall value was \$3,600.

The tree designed by the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center was also a crowd favorite at the festival. The tree, titled *Holiday Spirit*, won the Most Creative ribbon from festivalgoers and came with approximately 118 bottles of wine on a custom-made tree-style wine rack. The tree was also accompanied by a five-course dinner and wine for 10



Holiday Spirit by the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center

at the home of Fran Fenning, catered by G3 Catering. The overall value of the tree was \$5,000. The win puts them as the only tree designer who has won every category of the People's Choice at the festival.

Winner of the Most Traditional Award was The Home Depot's Let's Do This: Let Home Depot Tools Help tree. The nine-foot tree was decorated in shades of red and gold, and was accompanied by a giant rolling stand-up tool chest, assorted power tools and accessories, and \$300 in The Home Depot gift cards. The total value of the tree was \$1,500.

Mayor's Choice – for the second year in a row – went to CenturyLink. Its Joy To The World seven-foot tree was decorated in a travel theme, complete with a globe-style tree-topper. The tree was accompanied by a five-piece Open Seas by Nautica luggage set, and a 22-inch Italian-style globe bar with wine and glasses, wrapped in replica 16th century nautical maps from the National Museum of Science. The tree was valued at \$2,000.

“I picked this beautiful tree because I'm inspired by the message it sends,” said Fort Myers Mayor Randy Henderson of CenturyLink's design, “It talks about joy for the

continued on page 18



Historic Downtown Fort Myers, Then And Now:

# Santa's Downtown Mailbox

by Gerri Reaves, PhD



This photo pictures Jesse Winford "Win" Ellis at a downtown bank during the month of November in the 1950s. (The location is not identified, but the distinctive tile work and time period suggest that the setting might be the Lee County Bank at Main and Hendry.)

Note the choice of four holiday envelopes on display, as well as the message printed on the side of the "Santa Claus mailbox": "Letters mailed here will be postmarked with the famous Santa Claus, Indiana, postmark."

Since 1914, the post office in the small town of Santa Claus, Indiana, has carried on a Christmas tradition that delights children around the world. Volunteers, officially called Santa's elves, personally answer the thousands of letters addressed to Santa. Each reply is handwritten in red ink and bears the famed postmark seen in the photo: "Santa Claus, Ind."

The post office receives the most letters to Santa right after Thanksgiving – maybe that's when participating businesses set out their posters and collection boxes like the ones pictured here in November.

The Indiana "elves" send replies from December 1 until around Christmas Eve, thus guaranteeing that each postmark carries a December date.

Since no annotations accompany the historic photo, it's impossible to say whether Ellis was involved in collecting the letters to Santa or whether the setting was simply convenient for a Christmastime photo opportunity, but the formality of the photo and the November date suggest that the photo served as an announcement that the special post office had been set up downtown and awaited letters to Santa.

Given Ellis's record of giving back to the community, it wouldn't be surprising if he were acting as one of Santa's postmen.

In 1949, Ellis opened the Snack House, one of the most popular restaurants Fort Myers ever had. He was brought to town by Barron G. Collier, who wanted someone to run a restaurant in the Collier Arcade (also known as the Post Office Arcade) on Broadway. At that time, Collier owned a bus line that had a terminal in the arcade, which until the early 1990s, also had a wing opening onto First Street.

Ellis would run the Snack House for 44 years. Locals remember it as a veritable institution with a home-away-from-home atmosphere, where downtown's business really took place over comfort food.

Ellis was devoted to Fort Myers and was active in many community organizations and efforts. He was president of Fort Myers Chamber of Commerce and the Southwest Florida Restaurant Association. He served on the committee that recruited the Pittsburgh Pirates to hold spring training in Fort Myers during the 1950s and was active in the Lions Club, Shriners, Masonic Order and Salvation Army.

continued on page 15



Win Ellis, who ran the popular Snack House Restaurant for 44 years, pictured at a local bank collecting letters to Santa Claus

courtesy Southwest Florida Museum of History

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Fort Myers Art:

## Theater To Feature Female Playwrights



by Tom Hall

Theatre Conspiracy will present the Florida Premiere of *Kayak* by Canadian playwright Jordan Hall at the The Alliance for the Arts in Fort Myers. The production will



***Kayak* by Jordan Hall, which opens January 7, won the 2010 Samuel French Canadian Playwrights Contest. The play opens with Annie Iversen alone on a vast stretch of water.**

Annie sets out to save her son, and unwittingly throws herself into the path of events larger than she ever could have imagined.

Touching and provocative, *Kayak* looks at our world in a new light. This show is sponsored by Bruce and Janet Bunch.

Opening night is “pay what you will” and 50 percent of ticket sales that night will go to benefit Florida Coastal and Ocean Coalition. Thursday nights are “buy one get one half off”. Tickets are \$24 or \$11 for students with proper ID and women under 41 years of age.

Performances will be January 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23 at 8 p.m. with one Sunday matinee at 2 p.m. on January 17.

Later next month, Theatre Conspiracy will also present the Florida premiere of *The Amish Project*, a solo play by award-winning writer Jessica Dickey at Florida SouthWestern State College’s Black Box Theatre in Building L. At a time when mass shootings happen almost daily in our country, the events surrounding the Nickel Mines killings stand out in our memories – not only because most Americans

could never comprehend such a thing happening among the pacifist Amish, but because the Amish families of the victims extended forgiveness to the shooter and condolences to the shooter’s family.

Called “a remarkable piece of writing” by *The New York Times* and “unique, uplifting, and unforgettable” by *Chicago Theatre Beat*, this powerful and poetic piece is a fictional exploration inspired by the 2006 killing of five girls in a hostage-taking at an Amish school in Pennsylvania. One actress (Tera Nicole Miller) conjures seven characters, from gunman to community members, to victims and family, and delves into how communities are indelibly tied together in such a crisis, as well as how forgiveness and compassion are forged in the wake of tragedy.

*The Amish Project* plays January 22, 23, 28, 29 and 30 and February 4, 5 and 6 at 8 p.m. There will be one matinee on February 7 at 2 p.m. Opening night on January 22 is “pay what you will.” Thursday nights are “buy one get one half off”. Tickets are \$24 or \$11 for students with proper ID and women under 41 years of age.

*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.\**

be directed by Stephen Hooper and will open on January 7.

Winner of the 2010 Samuel French Canadian Playwrights Contest, *Kayak* begins with Annie Iversen alone on a vast stretch of water. She recounts the strange chain of events that left her stranded in her son’s old kayak.

A doting suburban mother, Annie is blindsided when her son Peter falls in love with Julie, a passionate environmental activist. Unable to reconcile herself to Julie’s radical worldview, Annie struggles desperately to keep Peter from falling further into the young woman’s dangerous world.

Climate change, S’mores, SUVs, and Noah’s Ark are all onstage as



Ferris wheel

## Tickets Now On Sale For Lee County Fair

The countdown clock has already begun for the 92nd annual Southwest Florida & Lee County Fair, opening Thursday, February 25. The 11-day event will run through Sunday, March 6. Advance gate admission tickets are now on sale, along with the popular Mega Pass, which makes a great stocking stuffer for ride enthusiasts. Ticket information can be found at [www.swflcfair.com](http://www.swflcfair.com).

The fair that’s been “Making Memories Since 1924” is getting ready to bring new rides, livestock events and a spectacular range of free shows, entertainment and demonstrations. The community’s youth are already hard at work to get their entries ready for the livestock shows and competitions.

Registration is open in the Creative Living, Home Arts, and Horticulture Divisions. New contests this year include Cake Decorating, 3D Doodle Art, Pumpkin Pie Eating and the Bucket of Junk. Online registration is strongly encouraged. Entry dates and times, pre-registration, age categories and general rules can be found at [www.swflcfair.com](http://www.swflcfair.com).

For information and tickets, visit the website at [www.swflcfair.com](http://www.swflcfair.com) or [www.leeciviccenter.com](http://www.leeciviccenter.com) or call the box office at 543-7469.

Held on the grounds of the Lee County Civic Center, located on Bayshore Road in North Fort Myers, the fair is dedicated to promoting agricultural, horticultural, creative arts and educational opportunities while providing quality entertainment for the citizens of the area. The fair is recognized as a 501(c)3 non-profit educational organization by the federal government and the state of Florida. The Southwest Florida and Lee County Fair Association is chartered under Florida State Statutes Chapter 616 as a District Fair serving Charlotte, Collier, DeSoto, Glades, Hendry and Lee Counties.\*

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# Cypress Cove Supports Toy Drive

Over 700 toys, given by residents and staff of Cypress Cove at HealthPark Florida, were given to the annual Heights Center and Gladiolus Learning and Development Center toy drive during a brief ceremony last week on the South Fort Myers life planned community's campus.

Cypress Cove is an annual partner with toy drive organizers' The Heights Center and Gladiolus Learning and Development Center. Toys for more than 800 children, ranging in ages from 3 to 15 years, were collected by organizers and distributed December 19 at the center's Operation Christmas Care.

Tina Parsons, executive director of the Gladiolus Learning and Development Center, Heights Foundation President and CEO Kathryn Kelly and Outreach Coordinator Jody Callahan accepted the toys and gifts from Cypress Cove.

According to Cypress Cove Resident Services Director and community toy drive coordinator Mary Franklin, Cypress Cove residents and employees have donated several thousand toys during the community's four-year toy drive affiliation.

Executive Director Michele Wasserlauf applauded the toy drive support from



Heights Center Foundation President and CEO Kathryn Kelly, Cypress Cove at HealthPark Florida Resident Council President Sherry Schreier, Gladiolus Learning and Development Center Executive Director Tina Parsons, Outreach Coordinator Jody Callahan, Cypress Cove Executive Director Michele Wasserlauf and Resident Service Director Mary Franklin

Cypress Cove residents and employees. "They are extremely generous," she said, "and we are delighted to be part of a program that brings great joy to children of the Harlem Heights neighborhood."✱

## Firm Collects Presents For Children



MBC holiday collection 2015

Employees of Myers, Brettholtz & Company, PA, recently collected holiday gifts to be donated to the Children's Advocacy Center of Southwest Florida. This is the 10th year the accounting firm has collected holiday gifts for a local nonprofit. The Children's Advocacy Center of Southwest Florida is one of the largest children's advocacy centers in the state of Florida and the only one in the four-county area accredited by the National Children's Alliance. Since 1981, it has advocated for a healthy, safe community for children through a multidisciplinary team approach to child abuse and neglect. The center offers treatment for kids believed to have been physically or sexually abused or to be at risk of such abuse, and provides a safe place for them to come and be heard.✱



Staff from Cypress Cove at HealthPark Florida, and The Heights Center Foundation and the Gladiolus Learning and Development Center bag up more than 700 toys and gifts donated to the Harlem Heights Center

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## 5K Run Supports Kids Bringing Up Grades



Runners take off at the 7th annual Calusa Bug Chase 5K run in 2015

photo courtesy of *Lehigh Acres Gazette*



Members of the Metro-McGregor Kiwanis Club prepare for the 2015 race. Front row from left, Rosemary Firestone, Heather Chouinard, Pam Grabe, Shea Cunningham, Alyssa Gnagey. Back row from left, President Diane Connell, Jennifer Molnar and Kathy Woolston.

The Fort Myers Metro-McGregor Kiwanis will hold the 8th annual Calusa Bug Chase 5K run and BUG Crawl on January 30 at the Calusa Nature Center, 3450 Ortiz Avenue in Fort Myers. The race will benefit the Fort Myers-Metro Kiwanis Club's BUG (Bringing Up Grades) Program. Participants can register online at [ftmyerstrackclub.com](http://ftmyerstrackclub.com).

The Big Bug co-title sponsors for the race are Pool Pros and Larue Pest Management. Other sponsors include: Leslea Ellis, LLC; United Way of Lee, Hendry, Glades, and Okeechobee; Paychex; MLS Title, LLC; Island Aire of Southwest Florida; Ludden Insurance; Great Clips - Cape Coral; and Charlie Dodson of State Farm. The Bagel Factory of Fort Myers, *Lehigh Acres Gazette* and Calusa Nature Center are committed to in-kind sponsorships. Additional sponsorship opportunities are available starting at the \$150 level.

The course, supervised by the Fort Myers Track Club, travels the trails at the nature center and a portion of the asphalt bike path on Ortiz and will be timed with Chrono Track Bib Tag Technology. Packet pick-up will take place the day of race from 6:30 to 7:15 a.m. Race day registration begins at 6:30 a.m. and race time is 7:30 a.m. Adult pre-registration up to January 22 is \$20, January 23 to 29 registration is \$25 and race day registration is



The Mitchell family of Pool Pros sponsored and participated in the 2015 race

\$35. Youth (17 and under) discounted pre-registration is \$10, January 23 to 29 registration is \$15 and race day registration is \$25. Registration includes a long-sleeve commemorative T-shirt, complimentary race day admission to the Calusa Nature Center and refreshments. Overall and age group awards for the 5K run will be presented.

All proceeds benefit the Fort Myers Metro-McGregor Kiwanis BUG (Bring Up Grades) program, designed to

provide recognition to local elementary students who raise their grades to an acceptable range and maintain or continue to raise them from one grading period to the next. The Metro-McGregor Kiwanis currently has BUG programs at Orangewood and Littleton Elementary schools and is actively seeking more schools to participate.

For more information regarding the race or to become a sponsor, contact Heather Chouinard at [Heather.Chouinard@IBERIABANK.com](mailto:Heather.Chouinard@IBERIABANK.com).

The Metro-McGregor Kiwanis Club is looking for more service-minded individuals and business professionals who would like to make a direct impact on the community through volunteering. Meetings are held every Tuesday at 11:30 a.m. in Fort Myers. For details on joining the Metro-McGregor Kiwanis Club, call club president Heather Chouinard at 332-4440. The Metro-McGregor Kiwanis Club can be found on Facebook or online at [www.metro-mcgregor.com](http://www.metro-mcgregor.com).✪

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# Fort Myers Kiwanians Aid PACE Girls



Betty Blackwell, a member of the Fort Myers Kiwanis Club, delivers a Christmas check to the PACE Center for Girls

submitted by Pat Stevens

The Fort Myers Kiwanis Club voted to approve a dynamic 12 Months For Youth Project to support local organizations that are improving the lives of the young people in the community. Our program had a quick start with a seasonal need for the PACE Center for Girls.

Betty Blackwell, a member of our board, informed us that PACE needed funding to support Christmas gifts in the PACE boutique. The PACE boutique offers the girls the opportunity to use their earned credits to purchase gifts that they can give to their families for Christmas.

The Fort Myers Kiwanis Club took action. Our treasurer, Bill Courtwright, and Blackwell put their heads together and by the end of the afternoon the check for \$250 was delivered to PACE.

Girls attend PACE Center for Girls to get appropriate counseling and education in a nurturing environment. These girls are between 12 and 17 years old, at least one year behind in school with additional risk factors in their lives.

Their representative Sarah Garner will be the guest speaker at our January 13 lunch meeting. The public is invited to attend and learn about the work PACE is doing for our neighborhood girls. Lunch is catered by Gwendolyn's Catering and the meeting follows. RSVP is required.

Other monthly programs sponsored by the club are Reading Rocks and The Atlas Program in addition to the Regional Science Fair.

The club is located at 1634 Woodford Avenue, Fort Myers. For more information contact Pat Stevens at 226-1556.\*

# Calendar Girls At Holiday Boatalong



Calendar Girls

The Calendar Girls lit up the stage at Cape Coral's Holiday Boatalong on Saturday, December 19 at Four Freedoms Park.

For more information about the Calendar Girls and their charity, go to [www.calendargirlsflorida.com](http://www.calendargirlsflorida.com).\*

# HORTOONS



# Lake Kennedy Senior Center Bus Trip To See Heat Vs. Warriors

The Lake Kennedy Cruisers are off to enjoy one of America's most exciting pastimes. Join the group on Wednesday, February 24 and enjoy an epic Miami Heat game against one of their most popular rivals, the 2014-15 NBA Champions, the Golden State Warriors.

Witness the basketball stars live in action at the Miami Beach Convention Center with Dwayne Wade, Chris Bosh, Draymond Green, Stephen Curry and many more. The bus trip cost includes full-size coach door-to-door transportation, and incredible seats in section 332, rows 2 and 3. Only 40 seats are available, and seats will go fast.

Bus trip participants are requested to arrive by 3:30 p.m. prior to departing the Lake Kennedy Center at 3:45 p.m. The approximate return time is 11:30 p.m. or later. Doors open in Miami at 6:30 p.m. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

Cost is \$163 per member or \$168 per non-member. Pre-registration is required.

Lake Kennedy Senior Center is located at 400 Santa Barbara Boulevard in Cape Coral. For more information, call 574-0575.\*



## Rotary District Fights Polio

Rotary District 6960 District Governor Cyndi Doragh has announced that the World's Greatest Meal, part of a global movement to support Rotary International's campaign to End Polio Now, raised a record amount of more than \$150,000. The event was held on Monday, November 16 at the Westin Resort in Cape Coral and featured guest speaker Susanne Rea.

A polio survivor Susanne Rea, past president of the Rotary Club of Cairns Sunrise in Queensland, Australia, dreamed up The World's Greatest Meal, where clubs and individuals can hold their own meal events and donate the proceeds to PolioPlus, the 30-year-old Rotary program that has raised hundreds of millions of dollars to eradicate polio. Having promoted the concept across far-flung destinations in India, Rea has embarked on an eight-country tour, including district conferences in the United States such as Southwest Florida's District 6960 Rotary Club Conference this past May at South Seas Resort on Captiva.

In her world travels, Rea has witnessed the creative concepts that have come out of her call to action, from a simple gathering of Rotary members over coffee to an auction of Pele soccer memorabilia in Brazil. In 2014 Rotary members raised



Gary and Ann Marie Israel with their exchange student

enough money through the World's Greatest Meal to vaccinate four million children against polio. Through 2018 every dollar Rotary commits to polio eradication will become three dollars, thanks to a 2-to-1 match from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

Doragh said, "Susanne's project has highlighted the impact one person can have to further invigorate an initiative that is already deeply ingrained in the culture of Rotary. Her passion and the innovation she has encouraged with The World's Greatest meal is an inspiration and unites us all in a project for the good of the world."

To learn more about the World's Greatest Meal project, including how to hold your own event or to donate directly, visit [wgmeal.com](http://wgmeal.com).



Members of Rotary Club of Fort Myers South and Rotary Club of Cape Coral Sunset



Susanne Rea with Rotary Governor-elect Ladd Waldo



Suzanne Vasbinder with daughter Alexandra Thomas

## Cape's Festival Of The Arts To Return

The Rotary Club of Cape Coral will be holding its 31st annual Cape Coral Festival of the Arts from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, January 9 and Sunday, January 10, rain or shine.

As one of Southwest Florida's largest art shows, this annual art event showcases the works of more than 300 juried artists and artisans featuring fine art, sculpture, pottery, jewelry, photography, metal works and mixed media. The festival takes place on Cape Coral Parkway in downtown Cape Coral between Del Prado Boulevard and Vincennes. Free admission and parking will be provided along with food and fun for the whole family.

This year's official event poster artist is Don Nedobek, best known for his whimsical and colorful paintings of animals and his use of acrylic, enhanced with pen, ink and colored pencils. His work is featured as fine art and prints as well as in children's books, calendars and a host of products. Nedobek has been a part of the Cape Coral Festival of the Arts since its inception over 30 years ago and has been the poster artist for many art festivals, non-profits and other organizations. Festival attendees are encouraged to stop by his booth across from the Holiday Inn. Nedobek's work can be viewed by visiting [nedobek.com](http://nedobek.com).

The Rotary Club of Cape Coral brings the Cape Coral Festival of the Arts to Southwest Florida every year. The 2016 event sponsors include The Beaches of Fort Myers and Sanibel, Lee County Tourist Development Council, Cape Coral Community Redevelopment Agency, City of Cape Coral, GEICO, Destination Boat Clubs, Waste Pro, *The News-Press*, NBC-2, CapeCoral.com, Lamar Advertising, Intergraphic Creative Group, Pavese Law Firm, Wonderland Realty, Direct Impressions, Advanced Roofing and Sheet Metal, Premier Wellness Group and *Happenings Magazine*.

Volunteers are needed. Sponsorship opportunities are still available. For more information about the Cape Coral Festival of the Arts, call 699-7942 or visit [CapeCoralFestival.com](http://CapeCoralFestival.com).



Three Amigas by Don Nedobek

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## Along The River



Rock in the New Year with live music aboard Pure Florida's *Edison Explorer* on its special New Year's Eve Music Cruise. Cruise departs one hour before sunset.

On Thursday, December 24, **Shell Point** presents its annual **Christmas Eve Carols & Candlelight**. Gather with family and friends for a retelling of the Christmas story at either of two special services: 4:15 and 7:15 p.m. Choose either the afternoon or evening service; both will include caroling, candlelight, special music and an inspirational message. There is no charge to attend either service. For information about Shell Point's Christmas Eve Carols & Candlelight services, call 454-2147.

Shell Point Retirement Community is located at 15100 Shell Point Boulevard, Fort Myers, approximately two miles before the Sanibel Causeway. For more information about Shell Point, call 466-1131 or go to [www.shellpoint.org](http://www.shellpoint.org).

Lee County residents can attend **Holiday Nights** at a discounted rate on December 28, 29, 30 and 31 as well as January 1, 2 and 3. With photo identification, residents will receive \$5 off a regular priced adult ticket. The public is invited to see the winter homes, gardens and historic buildings of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford, trimmed with thousands of lights and traditional holiday decorations. Activities include:

- Nightly, guided holiday tradition tours at 6 and 7 p.m.
- Free nightly event: Children's Holiday Tree Trail with handmade ornaments created by students from Lee County schools
- Edison Ford Museum and Laboratory open nightly
- Ford Cottage Shoppe, Museum Store and Garden Shoppe open nightly
- Hot and cold refreshments, barbecue, beer and wine are available for purchase in the Banyan Refreshment Area
- **Pure Florida M/V Edison Explorer** daily sightseeing river cruises and sunset cruise (departs one hour before sunset) at The Marina at Edison Ford.

Ticket prices:

- Adults \$20 (before discount)
  - Children (ages six to 12) \$2
  - Students ages 13 through college (with college ID) \$10
  - Edison Ford members free admission
- Guided tours at 6 and 7 p.m.
- Adults \$25 (before discount)
  - Children (ages six to 12) \$8



Local band High Tide will help beach-goers ring in the New Year in Times Square during the 20th annual Fort Myers Beach Birthday Party and New Year's Eve Celebration

- Students ages 13 through college (with college ID) \$12
- Edison Ford members \$5

Holiday Nights is closed Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Open daily 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. during the month of December and until 5:30 p.m. the remainder of the year.

The Edison & Ford Winter Estates is located at 2350 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers. Call 334-7419 or go to [www.edisonfordwinterestates.org](http://www.edisonfordwinterestates.org).

On Thursday, December 31, the Fort Myers River District celebrates the New Year with its family-friendly **Downtown Countdown**. The celebration begins at 8 p.m.

Included this year will be five stages of live music and DJs, including the Hypnoticals, Vinyl Countdown, Marty Stokes, Smack Daddy, KROC & The Link, B103, 99.3 ESPN, and Sunny 106. New this year will be the Junior Balloon Drop at 9 p.m. at First and Hendry streets. There will also be a ball drop at the Hendry Street median and fireworks on the river.

For more information, call the River District Alliance at 855-732-3836 or go to [www.fortmyersriverdistrictalliance.com](http://www.fortmyersriverdistrictalliance.com).

Directly on the Caloosahatchee, Pure Florida Fort Myers presents its special **Music Cruise - New Year's Eve Cruise**. Watch a beautiful sunset aboard the **M/V Edison Explorer** with live music while you cruise. This unique experience is the perfect combination to experience Southwest Florida at its best, on the water. Cost is \$32 per person and cruise departs one hour before sunset.

Pure Florida is located at The Marina at Edison Ford, 2360 West First Street, Fort Myers. For information, call 919-2965 or go to [www.purefortmyers.com](http://www.purefortmyers.com).

Prefer to ring in the New Year at the beach? Drive your car or boat to the 20th annual **Fort Myers Beach Birthday Party and New Year's Eve Celebration**.

On Thursday, December 31, watch the ball drop at Times Square without shivering on always-lively Fort Myers Beach. The town's birthday party takes place from 1 to 3:30 p.m. with free live music, brownies and cupcakes. The Troublemakerz play live music from noon to 5 p.m. followed by High Tide from 7 p.m. to midnight. The event culminates with fireworks from the pier as well as the ball drop at midnight.

For more information, visit [www.FortMyers-Sanibel.com](http://www.FortMyers-Sanibel.com).

On Saturday, January 2, **Downtown Car Cruise-In** returns to Fort Myers' historic River District.

From classic to cool, downtown streets are lined with show cars on the fourth Saturday of the month from 4 to 8 p.m. with music, food and drinks. Free to the public with many venues featuring additional specials.

For more information, go to [www.myriverdistrict.com](http://www.myriverdistrict.com) or call 1-855-RDA-EVENTS (732-3836).

Every Monday through February 1, join local film buffs for **Thank God it's Monday** (TGIM). Short indie films will be judged to determine if they will earn a spot in the sixth annual **Fort Myers Film Festival** held in March. TGIM features pizza, coffee and happy hour at 6:30 p.m. and the show starts at 7 p.m. The weekly event is hosted by Eric Raddatz and co-host Melissa DeHaven and features a rotating panel of celebrity judges.

TGIM takes place at The Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center located at 2301 First Street, Fort Myers. For more information, go to [www.fortmyersfilmfestival.com](http://www.fortmyersfilmfestival.com).✱



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# FORT MYERS FARE

Dining From Downtown's Historic River District To The Beaches  
For more information, check out our advertisers in this week's *River Weekly*

## DOC FORD'S RUM BAR & GRILLE

Doc Ford's Rum Bar & Grille is named for the Doc Ford character in local author Randy Wayne White's best-selling mystery novels.

It's a well known gathering place with indoor and outdoor patio seating. The combined menu offers all the lunch and dinner items from 11 a.m. until closing. It includes cedar plank salmon topped with a mango chipotle glaze or a marinated grilled chicken sandwich and there's a well provisioned raw bar. Tropical drinks are a specialty, notably the signature rum drink, Island Mojito.

708 Fisherman's Wharf, Fort Myers Beach. Call 765-9660.

**Doc Ford's is open Christmas Eve and closed Christmas Day. It is also open New Year's Eve and closed New Year's Day.**

Ichiban is a downtown favorite for Chinese and

## ICHIBAN

Japanese cuisine. The name means "Number One" in Japanese and offers its customers the perfect balance of great quality and affordable prices. Ichiban has been family owned and operated for 10 years and its enduring popularity is a testament to its exceptional, friendly service.

**Ichiban is open all day Christmas Eve and 4 to 10 p.m. on Christmas Day. It is also open all day New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.**

1520 Broadway #106, Fort Myers. Call 334-6991.



Prefer something non-traditional for the holidays? Stop by Ichiban for Chinese and Japanese cuisine

## ISLAND COW

Where can you go when you're in the mooood for some great cook'in, local fun and prices that won't make you lose the farm? Try Island Cow on Sanibel.

Island Cow is an airy bistro with french doors leading out to the front and back patios. It is open daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner. Dine under the stars while you listen to live music on one of Sanibel's only al fresco eating porches.

**Island Cow is open all day on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.**

2163 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel. Call 472-0606.

## SS HOOKERS

Get hooked on great cuisine and spirits at SS Hookers. The restaurant pays tribute to the rich history of Punta Rassa, the home of big game fishing. It serves American cuisine with a Cajun twist. Waterfront dining is available daily for breakfast, lunch and dinner.

After a triumphant day of fishing, bring your catch to the restaurant: "If you hook it, our chef will cook it."

A late night bar features live music nightly. A fresh seafood market, bait shop and gifts are also on site.

**SS Hookers is open all day Christmas Eve and from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Christmas Day. It is also open all day New Year's Eve and closed New Year's Day. Call ahead for New Year's Eve reservations.**

17501 Harbour Pointe Drive, Fort Myers. Call 466-5377 (HOOKERS).\*

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## Churches/Temples

### ALL FAITHS UNITARIAN CONGREGATION (UUA)

2756 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers. Sunday Services 9 and 11 a.m., Adult Education Workshop 10 a.m., Reverend Margaret L. Beard, Minister. 226-0900. www.allfaiths-uc.org

### ALL SAINTS BYZANTINE RITE CATHOLIC CHURCH

10291 Bayshore Road, North Fort Myers. Divine Liturgy Sunday 10:30 a.m.; Rosary begins 10 a.m. Lenten services (Presanctified Liturgy) will be on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m. starting February. Very Reverend Peter Lickman, 305-651-0991. Church of the Eastern Catholic or Byzantine Rite, 1.5 mi. east of Interstate 75.

### ANNUNCIATION GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH

8210 Cypress Lake Drive, Fort Myers. Reverend Fr. Dean Nastos, Proistamenos. Orthros Service Sunday 9 a.m., Divine Liturgy Sunday 10 a.m., www.annunciation.fl.goarch.org, 481-2099

### BETH SHILOH

#### MESSIANIC SYNAGOGUE

15675 McGregor Boulevard. Rabbi Judah Hungerman. Friday Service, 8 p.m., Saturday Service, 11 a.m. Shabbat School Saturday Morning, Adult Hebrew Classes. Call for information 437-3171

### BREAD OF LIFE MINISTRIES CHURCH OF GOD

16581 McGregor Boulevard, 267-3166. Just past the Tanger Outlet Mall. Pastor Barry Lentz, 281-3063. Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study, 7 p.m.

### CHABAD LUBAVITCH

#### OF SW FLORIDA ORTHODOX

5620 Winkler Road, Fort Myers. Rabbi Yitzchok Minkowicz. 433-7708, rabbi@chabadswf.org. www.chabadswf.org. Friday service 6:30 p.m.; Saturday Kabbalah class 9 a.m.; Shacharit 10 a.m.; Kiddush at noon. Minyan Monday and Thursday 7 a.m.

### CHAPEL OF CYPRESS COVE

10200 Cypress Cove Circle Fort Myers 850-3943, Located at Cypress Cove Retirement Center on HealthPark Campus. An ecumenical non-denominational community of believers. Sunday Worship Service, 10 a.m.; Wednesday Bible Study, 7 p.m. Reverend Ted Althouse, Pastor revtedalthouse@aol.com

### CHURCH OF THE CROSS

13500 Freshman Lane; 768-2188. Pastor Bud Stephens; A nondemonimational church emphasizing a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Sunday Service: 9:15 a.m. Traditional, 10:45 Contemporary.

### CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

1619 Llewellyn Drive Fort Myers. Just off McGregor across from the Edison/Ford Winter Estates 334-4978, Pastor Douglas Kelchner, Worship times Sunday's 9 and 10:30 a.m. Website: www.taecc.com

### COVENANT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

2439 McGregor Boulevard, 334-8937. Reverend Dr. Jeffrey DeYoe, Senior Pastor. Reverend David Dietzel, Pastor Emeritus. Traditional Sunday service 10 a.m. Nursery available.

### CYPRESS LAKE BAPTIST CHURCH

8400 Cypress Lake Drive, Fort Myers, 481-5442 Randy A. Alston, Reverend. Sunday Services: Bible study, 9:45 a.m. Morning Worship, 11 a.m., Evening Worship, 7 p.m., Wednesday Prayer Meeting, 6:30 p.m.

### CYPRESS LAKE

#### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

8260 Cypress Lake Drive, Fort Myers, 481-3233. www.clpc.us. Clint Cottrell, Pastor. Prayer Service 8 a.m., Praise 9 a.m., Children's Church 9 a.m., Traditional 11 a.m. Summer Prayer Service 8 a.m.

Combined Traditional/Praise 10 a.m.

### CYPRESS LAKE UNITED

#### METHODIST CHURCH

8570 Cypress Lake Drive, Fort Myers, 482-1250, 8 and 11 a.m. Sunday Traditional Service 9:30 a.m. Praise Service Sunday School all times.

### FAITH FELLOWSHIP WORLD

#### OUTREACH MINISTRIES

6111 South Pointe Boulevard, Fort Myers, 278-3638. Sunday Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Voice of Faith, WCRN 13.50 AM Radio, Sunday, 1:30 p.m.; Thursday Service, 7:30 p.m.; Friday Youth Service, 7:30 p.m.

Nursery care for pre-school children and Children's Church ages 5 to 12 available.

### FAITH UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

15690 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers, 482-2030. Pastor David Stauffer. Traditional Service Sunday 8:45 a.m., Contemporary Service Sunday 10:30 a.m. Go south on McGregor Boulevard. The church is 1/2 mile past the intersection of Gladiolus and San Carlos Boulevard on the way to Sanibel.

### FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST

2390 West First Street, next door to Edison Estates. 10:30 a.m. Sunday Service and Sunday School; 12 noon Wednesday Testimony Meeting. Child care provided at services. Reading Room located in church building for quiet study and information about Christian Science. Monday and Friday noon to 4 p.m., Wednesday 1 to 4 p.m. christiansciencefortmyers.net, christianscience.com

### FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

13545 American Colony Boulevard off Daniels Parkway in the Colony, Fort Myers, 936-2511 Pastor Reverend Joey Brummett Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.; Morning Worship, 10:30 a.m.; Sunday Evening, 6 p.m.; Wednesday Family Night, 7 p.m.

### FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Downtown Fort Myers River District, 2466 First Street, 332-1152. www.fumcftmyers.org. Sunday Services: 9:30 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Blended Church Service; 5:30 p.m. Youth Group.

### FORT MYERS CHRISTIAN CHURCH

#### (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) A STEPHEN MINISTRIES CONGREGATION

5916 Winkler Road, Fort Myers, 437-4330. Pastor Reverend Mark Condrey. Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., Church School 9:15 a.m.

### FORT MYERS CONGREGATIONAL

#### UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST:

8210 College Parkway, Fort Myers. 482-3133. Philip White, pastor. Morning Worship: 10 a.m., Church School: 10:15 a.m., Adult Forum: 11:30 a.m.

### IONA-HOPE EPISCOPAL CONGREGATION

9650 Gladiolus Drive, Fort Myers 454-4778. Reverend Ray Buchanan Rector. Saturday 5 p.m., Eucharist with Healing; Sunday 8 a.m., Holy Eucharist, Rite One; 9:30 a.m., Family Eucharist with Healing and Church School. Tuesday 9:30 a.m., Morning Prayer (in Spanish); Wednesday 9:30 a.m., Eucharist with Healing. Child care available Saturday 5 p.m. and Sunday 9:30 a.m. services.

### JESUS THE WORKER

#### CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

### KINGDOM LIFE CHURCH

2154 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers, 218-8343. Pastor Randy and Anita Thurman. 10:30 a.m. Sunday Service.

### LAMB OF GOD CHURCH

A few federated Lutheran (ELCA) and Episcopal Congregation. 19691 Cypress View Drive, Fort Myers. 267-3525. www.lambofgodchurch.net. Reverend Dr. James Reho. Sunday 7:45 and 10 a.m. Sunday's Cool for Children 10 a.m.

### NEW BEGINNINGS CENTER

New Home Church, 8505 Jenny Cae Lane, North Fort Myers, 656-0416. Weekly Friday meeting meet and greet 6:30 p.m. Kingdom Teaching 7 p.m. Fellowship and refreshments. nbcministry@embarkmail.com, www.facebook.com/nbcministry. Alex and Patricia Wiggins, Ministers

### NEW COVENANT EYES CHURCH

See Clearly. Meeting monthly at 9 a.m. at the Elks Lodge. 1900 Park Meadows Drive, Fort Myers. 220-8519. Pastor Alan Bondar. www.newcovenanteyes.com. LIFT Kidz program, free coffee and donuts.

### NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH

#### OF FORT MYERS

16120 San Carlos Boulevard, Unit 10. 985-8503. 9:45 a.m. Sunday School for all ages. 11 a.m. Sunday Morning Worship. 7 p.m. Wednesday Evening Bible Study.

### NEW HOPE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

3825 McGregor Boulevard. Fort Myers. Pastor Eddie Spencer. 8 and 9:30 a.m. Traditional Worship. 11 a.m. Contemporary Worship. 8, 9:30 and 11 a.m. Sunday School. Youth and Children's programming runs concurrent to Sunday services. Nursery care provided at all services. 274-1230. www.newhopefortmyers.org.

### PEACE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Fort Myers Beach Masonic Lodge. 17671 Pine Ridge Road. 267-7400. Pastors, Gail and RC Fleeman. Adult Discussion Classes 8:45 a.m. Countdown to Worship 10:10 a.m. Amazing Grace Worship: 10:30 a.m. www.peacecommunitychurch.com.

### PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sunday Worship at 9:30 a.m. Peace a member of ELCA. Weekly communion with traditional liturgy, organ and choir. 15840 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers, on the way to Sanibel. 437-2599, www.peaceftmyers.com, peace@peaceftmyers.com.

### REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH

3950 Winkler Ext., Fort Myers, 274-0143. 8:15 and 10:15 a.m. Sunday Services Daily early learning center/day care.

### RIVER OF LIFE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

21580 River Ranch Road, Estero. 495-0400, Senior Pastor Todd Weston. 8 and 9:45 a.m. Services; 11:30 a.m. Legacy Service, multi-generational.

### SAMUDRABADRA BUDDHIST CENTER

Meditation classes. Guided meditations, methods to relax body and focus mind on virtuous objects. Bring peace and happiness into daily activity. 567-9739. www.MeditationInFortMyers.org.

### SAINT COLUMBKILLE

#### CATHOLIC CHURCH

12171 Iona Road, Fort Myers, off McGregor and north of Gladiolus. 489-3973. Father Joseph Clifford. Monday through Saturday 8 a.m. Saturday 3 and 5 p.m.; Sunday 7, 9, 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Reconciliation Saturdays 12 noon and by appointment.

### ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

#### CATHOLIC CHURCH

2157 Cleveland Avenue, Fort Myers, 334-2161. Masses: 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., 12:15, 4 Creole and 6 p.m.

### SAINT JOHN THE APOSTLE

#### METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH

3049 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers, 344-0012. Pastor Reverend Steve Filizzi. An Affirming and Inclusive Congregation Sunday Services 10 a.m.

### SAINT MICHAEL LUTHERAN

#### CHURCH & SCHOOL (LCMS)

3595 Broadway, Fort Myers, 939-1218, Worship: Saturday 5:30 p.m., Sunday 8 and 10:45 a.m. Bible Study for adults and children Sunday at 9:15 a.m.

### SAINT PETER LUTHERAN CHURCH

3751 Estero Boulevard, Fort Myers Beach, 463-4251, www.stpeterfmb.com.

Sunday worship service at 9:30 a.m.

### SAINT NICHOLAS MONASTERY

Church and Bookstore. 111 Evergreen Road (southwest corner of Evergreen Road and Gail Street.) Liturgical services conducted in English and Church Slavonic; following the Julian (Old) Calendar. Liturgical Services Sundays and Holy Days 9:30 a.m. Holy Liturgy 0 a.m. Call to confirm service schedule: 997-2847; Bookstore 691-1775. www.saintnicholasmonastery.org.

### ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

#### CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

13031 Palm Beach Boulevard (3 miles east of I75) East Fort Myers (across from Fort Myers Shores) 693-0818. 9 a.m. Tuesday through Friday. 4 p.m. Saturday, 9 and 11 a.m. Sunday.

### SOUTHWEST BAPTIST CHURCH

16940 McGregor Boulevard, Fort Myers, 454-3336. Robert G. Kasten Pastor. Sunday 11 a.m. Nursery 9:45 a.m. Sunday School all ages. Junior Church grades one to five. Wee Church Pre-K to K. Evening Service 6 p.m. Wednesday Service 6 p.m.

### TEMPLE BETHEL SYNAGOGUE

16225 Winkler Road Fort Myers. 433-0018, www.templebethel.com. rabbi.barras@templebethel.com. Rabbi Jeremy Barras, Cantor Victor Geigner, Religious School Director Dale Cohen, Learning Tree Director Jesyca Virnig, Office Manager Inna Vasser. Union For Reform Judaism Shabbat Service Friday 7:30 p.m., Torah Study Saturday 9:30 a.m. Religious School Wednesday 5:30 p.m. and Sunday 9:30 a.m. Learning Tree Monday through Friday.

### TEMPLE JUDEA (CONSERVATIVE)

14486 A&W Bulb Road, Fort Myers, 433-0201, Rabbi: Rabbi Marc Sack Minyan: Monday at 9 a.m. Religious Education: Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings. Services Friday 6:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 a.m. www.tjswfl.org.

### THE NEW CHURCH

The New Church of SWFL, 10811 Sunset Plaza Circle #401, behind Zoomers. Reverend Gabriella Cahaley. Sundays 11 a.m. during the season. Other worship events on Fort Myers Beach. http://www.newchurchflorida.com. 481-5535.

### UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST

#### CHURCH FORT MYERS

13411 Shire Lane (off Daniels Parkway one mile west of I-75). Minister The Reverend Allison Farnum. Sunday services and religious education at 10:30 a.m. 561-2700. www.uucfm.org.

### UNITY OF BONITA SPRINGS

28285 Imperial Street, Bonita Springs. 947-3100. Family Service 10 to 11 a.m. Healing Circle 11 a.m. Hospitality and Fellowship, 11 a.m. Inspiring lesson, uplifting and dynamic music, meditation in a loving environment.

### UNITY OF FORT MYERS

11120 Ranchette Road, Fort Myers. Sunday Services 9:15 and 11 a.m. Children's classes 11 a.m. Reverend Jim Rosemergy. 278-1511, www.unityoffortmyers.org. Our God is Love, Our Race is Human, Our Religion is Oneness

### WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN

#### CHURCH

9065 Ligon Court, Fort Myers, across from HealthPark Hospital, 481-2125. Senior Pastor Robert Brunson. Sunday 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages. 11 a.m. Blended Worship. www.westminsterfortmyers.org

### WORD OF LIFE CHURCH

2120 Collier Avenue, Fort Myers. 274-8881. Sunday 10 a.m.; Wednesday 7 p.m. Bishop Gaspar and Michele Anastasi

### ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH

7401 Winkler Road, Fort Myers. 481-4040. Pastor Curtis Deterding. Sunday 8 a.m. Traditional, 10:45 a.m. Blended, 9:30 a.m. Educational Hour. www.zionfm.org.✪



# Children's Charities Hosts Dinner

**S**WFL Children's Charities, Inc. held a Signature Vintner Dinner on December 6 to honor Williams Selyem Winery, the Honored Signature Vintner of the upcoming 2016 Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest, benefiting local charities that are dedicated to the health of Southwest Florida children.

Guests had an exclusive dining experience, presented by Chef Charles Mereday of Mereday's Brasserie, choosing from a selection of cuisine, paired with Williams Selyem wines.

Jeff Mangahas, head winemaker of Williams Selyem Winery, represented the winery during and will participate in the 2016 Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest's Chef Vintner Dinner on Friday, February 26 and The Grand Tasting and Live Auction on Saturday, February 27 at Miromar Lakes Beach & Golf Club.✪



**Chef Charles Mereday**



**Jeff Mangahas represented Williams Selyem Winery, bringing with him a selection of wines for guests to taste**



**Wilma Boyd with Lou and Meg Traina**



**Bev and Art Cherry with Elaine Hawkins**



**Andie Vogt and Sandy Stilwell**



**Angela and Todd Gates**



**Chef Charles Mereday, Sandy Stilwell, Andie Vogt and Jeff Mangahas**



**Vicki and Richard Pitbladdo**



**Ute Rosinus, Cheryl Copham and Andie Vogt**



**Dwayne Bergmann and Luis Insignares**



**Jeff Mangahas and Karen Medford**



**The Signature Vintner Dinner to honor Williams Selyem Winery featured an exclusive dining experience, presented by Chef Charles Mereday of Mereday's Brasserie**



# Cool Down Did Not Slow The Action



by Capt. Matt Mitchell

This week marks the official start of winter, although after we experienced a few cold mornings over the weekend the sun quickly came back out and our

temperatures rebounded. During the cooler, windy days fishing was a little tougher as expected but even during the worst conditions to fish we still managed to catch a great mixed bag including the first sheepshead of winter on my boat.

The 10-degree plus drop in water temperatures after the cold front had the fish hiding out in the deep warm water mangrove creeks and channels.

Once tucked away in these creeks and out of the windy rough open water, anglers were greeted by gin clear water and a very consistent bite. Chunks of shrimp fished on a jig head caught lots of sheepshead, snapper and even a few rat redfish. For non-stop action the shrimp chunks were hard to beat.

My go-to, catch-all shrimp jig rig for winter consists of a white 1/4 oz. jig head with a 2/0 hook. When the bite is slow or the water cold, pinch the tail off a live shrimp and thread the hook up inside the bait then pinch off the head. Threading a shrimp chunk on a jig head like this not only gives the bait a smaller profile, puts out scent but also makes it hard for small-mouthed fish to steal it. The weighted jig head keeps the bait down against the bottom, slowing down the drift in a moving tide. Fish this rig as slow as possible, just lifting the rod tip now and again to make sure it's not stuck on the bottom. Even during the toughest fishing conditions this rig will get bit when nothing else will.

As the days warmed I switched up the baits to live shiners and with a little help from live chumming had snook and snapper busting baits in the creeks right



Bob Lauver with a snook caught shiner-fishing with Capt. Matt Mitchell

## Send Us Your Fish Tales

The River Weekly would like to hear from anglers about their catches. Send us details including tackle, bait and weather conditions, date of catch, species and weight, and include photographs with identification. Drop them at the River Weekly, 1609 Hendry Street, Suite 15, Fort Myers, Florida 33901, or email to [press@riverweekly.com](mailto:press@riverweekly.com).

on the surface. Sheltered, sun-warmed bays in these same creeks systems fished with shrimp and shiners under

a popping cork were all loaded up with trout of all sizes. Finding clear water to catch these trout has been the key, even during windy periods. If you can find somewhere sheltered and out of the wind the water will be clear and the perfect set-up for trout fishing

As our waters have only gradually cooled down we are lucky enough to still have great fishing action on many of the premiere species we usually only associate with the warmer months. While you're visiting or have family in town for the holidays, take a break, get away from the crowds and spend some quality time making memories out on the water.

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](mailto:captmattmitchell@aol.com).\*

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## CROW Case Of The Week:

## American Bittern



by Patricia Molloy

The American bittern (*Botaurus lentiginosus*) is a solitary, heron-like wading bird that stalks its prey (such as fish, frogs, meadow voles and giant water bugs) by standing motionless

in patches of tall marsh vegetation with its neck outstretched and bill pointed skyward. Its stand-and-wait hunting method is successful due to its perfectly camouflaging plumage: rich browns punctuated by black flecking, vertical tan streaks, black throat patches, and white stripes that go from the underside of its throat down to its belly. Its muted-yellow bill, thin (but short) legs of yellow-green and rusty-brown crown complete its disguise. It is such an expert at blending in that – if it spots, for example, a birdwatcher nearby – the bittern may slowly sway from side to side, imitating reeds gently swaying in the wind.

Despite being fairly numerous during breeding season around freshwater marshes, these secretive birds are difficult to spot. Their calls, however – particularly those of the males – are very distinctive and easily heard, even from lengthy distances.

In order to communicate with one another through thick vegetation, bitterns use low-frequency calls that carry farther than high-pitched ones. The calls of the males during mating season have been described as bizarre – the resonant *pump-er-lunk*, the hoarse *kok-kok-kok* or the continual *chu-peep*. These characteristic sounds have earned the American bittern several nicknames: stake-driver, water-belcher, thunder-pumper and mire-drum.

In early December, an adult American bittern was admitted to CROW as patient #15-3431. After a thorough physical exam, the bird was anesthetized to allow for radiographs. The bittern had suffered severe trauma, likely from a car collision, that resulted in numerous broken bones. While the bird was unconscious, its right leg was set and wrapped and its right wing was placed in a sling. Before being moved to a quiet room in the clinic's ICU for some much needed rest, subcutaneous (under the skin) fluids, an anti-inflammatory and a pain medication were administered.

Dr. Molly Lien, DVM intern, worked-up a schedule for the patient's continued care that included a species-specific diet, daily fluid injections, pain medication, an anti-inflammatory and tub time sessions.

After a week at the wildlife hospital, the bittern appeared to be more bright and alert, and had even gained a small amount of weight. While slow but steady improvement was noted, its recovery was not without a minor issue.

"The inside of his (left) leg is beginning to get annoyed because of the sling.

continued on page 20



This American bittern strikes a pose for the camera. The bird, patient #15-3431, is being treated for a broken leg and broken right wing, likely suffered in collision with a car.

## New Year's Eve Celebration Cruises From Fort Myers and Naples

Pure Florida will ring in the New Year with celebratory cruises on December 31, sailing from its Naples location from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. and Fort Myers location from 4:30 to 6 p.m. Guests cruising from Naples will be served appetizers and drinks while watching the fireworks show, and passengers in Fort Myers can cruise at sunset with a complimentary drink.

Departing from Naples, passengers will have a three-hour cruise aboard the *Double Sunshine* with Italian-inspired appetizers, refreshments, music the captain, followed by the fireworks show from the Naples Pier, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$80 per person, and passengers will receive one free drink ticket per person.

The *Double Sunshine* departs from historic Tin City, 1200 Fifth Avenue S. in Naples.

Fort Myers guests will see the sights along the Caloosahatchee River at sunset aboard the *Edison Explorer* as the knowledgeable Coast Guard-certified captain, also a master naturalist, offers a historical narration of local waterways and the environment. Tickets are \$32 per adult and \$16 for children, and each adult will receive one free drink ticket.

The *Edison Explorer* departs from The Marina at Edison Ford, 2360 W. First Street in Fort Myers. Reservations are required.

For more information call Pure Florida's Naples location at 263-4949, its Fort Myers location at 919-2965 or visit [www.PureFL.com](http://www.PureFL.com) ✨



Pure Florida's Naples location will offer a celebratory New Year's Eve cruise December 31, ringing in the New Year with a fireworks show from the Naples Pier

# Happy New Year!

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## Plant Smart

## Railroad Vine

by Gerri Reaves

**R**ailroad vine (*Ipomoea pes-caprae*) is an evergreen perennial and one of a dozen morning glories native to Florida. It is also called goat's-foot vine, beach morning glory and bayhops.

In the wild, this mat-forming vine is found on beaches and on sand dunes above the water line. Its seeds are dispersed by wind and water, and wherever it takes root, it helps to prevent beach erosion.

It has high salt tolerance and has evolved to withstand wind, salt spray, heat, and brackish water. Therefore it's an excellent choice for coastal landscapes.

If you need a groundcover for a sunny, dry, or sandy spot, this vine might be the answer. It also can be trained to cover a fence or trellis.

A fast grower, it sends out succulent stolons, or runners, which creep along the soil, rooting at the nodes and binding sand together. The word *Ipomoea*, which means worm-like, refers to this habit.

The plant grows to be about one and one-half feet high and can be as long as 100 feet.

Starchy taproots extend deeply into the soil – three feet or more – one characteristic that makes it so drought tolerant.

The thick, two-lobed leaves of two to four inches long have a shallowly notched apex and a leaf stem of about six inches. Rounded or oblong, they are folded along the midvein.

That notch gives them a shape resembling a goat's footprint and the



Fast-growing native railroad vine is a member of the morning glory family

photo by Gerri Reaves

term *pes-caprae* means "goat's foot." They also resemble the leaves of the non-native Hong Kong orchid tree.

The rosy pink or purple flowers are about two to three inches wide with five fused petals that form a trumpet-shaped corolla. The flower's interior has a lovely star-shaped pattern formed by stripes radiating from the throat, which is darker than the rest of the flower.

Flowers bloom all year, lasting only

a day, peaking in spring and summer. They are a food source for caterpillars, beetles, and grasshoppers.

Railroad vine also provides habitat for several native species and attracts a variety of pollinators.

It will tolerate a variety of soils, including nutrient-poor soil, but will not tolerate over-watering.

The small, round, hard, leathery fruit contains four seeds.

Propagate this vine with cuttings or scarified seeds

The vines and roots are edible, but only in very small quantities.

Medicinal uses include the treatment of jellyfish stings with the milky juice in the leaves. It is also used to treat fatigue, arthritis, rheumatism, and as a diuretic. And, it is traditionally used in spiritual practices in some cultures.

Sources: *Everglades Wildflowers* by Roger L. Hammer; *500 Plants of South Florida* by Julia F. Morton; *A Gardener's Guide to Florida's Native Plants* by Rufino Osorio; *Florida, My Eden* by Frederic B. Stresau; *Native Florida Plants* by Robert G. Haehle and Joan Brookwell; *Wildflowers of Florida* by Jaret C. Daniels and Stan Tekiela; [edis.ifas.ufl.edu](http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu); [floridata.com](http://floridata.com); [lee.ifas.ufl.edu](http://lee.ifas.ufl.edu); [miamidade.gov](http://miamidade.gov); [regionalconservation.org](http://regionalconservation.org); and [sms.si.edu](http://sms.si.edu).

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

## Boating Course Offered By Power Squadron

submitted by Cdr. Ron Terciak

**T**he San Carlos Bay Sail & Power Squadron, a unit of the United States Power Squadrons serving South Fort Myers, Fort Myers Beach, Bonita Springs and Estero, will be offering America's Boating Course on two Saturday mornings, January 9 and 16, the latter including the final exam. Classes run from 8:30 a.m. to approximately 12:30 p.m. with sign-in at 8:15 a.m. on the first Saturday.

Topics will include hull design, docking, anchoring, handling boating emergencies, reading channel markers and many other topics to make each boating experience safer and more enjoyable. Students who complete the course are eligible to join the United States Power Squadron at a discounted rate offering 18 months of membership for the price of 12 months.

This course is recognized by the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and satisfies the Florida state requirement that states anyone born after January 1, 1988 must pass a safe boating course in order to operate a boat with more than 10 horsepower. Each student will receive a Florida Boater's card, valid for life, from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission, upon successfully completing the class. The cost of the course is \$45 with a \$20 additional cost for a second person sharing the instructional materials.

The course will be taught at the San Carlos Bay Sail & Power Squadron classroom located at 16048 San Carlos Blvd. at the corner of Kelly Road (across from ACE Hardware).

Preregistration is required. Students can register online at [www.scbps.com](http://www.scbps.com) or by calling the office at 466-4040 and leaving their contact information. ✨

## Pure Florida To Offer Holiday Cruises

**P**ure Florida invites Southwest Florida to spend the holidays on the water by offering an array of water adventures for visitors to enjoy on Thursday, December 24 in Fort Myers, offering sightseeing, river and sunset cruises and pontoon boat rentals.

Guests visiting Pure Florida's Fort Myers location will cruise aboard the *M/V Edison Explorer*, drifting along the Caloosahatchee River. Aboard the vessel, guests are invited to relax and enjoy the natural beauty of Southwest Florida, and observe the wildlife native to the region. Narration on local history, wildlife and ecology is provided by Coast Guard-certified captains, also master naturalists. Drinks and snacks will be available for purchase on-board.

The *M/V Edison Explorer* departs from The Marina at Edison Ford, located at 2360 W. First Street in Fort Myers. Reservations are required.

For more information on Pure Florida and for cruise pricing and registration, call Pure Florida at 919-2965 or visit [www.PureFL.com](http://www.PureFL.com). ✨



Pure Florida's will offer water adventures for the holidays at its Fort Myers location on December 24





*Bad Moon on the Rise* by Steve Pennisi

## Davis Art Center Upcoming Events

Upcoming events and programs coming to the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center next month will include:

### January 1 – Art Walk

Steve Pennisi: Both Sides Of The Paint • Grand Atrium

This exhibition highlights Pennisi's recent work utilizing the new ground breaking technique plus a retrospective focused on the evolution of his work. All the effects are created by pouring and pulling the paint using a myriad of tools such as squeegees, metal strips, cans of air, water and alcohol to affect the hidden side of the paint. An Art Talk Tuesday & Closing Party will be held on January 26 from 6 to 8 p.m. Admission is \$5; free for members.

### January 1 – Art Walk

Dan Linehan: A Line By Line By Hand • Capital Gallery

Linehan's works are intricate line drawings that create textures and depth that mesmerize the viewer. His unique cityscapes and other line drawings have won awards at juried exhibitions and have graced the streets of downtown Fort Myers. An Art Talk Tuesday & Closing Party will be held on January 26 from 6 to 8 p.m. Admission is \$5; free for members.

**January 4 – Fort Myers Film Festival:** Thank God For Indie Mondays (first Mondays of the month through February)

Watch short indie films submitted to the Fort Myers Film Festival and help decide whether or not it makes the grade for final programming during the annual festival held April 7 to 10. Call 333-1933 or visit [www.sbdac.com](http://www.sbdac.com) for more information. Happy Hour at 6:30 p.m., films premier at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$8 for seniors and students.

### January 8 – Chamber Concert Series

Amernet String Quartet  
Praised for their "intelligence" and "immensely satisfying" playing by the *New York Times*, the Amernet String Quartet has garnered recognition as one of today's exceptional string quartets and are Ensemble-in-Residence at Florida International University in Miami. Their sound has been called "complex" but with an "old world flavor." The group



**Amernet String Quartet**

includes Misha Vitenson, violin; Tomas Cotik, violin; Michael Klotz, viola; and Jason Calloway, cello. Call 333-1933 or visit [www.sbdac.com](http://www.sbdac.com) for more information. Cocktails at 7 p.m. will be followed at 8 p.m. by their performance. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Tables are also available.

**January 14 - Connect Networking** (cancelled, will resume February 11)

**January 15 – Kate Davis & Friends Concert Series**

The Ladybugs In Concert

The last in the Kate Davis & Friends concert series, The Ladybugs are a traditional jazz vocal group known for their intricate harmonies and experimental arrangements. Led by Martina DaSilva, all members of the band sing while playing ukulele, guitar, trombone, bass, and drums. The Ladybugs' repertoire includes favorites from the 1920s, '30s, and '40s, infused with old-school swing, country, and blues. Call 333-1933 or visit [www.sbdac.com](http://www.sbdac.com) for more information. Cocktails at 7 p.m. will be followed at 8 p.m. by their performance. Tickets are \$25 in advance or \$30 at the door. Tables are also available.

**January 18 – Author Lecture & Lunch Series**

Savor a lunch and lecture with these Best-selling critically acclaimed authors. Sponsored by FineMark National Bank & Trust, the series begins with best-selling author Hank Phillip Ryan, an on-air investigative reporter for Boston's NBC affiliate. She's won 33 Emmy Awards, 13 Edward R. Murrow Awards, while *Truth Be Told* was the 2014 Agatha Award winner and a Library Journal Best of 2014 and dozens of other honors for her groundbreaking journalism. Call 333-1933 or visit [www.sbdac.com](http://www.sbdac.com) for more information. Event runs from noon to 2 p.m. Tickets are \$35; series tickets are \$100 for all four lectures. Tables are also available.

**January 20 – New Eclectic Education Art Classes**

Glass Fusion with Petra Kaiser

Glass fusing (also called kiln-formed glass) offers an outlet for creativity; for those who are artistically blessed as well as those who are artistically challenged. The procedures and techniques that will be taught in this class will include compatibility and testing, basic fusing techniques, annealing, and slumping. Class is held



**The Ladybugs**

Wednesdays from 3 to 5:30 p.m.

Session 1 is from January 20 to February 10. Four classes for \$139; members pay \$99. Single classes are \$40.

All About Painting with Laurent Dureau

Improve your skills by practicing basics of academic drawing, whether through figuration, abstract or three-dimensional works. Bring your work each week and we will discuss the purpose and the inspirations behind it, as well define the orientations of the works. Class is held Wednesdays from 6 to 9 p.m.

Six classes for \$150; members pay \$135. Single classes are \$30.

**January 22 – 4P Music Network**

We invite anyone connected to music through their art, business, or love of it to join us and network with the players in the field. For more information on 4P Music Network activities, check the SBDAC website calendar and visit [www.4PMusic.com](http://www.4PMusic.com).

Networking is held monthly on the fourth Friday (all programs subject to change) at 6 p.m. General admission is \$10.

**January 28 – Art & Poetry Networking Event**

Gulf Coast Leisure presents Art & Poetry Networking Events, showcasing the best art and poetry Southwest Florida has to offer. Artwork of every media is represented as well as music, spoken word, poetry, and crafts. Network with like-minded people and expand the artistic community. Held monthly on the fourth Thursday at 8 p.m., general admission is \$10. Call 333-1933 or visit [www.sbdac.com](http://www.sbdac.com) for more information.

**January 30 – Taps & Tunes Craft Beer and Music Festival**

A new river district event, the Taps & Tunes Craft Beer and Music Festival celebrates the best in beer tasting and one-of-a-kind music. Savor the art of craft beer as you sample over 80 brews from award-winning breweries, and learn the basics of home brewing and tasting. Settled on the edge of the Caloosahatchee River in Centennial Park, enjoy the scenic views of the historic river district and river's edge, purchase foods from popular local food trucks, and

gather near the stage to hear world-class entertainment. Event runs from 2 to 8 p.m. at Centennial Park East (near the Circle of Friends fountain).

Performers will feature Johnnyswim, a Los Angeles-based duo composed of Amanda Sudano (daughter of Donna Summer) and Abner Ramirez, and Fort Myers natives Sheena Brook and For A Season.

Admission is \$45 (includes unlimited beer tasting) or \$75 for a VIP Pass. Non-tasting entry is \$5.

Vendor space is available; call 333-1933 to reserve space. Visit [www.sbdac.com/tapsntunes](http://www.sbdac.com/tapsntunes) for complete details.\*

From page 2

## Santa's Mailbox

In the 1950s, when Ellis stood by Santa's mailbox, downtown Fort Myers was still a "traditional" downtown, with major stores like Sears, Roebuck, JC Penney's, Belk's and McCrory's anchoring First Street and attracting Christmastime shoppers.

Six decades later, long after major stores abandoned downtown for the malls, you can stroll through a beautifully redeveloped historic downtown filled with shops and restaurants and appreciate the many citizens over the years who made the holiday season more joyous.

Then visit the Southwest Florida Museum of History at 2031 Jackson Street to find out more about how the town celebrated major holidays.

Call the museum at 321-7430 or go to [museumofhistory.org](http://museumofhistory.org). Hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday through Saturday.

Don't forget to visit the Southwest Florida Historical Society's research center if you love local history.

The all-volunteer non-profit organization is at 10091 McGregor Boulevard on the campus of the Lee County Alliance for the Arts.

The center is open Wednesday and Saturday between 9 a.m. and noon and Wednesday 4 to 7 p.m. Call 939-4044 or visit [swflhistoricalsociety.org](http://swflhistoricalsociety.org) for more information.

Sources: Archives of the Southwest Florida Historical Society, the Fort Myers News-Press, and [cbsnews.com](http://cbsnews.com).\*





Artwork by Cheryl Fausel

From page 1

## ACT Exhibit

Oxbow summer residency graduate program, and a summer art workshop in Paris, France. After moving to Punta Gorda, Albin taught watercolors at the Visual Arts Center for eight years. She now juries art shows and enjoys presenting art workshops. She is a member of many local art organizations in Southwest Florida, the Florida Watercolor Society, The National League of American Pen Women, and Women Contemporary Artists.

As a local resident artist and volunteer at Arts for ACT Gallery, Benson has been inspired to have her new exhibition of beautifully painted seashells she found here in paradise. Watercolors bring out the details in the shells; these oversized giant sea shells make a statement



Artwork by Barbara Albin

and reflect the environment here in Southwest Florida. Benson paints on her vintage studio boat, *The Artist Xpress*, and teaches painting on Sanibel at BIG ARTS, The Sanctuary, and in downtown Fort Myers at the Arts for ACT Gallery & Studio.



Shell artwork by Linda Benson

A local multi-media artist and visual stylist for Clive Daniel Home, Eileen McGrath holds a fashion merchandising degree from Newbury College and attended the Massachusetts College of Art. A member of the Art League of Bonita Springs and the Naples Art Association, McGrath has exhibited at many shows and was a Fifth Avenue Chalk Walk Artist. Her hand-painted clothing and shoes are sold at the Arts for ACT Gallery. ✨

Available at  
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**Female Pioneers of Fort Myers**  
*Women Who Made a Difference in the City's Development*  
By Robin C. Tuthill and Thomas P. Hall

## New Year's Day Art Walk

The next Fort Myers Art Walk will take place on Friday, January 1 when 13 downtown galleries and numerous retail shops will all be open and exhibiting new artworks from 6 to 10 p.m.

- The Art Walk will feature:
- Individual art tent vendors
  - Live art demonstrations on the streets
  - Art galleries in the core downtown area including Art League of Fort Myers, Arts for ACT Gallery, The Studio, Sidney
- continued on page 18



Mermaid painting

## Red Sox Seeking Singers For Spring Training National Anthem

Think you have what it takes to sing in front of a sold-out crowd of more than 10,000 people? The Boston Red Sox are looking for new talent to fill approximately 14 spots to perform the National Anthem for the upcoming 2016 Spring Training season at JetBlue Park.

Auditions will be held at JetBlue Park, located at 11500 Fenway South Drive in Fort Myers, on Tuesday, January 12 from 4 to 7 p.m. and on Wednesday, January 13 from 4 to 6 p.m. All ages are welcome to audition. Reservations must be made in advance by calling Brennan Whitley at 226-4783.

If anyone is unable to attend these dates, he or she may contact Whitley about submitting an audio recording. All reservations must be made by Tuesday, December 15 at 4 p.m. Space is limited.

The Red Sox open its 17-game exhibition season Monday, February 29 at 1:05 p.m. with a single admission doubleheader against the Boston College Eagles and the Northeastern University Huskies.

For more information, call 226-4783 or email [jbpevents@redsox.com](mailto:jbpevents@redsox.com). ✨

"Packed with facts and employing an engaging storytelling style, [*Female Pioneers of Fort Myers*] both teaches and entertains. Local history buffs and newcomers to history will value Tuthill and Hall's research and appreciate the accessible format, too."

Genri Reaves, PhD, author of *Legendary Locals of Fort Myers* and *Fort Myers, Then & Now*



# Alliance For The Arts Upcoming Events

Events happening during the months of January and February at the Alliance for the Arts include:

- Theatre Conspiracy presents *Kayak* by Jordan Hall, staged January 7, 8, 9, 14, 15, 16, 21, 22 and 23 at 8 p.m. and January 17 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$24 or \$22 for Alliance members.
- Barbara Hoffman and Tammra Sigler joint exhibition showing January 8 to 30. Opening reception is January 8 from 5 to 7 p.m. Gallery Walk & Talk with the artists on January 9 at 10 a.m.; In the Member Gallery: Artistic Collaborations; In the Theatre Lobby: BroadSides: Poetry Off The Shelf.
- Bluegrass in the Theatre featuring Kindred Spirit, Pain in the Grass and the Bugtussle Ramblers on Sunday, January 10 from 2 to 5 p.m. indoors in the Alliance theatre. Admission is \$8 or \$6 for Alliance members. Presented by Palmgrass.org.
- An Evening with Author B.A. Shapiro on January 12 at 7 p.m. \$10 suggested donation. Presented in partnership with the Jewish Federation of Lee & Charlotte Counties.
- Outdoor Family Movie Night – *The Peanuts Movie* on January 22 at 7 p.m. \$5 suggested family donation. Lawn chairs, blankets and coolers are encouraged.

- BroadSides: Poetry Off The Shelf on Thursday, January 28 at 7PM. \$10 suggested donation.
- The Screaming Orphans Live in Concert on Saturday, January 30 at 6:30 p.m. Early-sale tickets are \$25 or \$35 after January 1.
- Theatre Conspiracy presents *The Bluest Eye* by Lydia Diamond staged February 5, 6, 11, 12, 13, 18, 19 and 20 at 8 p.m. and February 14 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$24 or \$22 for Alliance members.
- Bluegrass in the Theatre (bands TBA) on Sunday, February 7 from 2 to 5 p.m. indoors in the Alliance theatre. Admission is \$8 or \$6 for Alliance members. Presented by Palmgrass.org.
- Love-Themed Wine & Art Party – Alliance Member Event on Thursday, February 11 from 6 to 8 p.m. Admission of \$15 includes wine, light hors d'oeuvres and all materials.
- Antonio Guerrero Exhibit running February 5 to 27. Opening reception on February 12 from 5 to 7 p.m. Gallery Walk & Talk with the artist on February 13 at 10 a.m. In the Member Gallery: David Belling; In the Theatre Lobby: Guy Tieman.
- Member Gallery Book Club – *The Zhiwago Affair* on Tuesday, February 16 at 6:30 p.m. Free for current Alliance members.
- Outdoor Family Movie Night – *Home* on Friday, February 19 at 7 p.m. \$5 suggested family donation. Lawn chairs, blankets and coolers are encouraged.

- Mayhem & Bottlerockets: An Evening with Storyteller Bil Lepp on Thursday, February 25 at 7 p.m. Members pay \$10, non-members, \$15 and students, \$5.
- Musical Discovery Series: Brass/Percussion on Saturday, February 27 at 10:30 p.m. Free admission; presented outside during the GreenMarket. Presented in partnership with Gulf Coast Symphony.
- 5th annual Artists Studio Tour on Saturday, February 27 from 11 a.m. to

4 p.m. \$25 for members, \$35 for non-members. Concludes with a reception at Marcus Jansen's Unit-A Studio.

- Bruce T. Gora Sunset Concert – Grammy Award winners Trae Pierce and the T-Stone Band on Sunday, February 28 at 5 p.m. Alliance member pre-sale tickets are \$15 or \$20 at the gate. Blankets, lawn chairs and coolers are encouraged.

For more information, visit [ArtInLee.org](http://ArtInLee.org).



The Calendar Girls with some of the veterans and guide dog puppies in training

## Calendar Girls Entertain Veterans

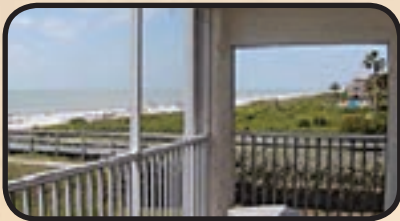
Bringing along some Southeastern Guide Dog puppies in training and puppy raisers, the Calendar Girls performed their Holiday Show for veterans at the Douglas Jacobson State Veterans Home in Port Charlotte on Friday, December 11.

For more information, go to [www.calendargirlsflorida.com](http://www.calendargirlsflorida.com).



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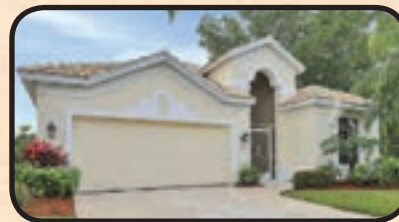


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From page 1

## Festival Of Trees



Univision's tree



Tree decorated by The Home Depot



CenturyLink's tree

world, and we're at a time in the history of our world when we could use a little joy."

The award-winning trees, along with the 18 others displayed at the festival, were auctioned or raffled throughout the festival.

The Festival of Trees is presented with the assistance of major sponsorships from The Home Depot, Two Men and a Truck, Gulfcoast Coin & Jewelry, LLC, G3 Catering, GCG Construction, Balcon Enterprises, Hahn, Loeser, & Parks, Henderson, Franklin, Starnes & Holt, P.A., Honc Marine, Lee Designs, The News-Press Media Group, Priority Payments, Ryder, Sunny 106.3, Univision and Westco.

For more information, visit [www.tuxandtrees.com](http://www.tuxandtrees.com).\*

From page 16

## Art Walk

& Berne Davis Art Center, Grand Illusion Gallery, Timeless Gallery, Reverie & Rock Art Gallery, Miville Art Gallery and Bootleggers Alley Gallery

• Art galleries outside the core downtown area include American Legion, Veterans Gallery, Ollie Mack Gentry Photography and Two Newts Gallery.

- Live music at Flashbacks on First Street
- Kids zones with face painting on First Street by Dallas

Downtown streets will be closed for this event. Attendees may park at a free lot and ride the trolley free into the River District. Trolley stops include:

- In front of the Florida Repertory Theatre on Bay Street
- At the parking garage on Bay Street
- Below the bridge on Heitman Street
- Bayside at West First Street
- Altamont at West First Street
- By Patio DeLeon on Main Street
- Jackson and Main Street corner
- The American Legion
- Unit A on Evans
- The Langford Kingston House at First Street and Fowler

Fort Myers Art Walk is a free, family-friendly event.\*



Fort Myers Beach Art Gallery during a workshop

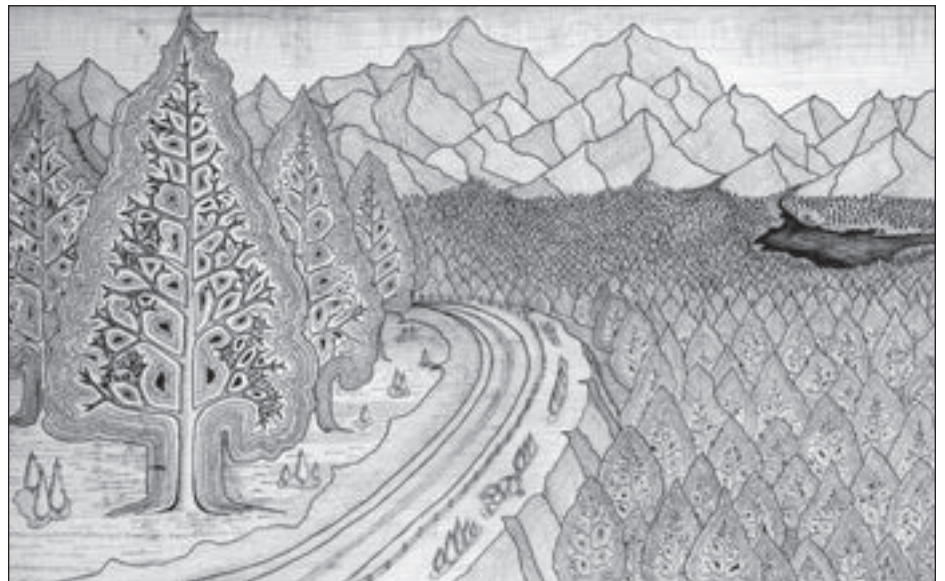
## Art Association Offers Open House

The Fort Myers Beach Art Association will hold an open house on January 15 from 9 a.m. to noon. The public is invited to meet the artists, learn more about the group and see the Creative Expressions Display of additional forms of art done by members. New small paintings donated by the members will be on sale.

Refreshments will be served. There is no charge. Guests can talk to artists from each of the special painting groups – Outdoor (plein air) Painters, Indoor Painters, Experimentalists, and Portrait and Figure Painters.

Information on workshops, classes, special short workshops given by members and all the art association events will be available.

FMBAA is a working gallery located on the corner of Donora and Shell Mound boulevards, Fort Myers Beach. The gallery is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 3 p.m. The gallery will be closed December 24, 25, 31 and January 1. For more information on shows or classes, call 463-3909 or visit [www.fortmyersbeach.com](http://www.fortmyersbeach.com).\*



Eden's Ridge by Daniel Linehan

## Winter Art Exhibits In January At Davis Art Center

Two new exhibits will be on display at the Sidney & Berne Davis Art Center (SBDAC) from January 1 to 26. The main Grand Atrium will display Both Sides Of The Paint by Southwest Florida painter Steve Pennisi. The Capital Gallery will display a series of works by Daniel Linehan titled A Line By Line By Hand. SBDAC is located in the historic downtown River District at 2301 First Street in Fort Myers.

Steve Pennisi has worked in both oil and acrylic through the years, realistic and abstract, before discovering his current technique, which grew out of the desire to "own something" as an artist. As a way to be continually surprised and engaged in his work, Pennisi discovered his technique when a corner of dry paint on a waxed piece of paper peeled up. He

was amazed at what was on the hidden side of the paint. "It revealed underlying gestural patterns previously hidden from an artist," he explained. "It had a life and spontaneity never seen before... something that felt human but freed of any doubt or hesitation."

Daniel Linehan's works are intricate line drawings that create textures and depth that mesmerize the viewer. His unique cityscapes and other line drawings have won awards at juried exhibitions and have graced the streets of downtown Fort Myers.

Both exhibits will open on New Year's Day, January 1, during the January Art Walk in Fort Myers. They can be seen through the month until January 26. Admission is free for all, with a suggested \$5 donation.

There will be an Art Talk Tuesday & Closing Party on January 26 at 6 p.m. Meet both artists and see what inspires them to create as you are guided through the art exhibits. Tickets \$5 and free for members. For more information, visit [www.sbdac.com](http://www.sbdac.com) or call 333-1933.\*



## Opening Reception At FGCU Gallery

The Art Galleries of Bower School of Music & the Arts at Florida Gulf Coast University will hold an opening reception at the Main Gallery in the Arts Complex for Borborygmus: Or Beware the 3-Fingered Mouse exhibition from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, January 21. A gallery talk with artist Roger Chamieh begins at 6 p.m. The exhibition runs through February 25, and is made possible with the support of Gene and Lee Seidler and WGPU Public Media.

Chamieh is an artist working out of Tampa and influenced by his time living in the Persian Gulf. His sculptures and installations create symbols representing the human body, emphasizing family and cultural identity. The exhibition sets the body against artificial commercial landscapes.

For this exhibition, Chamieh created a new body of work, *Mutation 1-6*, a diverse group of sculptures working together to create a large kinetic and sound installation at FGCU's Main Gallery. Each sculpture brings a unique element to the space utilizing Chamieh's expertise in manipulating materials. They work together by blending a number of artificial and machine-made materials such as styrofoam, car parts and silicone against human hair, wood and feathers. The artificial elements combine with the organic ones, creating forms that speak to evolving selves and habitats.

The gallery is in the Arts Complex on FGCU's main campus at 10501 FGCU Boulevard South. Parking is available in Lot 7 for gallery visitors. Regular viewing hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and Friday and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Thursday.

For more information, go to [artgallery.fgcu.edu](http://artgallery.fgcu.edu) or contact Anica Sturdivant at 590-7199 or [asturdiv@fgcu.edu](mailto:asturdiv@fgcu.edu).

## Law Firm Donates To Vietnam Veterans Group



Christopher Smith

For the second consecutive year, Goldstein, Buckley, Cechman, Rice & Purtz, PA's employees donated a number of boxes and bags containing clothing and household items to the Vietnam Veterans of America. With employees and family members having served in the military, the Goldstein, Buckley, Cechman, Rice & Purtz team is a strong supporter of veteran causes and happy to find ways to help. The donation drive has been led by the firm's partner Christopher Smith, who immediately after Veteran's Day kicks off the donation drive as a continuation of support to our nation's veterans.

The Vietnam Veterans of America is a respected charity that gives aid to all of America's veterans, not just those of a particular age group or war. By donating used clothes, shoes, appliances, or other household items, funds are generated to help take care of soldiers and service men and women who help keep America safe from harm.

For more information about the Vietnam Veterans of America, visit [www.vva.org](http://www.vva.org) or contact Christopher Smith at 334-1146.



*Mutation 2 (detail)*, 2015, Styrofoam, pine wood, silicone, rigid foam, variable dimensions  
photo courtesy of Roger Chamieh

## The Beaches Of Fort Myers & Sanibel Introduces Resident Artist Program

Cailing all photographers, videographers and those with a passion for the arts. The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel recently introduced its first-ever Resident Artist Program, an initiative aimed to give local photographers/videographers an opportunity to connect with the people and nature of the Southwest Florida destination. Full- and part-time Lee County residents and students are encouraged to apply for the three-month residency, which will consist of capturing 15 to 20 varied photos and/or videos that express the unspoiled island paradise's unique sense of place in exchange for a \$5,000 stipend and use of the imagery in the destination's marketing efforts.

To apply, candidates will be asked to submit a 500-word statement about their approach for capturing elements of the destination and what they hope to gain from participation in the program; an online portfolio and active social channels are also required. The Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau will review submissions and choose the Resident Artist 14 days after the close of the application period.

The selected Resident Artist will join a roster of highly acclaimed, prolific artists, writers and musicians who have also found inspiration in this scenic locale, such as renowned artist Robert Rauschenberg, iconic inventors Thomas Edison and Henry Ford and best-selling author Anne Morrow Lindbergh, who penned the book *Gift from the Sea* based on her many visits to Captiva Island.

"As a destination of inspiration, we are thrilled to launch our Resident Artist Program to further encourage local residents to explore and embrace the arts right in their backyard," said Tamara Pigott, executive director of the Lee County Visitor & Convention Bureau. "We are confident that those selected will capture the destination's ambience, all while encouraging travelers to visit our little piece of paradise."

For more information about the Resident Artist Program or to apply, visit [www.fortmyers-sanibel.com](http://www.fortmyers-sanibel.com).

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## With 45 College Football Bowl Games, Has System Gone Berserk?



by Ed Frank

Is the system broken, ridiculous or just plain money-hungry? The system I'm discussing is the current runaway lineup of 45 – count 'em – 45 college football bowl games that will saturate television from December 19 to January 11. By the time you read this week's paper, 13 already will have been played.

A good trivia game around the holiday dinner table this weekend would be a contest to see how many of the bowls you can even name.

If you love college football, then you're probably in heaven for the next few weeks despite the fact that many of the bowl games will be played in cold weather sites before seas of empty seats.

And some of the participating teams didn't even post regular-season winning records, yet received bowl invitations. Nebraska, Minnesota and San Jose State are 5-7 teams reaching post-season play.

I note that one of these sub-500 teams, San Jose State, won the Cure Bowl (whatever that means) last Saturday with a 27-16 victory over 6-6 George State.

The Rose Bowl, known as the "Granddaddy" of bowl games, was first held in 1902. By 1937, there were six college bowl games. Two years ago the count had leaped to 35, and this year 45, including the Shrine East-West, NFLPA Collegiate and the Senior Bowl.

Let's be honest: We have such a plethora of bowl games for one principal reason – money.

## Amendment Decision On River Hall Declared Noncompliant

The Conservancy of Southwest Florida recently participated in proceedings regarding the adopted Lee County Plan amendment decision for River Hall and the concern over "overriding public necessity."

Administrative Law Judge Suzanne Van Wyk has ruled that a Lee County plan amendment should not have been approved by Lee County. Judge Van Wyk determined that the adopted amendment is contrary to the Caloosahatchee Shores Community Plan because no finding of "overriding public necessity" was made to support removing the land from the rural lands category. This ruling sets an important standard for Lee County development that will protect rural communities from being demolished, according to a Conservancy spokeswoman.

The order can be found at this link: <https://www.doah.state.fl.us/ALJ/search-DOAH>

Ralf Brookes, attorney for the petitioners, said, "This is an important recommended order that sets a precedent that supports community plans in Lee County with similar language."

Expert planning opinion testimony was presented by Julianne Thomas, senior growth management specialist at the Conservancy, who said, "Comprehensive plans are meant to be a vision for how the citizens in a community want to grow. In Lee County, community plans are created by citizen planning efforts. Those community plans are important, and this order gives legal significance to their plans and vision for the future."

The Caloosahatchee Shores community plan is the result of a community planning effort and was adopted as part of the Lee County comprehensive plan.

The plan amendment, approved by a 4-1 vote on June 3, 2015 as Ordinance 15-10, would have increased density on 585 acres in the River Hall development located in the Caloosahatchee Shores Planning Area by changing the land use designation from the rural land category to the sub-outlying suburban land category.

This change would have effectively doubled the allowable density from one unit per acre in the rural land category to two units per acre in the sub-outlying suburban land category in the 585-acre amendment area.

The community plan specifically requires that at least three members of the Board of County Commissioners make a finding of overriding public necessity in order to remove land from the rural land category in the Caloosahatchee Shores Planning Area.

In this case, 585 acres of land was removed from the rural land category without the required finding of "overriding public necessity."

Lee County residents of River Hall as well as other Lee County residents from other Lee communities with similar language in their community plans, challenged the legality of this amendment, and requested a formal administrative hearing.

After conducting a day-long evidentiary hearing on October 12, 2015 the judge concluded that the amendment was "not in compliance" with Florida's Community Planning Act because it was inconsistent with the plain language contained in the Caloosahatchee Shores community plan.

Judge Van Wyk agreed with the residents, entering a recommend order in their favor and against Lee County and the developers of the proposed project.✪

Football revenue is the bulwark for college minor sports. And studies have shown that schools that win major bowl games are recipients of increased alumni financial support.

But you've got to wonder how far this bowl game business will go? At the rate it has grown, the day may come that every college with a football team will play in a bowl game regardless of their records.

While we may question the wisdom of having all these bowl games, ratings show that the games do attract large viewing audiences, Maybe that's the reason ESPN actually owns and operates 12 of the bowls.

The Big 10 sent 10 of its 14 members in bowl games, including Michigan State as one of the four teams playing for the national championship. Iowa, which lost to Michigan State in the Big 10 Championship game, faces Stanford in the revenue-rich Rose Bowl on January 1.

A report this week showed that the average resale price for a Rose Bowl ticket has reached \$705, the highest by far of any bowl game, including the two semi-final national championship games.

Interestingly, Jim Delany, Big Ten commissioner, explained that Iowa will not reap the entire Rose Bowl money bonanza. The revenue will be divided between all 14 conference members.

Any way you cut it, college football bowl games are big business. As a result, they will not diminish in number anytime soon.✪

## Ladies Golf Group Selects 2015 Charity

Twenty-two years ago, Barbara Burger, a member of both Wildcat Run and Fiddlesticks Golf Clubs, started a group of women golfers with handicaps of 18 and below to play competitive golf during the reciprocal period May through October. The group started small but now represents

more than 60 women and more than 33 clubs in Collier and Lee counties.

At the end of each season, the women pick a local charity to support with a monetary donation. This year the group collected \$3,385 and chose Ronald McDonald House Charities of Southwest Florida as their charity of choice for 2015. RMHC plans to open and operate a Ronald McDonald Family Room Program at the new Golisano Children's Hospital, scheduled to open in April 2017.✪

## FPRA To Take The Show On The Road In 2016

The Florida Public Relations Association (FPRA) Southwest Florida Chapter is taking its "show on the road" in 2016. The public relations organization will now offer programming at various locations in Southwest Florida to allow for added value to its members and non-members and to enhance the monthly meetings with in-depth presentations, tours and a lunch. This new approach will kick-off with the program, The PR of Police Training, which will take place on Tuesday, January 5 beginning at 11:30 a.m. at the Southwest Florida Public Service Academy.

More in-depth programs will be on the slate for the coming year.

The Southwest Florida Public Service Academy, located at 4312 Michigan Avenue in Fort Myers, will offer a unique

opportunity to visit one of Florida's most successful certified police training facilities. Guests will hear how the public image of the police force is affecting public affairs and impacting recruitment training. Todd Everly, director of the Southwest Florida Public Service Academy, will be the guest speaker.

The cost for attending the presentation is \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members and \$15 for students. Space is limited; early registration is suggested. Guests must RSVP online at [fpraswfl.org](http://fpraswfl.org).

Sponsorships for the monthly luncheons are also available. Three levels of sponsorships are available, ranging from \$100 to \$500. Sponsors will receive acknowledgement in news releases, complimentary event admission, table display to showcase promotional items, visibility on electronic and print marketing and more, depending on level.

For more information or to become a sponsor, contact Mike at 677-7600 or [mj@jacksonpr.com](mailto:mj@jacksonpr.com).✪

From page 13

## American Bittern

"It's starting to get red," said Melissa Fox, certified vet tech and veterinary assistant. Dr. Molly interjected that the patient was scheduled for an extensive progress exam that day, and said, "When I sedate him, maybe I'll put something like Desitin, or some other topical, to help the abrasions on his leg if we need to."

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 PO Box 150, Sanibel, FL 33957. Call 472-3644 or visit: [www.crow-clinic.org](http://www.crow-clinic.org).✪



## School Smart



by Shelley M. Greggs, NCSP

**D**ear Readers, Instilling a love of reading in our children is one of the very best gifts we can give them. It takes time to do that and a supply of good books. To help you

meet this goal, a wonderful organization called Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) has a unique gift for you and your children.

In 1966, RIF was the creation of Margaret McNamara, whose experience as a teacher convinced her that for many kids, mostly poor ones, one of the main barriers to proficient reading was simply access to books. She created RIF with some grant monies, and now RIF is the largest literacy program in the country. Reading Is Fundamental is a non-profit group that provides hundreds of thousands of free books annually to children age 8 or younger, in particular those from economically disadvantaged homes, where books are a and in shorter supply.

RIF is dedicated to making reading a fun and beneficial part of everyday life. Since 1966, RIF has distributed more than 412 million books to more than 40 million children nationwide, improving their opportunity to read, learn and grow.

RIF just began its 50th year of busi-

ness and is honoring that milestone with some new approaches and a increased resolve to spread its message even with the loss of about \$24 million in annual funding that it had come to count on. With more than two-thirds of its budget gone, RIF now needs more private contributions and consequently, gives away fewer books now than it once did.

RIF's determination to get kids to read in whatever manner best accomplishes that mission is very clear. Despite and perhaps due to their dwindling funds, RIF has signed on as a partner with ustyme, a digital platform, which enables multiple users to read or play video games together. RIF has partnered with ustyme to give the gift of a billion free e-books to the communities they serve. All families across the nation can access 50 classic e-books absolutely free, without advertising or fees of any kind. This Billion e-Book Gift will provide access to a digital library of 50 previously selected children's titles, many in Spanish as well as English. Those titles can be downloaded by visiting [RIF.org/50ebooks](http://RIF.org/50ebooks).

"Reading follows an upward spiral," said Daniel Willingham, a professor of psychology at the University of Virginia and the author of *Raising Kids Who Read*, which was published earlier this year. "Kids who read more get better at reading, and because they are better at reading, it's easier and more pleasurable so they read still more. And kids who read well don't just do better in English class – it helps them in math, science and

continued on page 23

## Fort Myers Tech Honors Graduates



Chris Hadsock, Jeff Thelen, Justin Mulligan, Emmanuel Castillo, Carlos Giraldo, Bill McCormick, Danny Bonessi, Bret Lai, Ron Andersen and Timothy Carter

**F**ort Myers Technical College has awarded eight of its graduates with the honorary Excellence in Action award for success in their chosen fields of work. Emmanuel Castillo, Danny Bonessi, Timothy Carter, Carlos Giraldo, Chris Hadsock, Justin Mulligan, Bret Lai and Jeff Thelen, all eight of whom are employed by Micro Control Systems, were recognized. The honor is awarded to those who have represented excellence in action as a Fort Myers Technical College graduate by excelling in his or her technical or career field.

The eight graduates completed the Electronic Technology or Air-Conditioning, Refrigeration & Heating Technology programs offered at Fort Myers Technical College. The graduates had the opportunity to become involved at Micro Control Systems through the company's partnership with Fort Myers Technical College. Over the years, Micro Control Systems has hired numerous Fort Myers Technical College graduates, many of which have advanced within the company. Programs at the college have given students the hands-on experience, creating qualified and trained workers prepared to succeed in their chosen fields.

"The quality of the education received at Fort Myers Technical College shows in the work the former students do here," said Ron Andersen, vice president of manufacturing at Micro Control Systems "Their work is outstanding and demonstrates a thorough knowledge of their field."

"The partnership between Micro Control Systems and Fort Myers Technical College is invaluable, and as the demand for trained students continues to grow, as does this

continued on page 23

### Financial Focus

## Time For Some New Year's (Financial) Resolutions



by Jennifer Basey

**T**he countdown to 2016 has just about begun. If you're like many people, you might be mulling over some New Year's Resolutions, such as hitting the gym more, learning a new language or

taking a cooking class. All are worthy goals, but why not add some financial resolutions as well?

For example...

- Pay yourself first. Even if you aren't living "paycheck to paycheck," you probably don't have much trouble spending your money – because there's always something that you or a family member needs, always a repair required for your home or your car, always one more bill to pay. But if you are going to achieve your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement, you need to invest consistently. So before you pay everyone else, pay yourself first by having some money

automatically moved from your checking or savings account each month into an investment.

- Take advantage of your opportunities. If you have a 401(k) or similar plan at work, take full advantage of it. Contribute as much as you can afford – or at least enough to earn your employer's match, if one is offered – and choose the mix of investments that give you the potential to achieve the growth you need at a level of risk with which you are comfortable.

- Focus on the long term. In the short term, you might be excused for not wanting to invest. The headlines are typically scary, the financial markets are frequently volatile and the future often looks murky. Yet, if you can look past the uncertainties of today and keep your focus on tomorrow, you will find it easier to follow a disciplined investment strategy that gives you the opportunity to meet your long-term goals, such as a comfortable retirement.

- Don't be driven by fear. When the market is down, investors tend to react with fear. Specifically, they rush to sell their investments, afraid that if they don't "cut their losses," they might sustain even bigger ones. If you can get past this feeling, you may find that a down market can offer you the chance to buy quality investments at good prices.

- Forget about the "hot stocks." You'll hear friends, co-workers and talking heads on television tout today's "hot stocks." But by the time you might hear about them, they may have cooled off

– and, in any case, they might not be appropriate for your needs. Forget about "getting rich quick in the market" – it probably won't happen. True investment success requires patience and persistence.

- Cut down on your debts. It's easy to pile up debts, but a lot harder getting rid of them. Yet, if you can reduce your debt load even moderately, you'll free up money you could use to invest. So look for ways to conserve, cut back and consolidate – it will be worth the effort.

Making these resolutions – and sticking to them – can help you as you work toward achieving your financial goals.

*Jennifer Basey is a financial advisor in Fort Myers. She can be reached at [jennifer.basey@edwardjones.com](mailto:jennifer.basey@edwardjones.com).*✴

## November Airport Traffic Report

**D**uring the month of November, 720,556 passengers traveled through Southwest Florida International Airport, an increase of 7.6 percent compared to November 2014. Year-to-date, passenger traffic is up 4.6 percent from the same period last year.

The traffic leader in November was Southwest with 144,114 passengers traveling to and from Fort Myers. Rounding out the top five airlines were Delta (134,667), JetBlue (91,462), Spirit (68,758) and US Airways (65,712).

Southwest Florida International Airport  
continued on page 23

## Children's Home Society Announces Board

**T**he Children's Home Society of Florida announced its Lee County board of directors for the 2015-16 term. The board helps the organization further serve Southwest Florida's most vulnerable children and families through advocacy and fundraising efforts.

"We're thrilled to partner with this esteemed group of individuals," said Julie Schneider, executive director of Children's Home Society of Florida. "We're eager to see the continued positive impact the group has on the children and families of Southwest Florida."

Local board members include:

- Jacqueline Chang, The Chang Group (chair)
- Jeremy King, UBS Financial Services, Inc. (vice chair)
- Jennifer Adkins, Chico's FAS Inc.
- Ivy Brown, Waterman Broadcasting
- Patti Dennis, Southern Technical College
- Joshua Dorcey, The Dorcey Law Firm
- Claude Lyles, Reliance Bank
- Shane Spring, VIP Realty & Spring Management Group
- Kevin Walsh, Gator Lanes

To learn more about Children's Home Society of Florida's local leaders, visit [www.chsfl.org/LocalLeadership](http://www.chsfl.org/LocalLeadership) ✴



Doctor and Dietitian

## Maintaining A Sharp Memory



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

Recently, science is showing that brains continue to develop even beyond middle age. This is great news. The previous viewpoint maintained that the brain lost cells and the capacity to rewire itself with age. Now it appears the brain cells aren't really vanishing. Instead, they become somewhat hidden away in the folds of the neurons.

As folks age, many notice a difficulty in retrieving memories. Why does this occur? The neural connections that process information weaken with disuse and with age. The memories are there, they just need something to prod them to emerge or jump-start them back to recall.

How do we keep these brain connections in good condition? We actually have to challenge our synapses by thinking in different ways. Learning new things is a great place to start, but we need to make a special effort to confront the way we think. We do that by studying viewpoints that are different than our own, for example.

Joggle the brain by daring to consider a different perception. Try hanging around with people who don't think like you or reading something you don't necessarily agree with. How about taking a different route to the store, learning a different language, taking a different mode of transportation? In this way, we contend with those long established brain connections, and get out of our comfort zones and push and nourish our brain.

We all know as adults, we kind of like things a certain way. Year after year, our synapses get accustomed to doing the same thing in the same way. We need to mix it up, and tread new paths to keep our brain developing. Let's challenge our ingrained perceptions, sharpen our brains and keep those neural pathways engaged and developing.

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

## Shell Point Offers Program On State Of Healthcare

Shell Point welcomes Jim Nathan, CEO of Lee Memorial Health System, for a Medical Breakthroughs & Discoveries presentation about healthcare services and future plans in Southwest Florida in The Village Church Auditorium on Wednesday, Jan. 13, at 10:15 a.m.

For more than 30 years, Nathan has led Lee Memorial Health System to become one of Florida's largest healthcare systems. He will discuss new treatment advancements at Lee Memorial Health System and how multiple major projects will improve access to healthcare for residents of our region.

Learn about the Golisano Children's Hospital, additional beds and services planned for Gulf Coast Medical Center and a new \$140 million medical campus in south Lee County. Nathan will also discuss The Shipley Cardiothoracic Center, a new initiative for innovation, education and research for heart and vascular health.

Light refreshments will follow Nathan's presentation, which is part of Shell Point's 2015-2016 Medical Breakthroughs & Discoveries series, an annual community healthcare speaker program that serves as a resource for residents in the greater Fort Myers area. All Medical Breakthroughs & Discoveries presentations are free to the public. Sign up is required at 433-7936.\*



Jim Nathan

## New Healthy Life Center To Host Free Health And Wellness Programs

Lee Memorial Health System's Healthy Life Center at Coconut Point Mall invites the community to experience healthier living through educational events and programs offered throughout the month of January.

Opening access to health care for the residents of South Lee County, the Healthy Life Center, located at 23190 Fashion Dr., Ste. 105, Estero, provides a variety of services and educational events that support healthy lifestyles, early detection of disease, chronic disease management – programming dedicated to maintaining and improving health.

The following is Healthy Life Center's calendar of events for the first week of January:

Sat., Jan. 2 (weekly event) – 9:30 - 10:15 a.m. Healthy Life Center Saturday Walking Club  
Mon., Jan. 4 – 5-6 p.m. New Year, New You: "Lifestyle Practices to Prevent Treatment."

Discover nutrition, exercise, and wellness practices to achieve optimal health in 2016. Presented by: Caroline Bloemers, Dietitian; Justin Klein, Wellness Center Supervisor; Sarah Mitchell, Health and Wellness Coordinator

Tues., Jan. 5 – 11-11:30 a.m. Yoga Demonstration; 3-3:30 p.m. Intro to Pickleball  
Thurs., Jan. 7 – 11 a.m. – noon. Healthy Heart: Tips for Early Heart Attack/Heart Failure Prevention; 1 – 2:15 p.m. "Sleep and Wellness" Presented by Jose Colon, M.D., MPH; 4 - 6 p.m. Get Covered: Affordable Care Act Health Insurance Marketplace Information Session

Sat., Jan. 9 – 10 a.m. What's New in Hip and Knee Replacement? Presented by Edward T. Humbert, D.O., M.S

Other events throughout January include: Youth Sports Injury Prevention; Heart Report Card screening; Weight Management Cooking Demo; Exploring Eating Trends; Chronic Disease Self-Management: Keeping Kids Safe at Home; balance screenings; Meet & Greet Physicians of Integrative Medicine; Bright Focus—A Spotlight on Memory; and more.

For a full calendar, visit: [www.LeeMemorial.org/HealthyLifeCenter](http://www.LeeMemorial.org/HealthyLifeCenter)  
For more information, call 495-4475.\*



Healthy Life Center at Coconut Mall

## Technical College Spring Enrollment

Fort Myers Technical College is accepting students for the upcoming spring 2016 semester, which will begin on January 26. The college offers job skills training in more than 30 professions, including business, hospitality, technology, health science, education, automotive, construction, turbine generator maintenance, cyber security, web development, cosmetology and more.

Fort Myers Technical College enables students to become workforce-ready by offering high-quality career and technical training programs, dedicated to preparing students for the workforce. The low-cost, fast-paced educational programs provided by Fort Myers Technical College enables students to graduate debt-free after a year of college, prepared to secure a reliable, high-paying career in their chosen field.

The college is currently offering one-hour information sessions, led by a school counselor, every Tuesday from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. when school is in session, to provide more information about the career training offered at Fort Myers Technical College, financial assistance and enrollment steps, followed by a tour of the campus.

To enroll for spring 2016 programs, students are required to meet with a college counselor to discuss educational options, and some students must complete a Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) or attend program-required orientation sessions or interviews prior to concluding the enrollment process. Financial aid is available to qualified students.

For more information about programs and enrollment at Fort Myers Technical College for the upcoming semester, call 334-4544 or visit [www.FortMyersTech.edu](http://www.FortMyersTech.edu).\*



dearRPharmacist

## Pharmacist Picks: Health Gadgets 2015



by Suzy Cohen, RPh

**Dear Readers:** At this time of year, while shopping for people you love, why not consider some health gadgets that improve well-being or comfort. There are plenty of items in the health

arena that I find really interesting. In no particular order, here goes:

**Water bottle – Fitness fanatics unite!** This is the coolest invention ever, I can put a key, my gym ID, a credit card and even some cold, hard cash in my BPA-free water bottle. Ugh, makes me mad I didn't think of it, it's called the Autoseal Kangaroo at gocontigo.com.

**Waterproof MP3 player –** Just in case you want to listen to music or audio books while taking a shower, swimming laps or diving the Galapagos. Look for The Diver DB-10 which includes waterproof earbuds sold on Amazon.

**Personal Steam Inhaler –** Great if you have sinus problems. The Mabis allows you to adjust the amount of steam and the particle size. You can add your own

essential oil if desired.

**Baseball cap with lights –** Hunters wear these hats, but I keep one by my bed in case I have to get up in the wee hours of the morning. You see, once at 4:30 a.m., I tripped over Sam's sneaker (size 14), so I bought this light-up cap to keep from knocking myself out in the dark. The Panther Vision hat is very bright with four LEDs. Sold on Amazon.

**Read easier –** Placing a colored (but transparent sheet) over a page improves reading comfort, and possibly reduces headaches associated with eye strain. The best are IRLLEN Colored Overlays for Reading – Sample Pack of 10, sold on Amazon. You won't know what color you need till you try all the colors on a sheet of paper.

**Sproutling Baby Monitor –** The next generation baby monitor, think of it like a Fitbit for your baby. It tracks an infant's heart rate, body temperature and position. It's approximately \$300 and there's a wait list at sproutling.com

**Handheld Near-Infrared Light Machine –** I love mine and use every day for one thing or another. It's just light frequency and you can place the paddle anywhere on your skin. A built-in timer automatically cycles through healthy frequencies, or individual settings can be selected. They're clean out now, so get on a wait-list at sota.com

**Wireless bra –** It's probably TMI, but I rarely wear bras with a wire because the wire prevents proper lymph drainage from the breasts. If your lymph doesn't drain properly (due to wires and padding)

toxins build up, and breast cancer risk increases. Finding a pretty, wireless and un-padded bra that offers support is a challenge, most look frumpy. Check out Cosabella Amore brand of Love Lace or Adore bras, both sold at Kohls. And for a racerback option, get Free People's Racerback Crochet bra. I bought six different colors!

**Get your socks on –** After hip or spine surgery, or even if you have trouble bending, this Sock Aid with Foam Grip sold on Amazon can help get your socks on for about \$8.

*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](http://www.SuzyCohen.com).*

From page 21

## School Smart

every other class, too."

Reading transports children outside of themselves, connecting them to a wider world and filling it with wonder. It's more than fundamental. It's transformative.

Give the gift of reading this holiday season. Log on and start reading together today.

*Shelley Greggs is adjunct faculty at Florida SouthWestern State College, where she teaches psychology and education courses. She is also a nationally certified school psychologist and consultant for School Consultation Services, a private educational consult-*

*ing company. Questions for publication may be addressed to [smgreggs@gmail.com](mailto:smgreggs@gmail.com). Not all questions submitted can be addressed through this publication.*

From page 21

## Fort Myers Tech

mutually beneficial partnership between Micro Control Systems and Fort Myers Technical College," said Bill McCormick, director of Fort Myers Technical College. "We are proud to train students for a career – not just a job, and we really appreciate the support of Micro Control Systems over the years, in providing training for students, serving on advisory committees and employing our graduates."

For more information about Fort Myers Technical College, visit [www.FortMyersTech.edu](http://www.FortMyersTech.edu).

From page 21

## Airport Traffic

had 6,910 aircraft movements (takeoffs and landings), an increase of 3.9 percent compared to November 2014. Page Field saw 8,341 movements, a 0.2 percent decrease from November 2014. In addition, nearly 2.6 million pounds of air freight moved through Southwest Florida International Airport in November 2015, a decrease of 0.9 percent compared to November 2014.

For more information, visit [www.flylcpa.com](http://www.flylcpa.com).

## Mom And Me



by Lizzie and Pryce

Lizzie and Pryce answer your questions and give advice about aging concerns from a two-generational perspective. A mother and daughter team, Lizzie is a retired RN and health educator, and Pryce is a licensed psychotherapist in private practice who specializes in the care of elders and people with chronic illnesses.

### Dear Mom & Me,

My husband and I both have multiple health problems and must see many doctors. We always go together for these visits. When the doctor asks me questions I always answer to the best of my ability. My husband won't answer the doctor's questions directly and becomes furious with me if I answer for him, and then we have big arguments for days after.

"Don't you tell him I have headaches and fainting spells when he asks," is his

favorite response.

I can't see the point of going to doctors if you will not answer their questions – what is your opinion?

Shirley

### Dear Shirley,

I agree. Why ask advice if you are unwilling to consider the advice? Why go to a physician if you are unwilling to be honest with the history? But your husband has the right to have his own opinion and behavior. He also has to assume the consequences of his choices.

Pryce

### Dear Shirley,

Your husband probably in his professional life was accustomed to asking the questions – not having to answer them.

I once heard of a woman who was fed up answering her doctor's (irrelevant) questions, or so she thought, that she finally said, "I am not going to answer all of your questions. When people take their animals to the vet, the vet doesn't need to ask the animal questions, so why should you?"

If he doesn't want to cooperate with his doctors, I would also ask, why go? Does he not realize the possible consequences, financial, social and other major family problems, as the results of his actions his possible suffering and pain and the burden of his decision on the family.

Lizzie

Lizzie and Pryce's email address is [momandmeaging@hotmail.com](mailto:momandmeaging@hotmail.com).

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## Children's Charities Celebrates Hosts Of Chef Vintner Dinners At Luncheon



Sandy Stilwell, Patti Buyers, Maureen Shuman and Andie Vogt

SWFL Children's Charities, Inc. held a Dinner Host Luncheon to welcome and celebrate the dinner hosts of the Chef Vintner Dinners for the upcoming 2016 Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest, a signature fundraising event benefiting local charities that are dedicated to the health of Southwest Florida children. The luncheon was sponsored by Florida Community Bank, which has donated \$50,000 to support SWFL Children's Charities, Inc.

The 2016 Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest's Chef Vintner Dinner will



Mary and Scott Fischer with Teri Hansen



Ute and Franz Rosinus



Dave and Cheryl Copham

take place on Friday, February 26, when Chef Vintner Dinner hosts invite guests to enjoy exclusively-themed dinners, prepared by the event's distinguished vintners and local chefs. The 2016 Southwest Florida Wine & Food Fest's Grand Tasting and Live Auction will take place on Saturday, February 27 at Miromar Lakes Beach & Golf Club.\*



Rob Wilson and Rio DeArmond



Shirlene Elkins and Brooke Denson

## Employees Build And Donate Bikes For Local Boys & Girls Club



Corey Smith (Suffolk Construction), Matt Benolkin (Suffolk Construction), Jermaine Hendricks (BGCLC) and BGCLC members Aldrin, Bartolo and Danny

Suffolk Construction, in partnership with Colorado-based Wish for Wheels, recently hosted a company-wide volunteer event to build and donate bikes and helmets to Boys & Girls Clubs across the country for the holiday season. Suffolk employees in each of the company's regional offices (Boston, West Palm Beach, Miami, San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco and Estero) participated in a daylong bike build event that not only resulted in almost 100 new children's bikes but also fostered teambuilding among Suffolk employee volunteers.

Suffolk's Southwest Florida team built bikes and delivered them to the Boys & Girls Club of Lee County.

Celebrating 41 years of providing quality youth programs and brighter futures for young people in the Lee County community, the Boys & Girls Clubs of Lee County work to inspire and enable young people to realize their full potential as productive, responsible and caring citizens.\*



Lennar Homes team with toys for ACT safe shelter

## Lennar Annual ACT Toy And Donation Drive

Lennar, a builder of new homes in 19 states, donated hundreds of dollars' worth of toys to Abuse Counseling and Treatment, Inc. (ACT). The company raised funds at its first annual Movie Under the Stars in early December and collected toys at community clubhouses, including Reflection Isles in Fort Myers. The donated toys will be

distributed to children in need throughout Lee, Hendry and Glades counties during the week of December 21.

"ACT is honored to partner with companies like Lennar Homes, who have for years worked with us to enrich our program services through their volunteer support and fundraising efforts," said Jennifer Benton, chief executive officer with ACT.

ACT provides critical services through a 24-hour crisis hotline, counseling, forensic examinations, medical, legal and personal advocacy, violence prevention programs, children's programs and more. For more information, visit [www.actabuse.com](http://www.actabuse.com).\*



# DID YOU KNOW

## TRIVIA TEST

1. COMICS: In the comic strip "Peanuts," where was Snoopy born?
2. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of unicorns known as?
3. FAMOUS QUOTATIONS: Who once said, "When a man knows he is to be hanged in a fortnight, it concentrates his mind wonderfully"?
4. U.S. STATES: The Mystic River flows through which U.S. state?
5. MEDICAL: What is the medical name for a condition known as "the bends"?
6. ASTRONOMY: Which planets in our Solar System are known as the gas giants?
7. TELEVISION: Who did the character named Lurch work for?
8. HISTORY: Where was Martin Luther King assassinated in 1968?
9. GEOGRAPHY: Where are the Balearic Islands located?
10. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What would a vexillologist study?

## ANSWERS

1. Daisy Hill Puppy Farm 2. A blessing 3. Samuel Johnson 4. Massachusetts 5. Decompression sickness (also known as divers' disease) 6. Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune 7. "The Addams Family" 8. Memphis, Tenn. 9. Mediterranean Sea (Majorca, Minorca, Ibiza and Formentera) 10. Flags

## SPORTS QUIZ

1. In 1963, Pete Rose recorded his first base hit for the Cincinnati Reds, against Pittsburgh. What kind of hit was it?
2. Name the two left-handers who each won 20 or more games four times for the Baltimore Orioles between 1968 and 1974.
3. In 2014, Marcus Mariota became the all-time leader in career passing yards (10,796) for the University of Oregon. Who had held the mark?
4. The Portland Trail Blazers set an NBA record in 2015 for most consecutive wins in home openers (15 years). Who had held the mark?
5. When was the last time before 2015 that two U.S. players were among the top five picks in the NHL Draft?
6. Name the last time before 2015 that Japan won the world title in men's gymnastics.
7. Who was the last female golfer before Inbee Park (2013-15) to win three consecutive Women's PGA Championships?

## ANSWERS

1. He hit a triple. 2. Dave McNally (1968, '69, '70 and '71) and Mike Cuellar ('69, '70, '71, '74). 3. Bill Musgrave, with 8,343 yards (1987-90). 4. The Boston Celtics (1979-92). 5. It was 2007 (Patrick Kane and James van Riemsdyk). 6. It was 1978. 7. Annika Sorenstam (2003-05).

## My Stars ★★★★★

### FOR WEEK OF DECEMBER 28, 2015

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Handle a potentially awkward situation by warming up your confidence reserves and letting it radiate freely. Also, expect an old friend to contact you.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) It's not too early for the practical Bovine to begin planning possible changes for 2016. A recent contact can offer some interesting insights.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) A request for an unusual favor should be carefully checked out. Also check the motives behind it. Your generosity should be respected, not exploited.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Party time beckons, but for some Moon Children, so do some workplace challenges. Deal with the second first, then you'll be free to enjoy the fun time.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) A warm response to an earlier request might be a positive indicator of what's ahead. Meanwhile, Cupid could pay a surprise visit to single Leos looking for love.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) How you respond to a proposed change in a project could affect your situation. Be prepared to show how well you would be able to deal with it.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) The revelation of a secret could cause some changes in how to deal with a workplace matter. It very likely also validates a position you have long held.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) An attempt to get too personal could upset the very private Scorpio. Make it clear that there's a line no one crosses without your permission.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) The savvy Sagittarian might be able to keep a family disagreement from spilling over by getting everyone involved to talk things out.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Be careful not to push people too hard to meet your ideas of what the holiday weekend's preparations should be. Best to make it a cooperative, not a coerced, effort.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) An unexpected request could make you rethink a position you've had for a

long time. Meanwhile, plan a family get-together for the weekend.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Someone might find that it was a fluke to try to use your sympathetic nature to get you to accept a situation you're not comfortable with. Good for you.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You like challenges that are both mental and physical, and you enjoy always beating your personal best.

## THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

- On Jan. 2, 1897, American author Stephen Crane survives the sinking of The Commodore off the coast of Florida. He will turn the harrowing adventure into his classic short story "The Open Boat."

- On Dec. 29, 1915, the French National Assembly formally cedes the land that holds the British war cemeteries to Great Britain, ensuring that even as World War I was being fought, its most sacred monuments would be forever protected.

- On Dec. 30, 1922, in post-revolutionary Russia, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR, also known as the Soviet Union) is established, comprising a confederation of Russia, Belorussia, Ukraine and the future republics of Georgia, Azerbaijan and Armenia.

- On Jan. 3, 1938, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, an adult victim of polio, founds the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, later renamed the March of Dimes Foundation. The virus, which affects the central nervous system, flourished in contaminated food and water and was easily transmitted.

- On Dec. 28, 1954, Oscar-winning actor Denzel Washington is born in Mount Vernon, N.Y. In 2002, for his performance as a corrupt cop in "Training Day," Washington became the first black man to win the Best Actor Academy Award since Sidney Poitier in 1964.

- On Jan. 1, 1973, Roseann Quinn, a 27-year-old New York teacher, visits Tweed's Bar in Manhattan and is picked up by her soon-to-be killer. The incident inspired the cautionary novel "Looking for Mr. Goodbar," later made into a movie starring Diane Keaton.

- On Dec. 31, 1999, the United States hands over control of the Panama Canal,

putting the strategic waterway into Panamanian hands for the first time. A ship heading from New York to San Francisco can save about 7,800 miles by taking the Panama Canal rather than sailing around South America.

## STRANGE BUT TRUE

- It was 20th-century Nigerian novelist, poet and professor Chinua Achebe who made the following sage observation: "One of the truest tests of integrity is its blunt refusal to be compromised."

- Historians say that on April 4, 1968, Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. participated in a pillow fight in the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Tennessee. This wouldn't be noteworthy, of course, except for the fact that he was assassinated at the motel that same evening.

- Those who study such things say that men without beards are 40 percent more likely to describe themselves as happy.

- In November of this year, a bulldog named Otto set a Guinness World Record. In the city of Lima, Peru, Otto rode a skateboard through the legs of 30 people, setting a new record for skateboarding through the longest human tunnel.

- You probably won't be surprised to learn that before horseradish was called horseradish, it was known as "stingnose" in many areas of the United States. However, you might be surprised to learn that it was sometimes rubbed on a person's forehead to relieve a headache.

- Lawmakers in Kentucky evidently once thought it necessary to pass legislation making it illegal to paint one's lawn red.

- You might not think of tarantulas as fragile, but they are. Despite their soft, furry appearance, if one of these spiders has even a short fall without catching itself on its thread, the drop likely will shatter its exoskeleton or rupture its abdomen.

- If you ever have the good fortune to encounter a group of bunnies, you'll know that you can collectively call them a "fluffle."

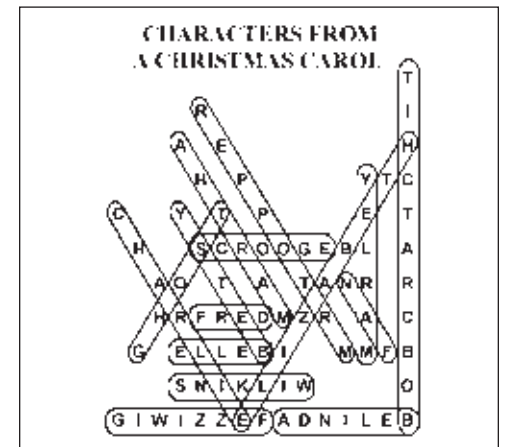
## THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"If I have any beliefs about immortality, it is that certain dogs I have known will go to heaven, and very, very few persons." -- James Thurber

## PUZZLE ANSWERS

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**Fancy Florida Seafood Gumbo**

- 12 ounces oysters, drained
- 8 ounces blue crab claw meat
- ½ cup chopped onion
- ½ cup chopped celery
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 teaspoon anise seeds
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon crushed red peppers
- 1 10-ounce package frozen okra
- 2 20-ounce cans diced tomatoes

Remove remaining shell or cartilage from oysters and crab and set aside. Cook onion, celery and garlic in butter until tender. Add anise, salt, sugar, peppers, okra and tomatoes. Cover and simmer for 15 minutes. Add oysters and simmer an additional 15 minutes. Add crab and heat thoroughly. Serve over rice.

Yields 8 to 10 servings.\*



Fancy Florida Seafood Gumbo

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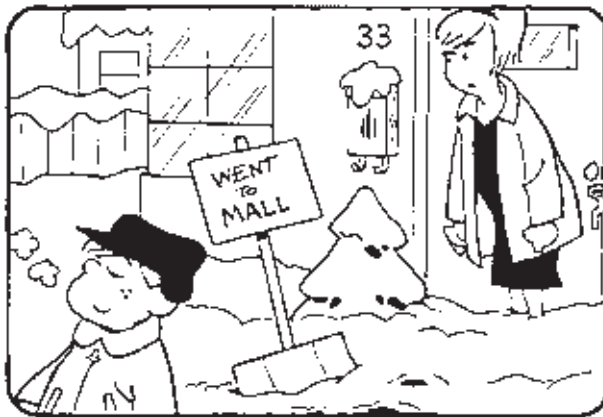
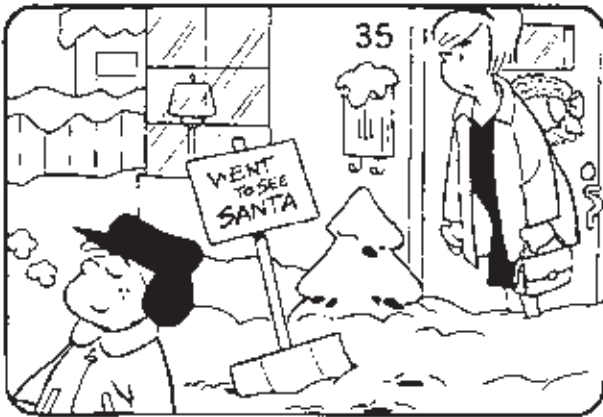
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FIND AT LEAST SIX DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS

Differences: 1. Lamp is missing; 2. Ear flap is smaller; 3. Sign is different; 4. Number is different; 5. Poinsettia is missing; 6. Wreath is missing.

**PUZZLE ANSWERS**

**SUDOKU**

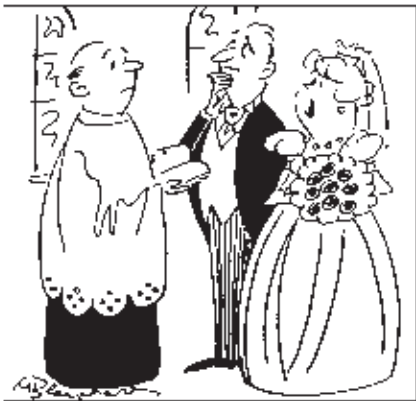
3	8	4	7	6	2	9	1	5
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4	3	1	2	7	6	5	9	8
6	9	5	3	4	8	1	7	2
2	7	8	9	1	5	6	3	4
9	1	2	6	5	7	4	8	3
8	4	6	1	2	3	7	5	9
7	5	3	8	9	4	2	6	1

**SCRAMBLERS**

*solution*

- 1. Change; 2. Tinder;
- 3. Crackle; 4. Simper

**Today's Word  
THINKING**



He's \_\_\_\_\_

**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!

Switch

**GANECH**

Kindling

**RIDENT**

Snap

**CLACKER**

Smirk

**PRIMES**

**TODAY'S WORD**

\_\_\_\_\_

answer on page 27

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\*RS 9/26 CC TFN

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\*NS 12/18 CC 12/25

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\*RS 12/25 CC 2/12

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**\$248,000 Firm**

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\*NS 12/25 CC 1/8

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\*RS 12/4 CC TFN

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\*NS 12/18 CC 12/25

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\*NS 12/11 CC TFN

**ANNUAL RENTAL**

**ANNUAL RENTALS SANIBEL**

**WATERFRONT HOME**

This peaceful location is true Island Living. Looking over the water with boat dock/lift, access to Bay & Gulf. This beautiful 3 bedroom/2 bath plus den, piling home is UF. \$3,300/mo.

Please call for details

**472-6747**

**Gulf Beach Properties, Inc.**

Helping People Become Islanders for over 35 years!

The Island Experience!

\*RS 11/06 BM TFN

**APARTMENT FOR RENT**

Large 1 bedroom, east end. Ground level, screened lanis, tile floors. Dishwasher/washer-dryer. Great for single/retiree/ or seasonal residence for such. Cat OK. Annual \$895/mo. + utilities. 239-339-2337, please leave message.

\*NS 12/25 CC 1/1

**SERVICES OFFERED**

**CAREGIVER**

Caregiver CNA lic., 16 years experience. F.I.S.H. background check/referral. Sanibel references. Shop, pet care, meal prep., med. mgt., housekeeping, etc.

Sheila - 239-850-7082.

\*NS 10/16 CC TFN

**HOME/CONDO WATCH CONCIERGE SERVICES**

Dorado Property Management  
\* Island Resident \* Licensed & Insured  
\* 24/7 \* [www.doradoproperty.com](http://www.doradoproperty.com)  
Call Lisa or Bruce at 239-472-8875

\*RS 3/21 CC TFN

**HELLE'S CLEANING SERVICES**

Residential Cleaning to Satisfaction

Sanibel & Captiva • 239-565-0471

Sanibel Lic. #11412 Lee Co. Lic. #051047

\*NS 1/4 PC TFN

**SCARNATO LAWN SERVICE**

Lawn Service, Shrubs and Tree Trimming Weeding, Installation of Plants, Trees and Mulch (one month free service available)

Joe Scarnato (239) 849-6163

[scarnatolawn@aol.com](mailto:scarnatolawn@aol.com)

\*RS 1/25 BM TFN

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**IslandSunNews.com**

CLICK ON PLACE CLASSIFIED





★ ★ ★ CLASSIFIEDS ★ CLASSIFIEDS ★ ★ ★

**SERVICES OFFERED**

**ROGER NODRUFF ELECTRIC**

Lic# EC12002788.  
Call Roger 239-707-7203.  
Aqualink - Motor Controls.  
Office & Store Maint.  
\*RS 6/7 CC TFN

**HELP WANTED**

**CHILDCARE WORKER NEEDED**

Childcare worker needed for special Events at Sanibel Community Church. Nursery age thru 3rd Grade. Part time with hourly compensation. Call Holly 239-472-2684.  
\*NS 12/25 CC 1/8

**HELP WANTED**

**JERRY'S FOODS WAITRESSES OR WAITERS**

Looking for experienced Waitresses or Waiters with open availability Monday through Sunday. If interested call and ask for Kim 472-9300.  
\*NS 5/29 CC TFN

**AUTO FOR SALE**

**WHITE MAZDA VAN MPV-ES 2002**

good condition, good tires, body in good condition 99,000 miles only driven five months a year, last year of this model with automatic doors 472-9899 lindadrasnin22@msn.com reasonable price  
\*NS 12/25 CC 1/1

**BOATS - CANOES - KAYAKS**

**DOCKAGE**

Hourly, Daily, Weekly and Monthly.  
Captiva Island 472-5800  
\*RS 1/4 NC TFN

**SANIBEL HOME WATCH**

Retired Police Captain  
Lives on Sanibel  
Will Check Your Home Weekly  
Very Reasonable Rates  
(239) 728-1971  
\*RS 1/4 BM TFN

**PART TIME CLEANING HELP NEEDED**

No experience required. Variable days of the week. Hours vary between 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., \$13. - \$16. per hour. Sanibel resident preferred. Contact Darwin Ford of the West-End Paradise, Small Inn, at 239-472-9088.  
\*NS 12/18 CC 12/25



**GARAGE • MOVING • YARD SALES**

**GARAGE SALE**  
2412 Palm Ridge Road,  
Dec. 26 & 27, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.,  
Chop Saw and Table Saw, Air Compressor,  
New Lighting Fixtures in box, Propane Tanks, 6 foot Scaffolding with Aluminum Plank, Old Metal Bed Frame, PVC Plumbing materials, 5 Rolls of Roofing Firestone product, + Misc.  
\*NS 12/25 CC 12/25

**SANIBEL ESTATE SALE**  
1653 Bunting Lane  
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
January 2, 2016  
Must liquidate entire contents of the home.  
CASH and CARRY  
\*NS 12/25 CC 1/1

**SYLVIA'S CLEANING SERVICE**

20 YEARS EXPERIENCE.  
LOW RATES. FREE ESTIMATES.  
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL.  
QUICK CLEANS FOR \$30  
LICENSED IN CAPE CORAL & SANIBEL  
PH 239-945-2837 CELL 1-270-317-1903  
\*NS 11/27 CC 1/1

**RETAIL SHOP ON SANIBEL**

Sales person with interest in antiques. Basic computer knowledge and record keeping, year round position. Approx. 30 hrs. a week some weekends. Send resume or info. to e.georgene@gmail.com  
\*NS 12/11 CC 1/1

**SANIBEL BLUE FINANCIAL**

Need help with paying your bills?  
Getting your mail?  
Organizing your pre-tax worksheets?  
What about someone to organize your desk?  
Call an insured and bonded professional in to help:  
Debi Almeida offers personal assistance for you. (Discreet and Trustworthy)  
Call her today to meet 239-839-6443.  
\*NS 12/18 CC 2/5

**HAIR STYLIST BOOTH RENTAL AVAILABLE**

Join our Professionals at the New McGregor Salon. Increase your income, be your own Boss. Positive, friendly, comfortable atmosphere. Close to FMB & Sanibel. Located in the busy, McGregor Pointe Shopping Center near K-mart. For Info call Anita 239-233-9882  
\*RS 3/13 CC TFN



**Shore Fishing:**

**Don't Harm The Fish**

by Capt. Matt Mitchell

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

- Hold the fish in the water while you unhook it if you're going to release it.
- The less you can touch a fish before release the better for the fish.
- If you want a picture with the fish, support it as

you lift it out of the water – and do it quickly.

- Before releasing, revive the fish while holding it in the water; moving it slowly back and forth so water goes over its gills. The fish will let you know when it's ready to swim off.
- Florida just recently changed the regulations on fishing from shore. Florida residents as well as out of state visitors need a fishing license to fish from shore.

**Top 10 Real Estate Sales**

Development	City	Year Built	Square Footage	Listing Price	Selling Price	Days On Market
Bonita Beach	Bonita Springs	1961	3,260	\$2,950,000	\$2,700,000	100
Not Applicable	Sanibel	1958	1,817	\$1,198,000	\$1,024,000	224
Venetian Gardens	Fort Myers Beach	1978	2,528	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	48
Wildcat Run	Estero	2015	3,257	\$1,100,000	\$995,000	84
Cape Coral	Cape Coral	2011	4,146	\$919,000	\$895,000	26
Grande Estates	Estero	2005	3,499	\$929,000	\$865,000	111
Lakewood	Fort Myers	2005	3,151	\$890,000	\$855,000	328
Arezzo	Bonita Springs	2006	3,430	\$843,500	\$825,000	443
Palm Gardens	Fort Myers	2015	3,375	\$774,405	\$750,000	137
Crown Colony	Fort Myers	2004	2,973	\$724,900	\$700,000	3

Courtesy of Royal Shell Real Estate



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

# SUDOKU

**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.

answer on page 27

## Pets Of The Week



Prancer ID #647330

Angelica ID #643903

**M**y name might be Prancer but I'm not a reindeer. I will prance right into your heart, though. I'm a little timid so I would be happiest in a quiet home. Please adopt me soon so I will be home for the holidays and we can start being best friends. My adoption fee is \$75 (includes a free gift while supplies last during Animal Services' Home 4 The Holidays adoption promotion).

I'm Angelica and I could be your new angel if you adopt me. I'd be the perfect addition to your family. I'm playful, adorable and will bring tons of joy to your life. My adoption fee is \$50 (includes a free gift while supplies last during Animal Services' adoption promotion).

For information about this week's pets, call 533-7387 (LEE-PETS) or log on to Animal Services' website at [www.LeeLostPets.com](http://www.LeeLostPets.com). When calling, refer to the animal's ID number. The website updates every hour so you will be able to see if these or any other pets are still available.

The shelter is open for adoptions from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The shelter is located at 5600 Banner Drive in Fort Myers, next to the Lee County Sheriff's Office off Six Mile Cypress Parkway.

All adoptions include spay/neuter surgery, age-appropriate vaccinations, rabies vaccination and county license if three months or older, flea treatment, worming, heartworm test for dogs six months and over, feline AIDS and leukemia test for cats, training DVD, 10-day health guarantee, and a bag of Science Diet pet food.

The adoption package is valued at \$500.\*



- 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 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

- Angel Flight ..... 1-877-4AN-ANGEL
- Animal Refuge Center ..... 731-3535
- American Business Women Association ..... 357-6755
- Audubon of SWFL ..... 339-8046
- Audubon Society ..... 472-3156
- Caloosahatchee Chapter DAR..... 482-1366
- Caloosahatchee Folk Society ..... 321-4620
- Cape Coral Barbershop Chorus..... 1-855-425-3631
- Cape Coral Stamp Club ..... 542-9153
- duPont Company Retirees ..... 454-1083
- Edison Porcelain Artists..... 415-2484
- Embroiderers Guild of America - Sea Grape Chapter ..... 239-267-1990
- FM UDC Chapter 2614 - United Daughters of the Confederacy ..... 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
- NARFE(National Active & Retired Federal Employees ..... 482-6713
- 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 Clubs:

- Fort Myers Beach..... 765-4254 or 454-8090
- Fort Myers Edison ..... 694-1056
- Fort Myers South ..... 691-1405
- Gateway to the Islands..... 218-5768
- Iona-McGregor ..... 482-0869

### Lions Clubs:

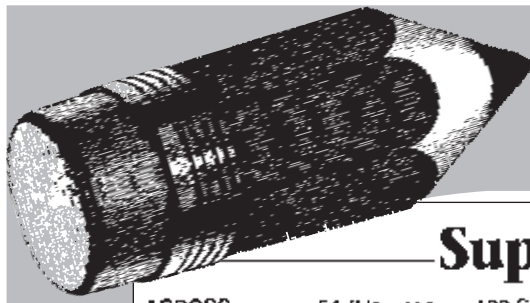
- Fort Myers Beach..... 463-9738
- Fort Myers High Noon ..... 466-4228
- Estero/South Fort Myers ..... 898-1921
- Notre Dame Club of Lee County ..... 768-0417
- POLO Club of Lee County ..... 477-4906
- Rotary Club of Fort Myers ..... 332-8158
- Sanibel-Captiva Orchid Society..... 472-6940
- United Way of Lee County ..... 433-2000
- United Way 211 Helpline (24 hour)..... 211 or 433-3900

### AREA ATTRACTIONS

- Bailey-Matthews Shell Museum..... 395-2233
- Burrough's Home ..... 337-9505
- Calusa Nature Center & Planetarium..... 275-3435
- Edison & Ford Winter Estates ..... 334-3614
- 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@riverweekly.com](mailto:press@riverweekly.com)





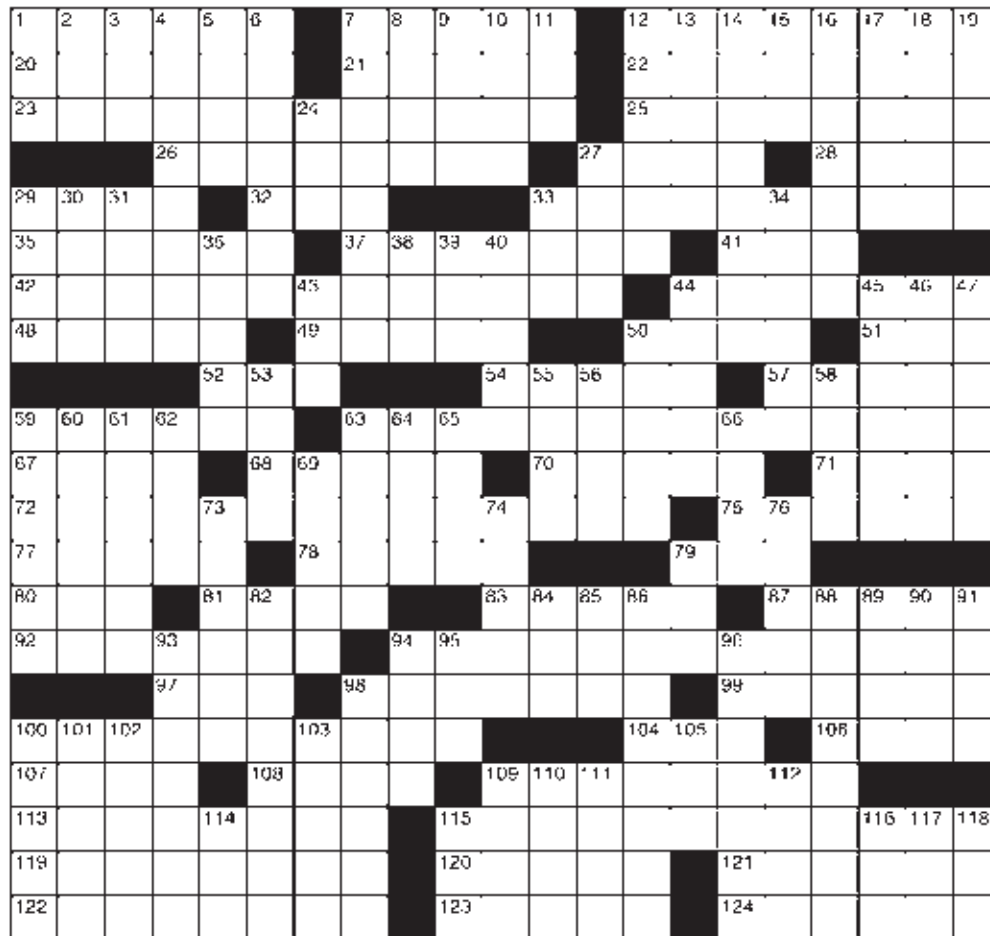
# BEACH CHAIR PASTIME

answers on page 25

## Super Crossword

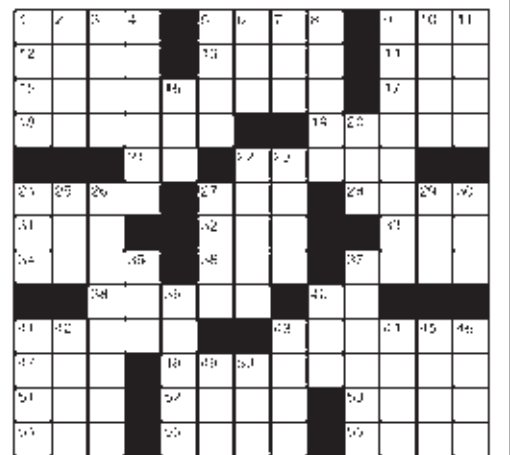
LITERAL LANGUAGE LESSON

- ACROSS**
- 1 Brings together
  - 7 Refrain from
  - 12 Wild prank
  - 20 Toss again as vice
  - 21 Tock steps
  - 22 Winton of jazz trumpet
  - 23 PANE
  - 25 Blows stormily, as wind
  - 26 Lessens in worth
  - 27 Congeal
  - 28 Plains tribe
  - 29 Baby's first word, maybe
  - 32 "— heard worse"
  - 33 CORNF
  - 35 Rudimentary seeds
  - 37 Skull
  - 41 Weed-chopping tool
  - 42 KILBASA
  - 44 Requests desperately
  - 48 Sugary
  - 49 Car tire's outer layer
  - 50 "— la vie"
  - 51 Suffix with press or prefect
  - 52 UFO crew members
  - 54 "How can I thank you?"
  - 57 Arch poeigo part
  - 59 Result of a belly flop
  - 63 KOUCHILU
  - 67 Prudish type
  - 68 Garlic seasoned mayonnaise
  - 70 Howling mad
  - 71 Artist Bonheur
  - 72 LUACH
  - 75 Shylack, e.g.
  - 77 Actor/singer Zac
  - 78 Pizzelle flavoing
  - 79 Fur, country or Can. province
  - 80 Stephen of "The Heavy"
  - 81 Old letter salutation
  - 83 Mountain cats
  - 87 Tail of
  - 92 "Tobacco Road" novelist
  - 94 TORTILIA
  - 97 Khan (Islamic title)
  - 98 Ships transporting fossil fuel
  - 99 Troubles terribly
  - 100 CRUX
  - 104 Finish
  - 106 With 99- Down, side in a game that's not visiting
  - 107 "How sad!"
  - 108 DVK brand
  - 109 Summer starts with one
  - 113 At an unknown point in the future
  - 115 BAGWAFRK
  - 119 Poe poem
  - 120 Dunce of film
  - 121 Make current
  - 122 Most cheezy
  - 123 Slacked off
  - 124 Us-ner, often
  - DOWN**
  - 1 Israeli mentalist (Geller)
  - 2 Fish-catching mesh
  - 3 Lyric-writing Gershwin
  - 4 Fibbed
  - 5 Writer Wiesel
  - 6 Affectly servile
  - 7 Tramway vehicle
  - 8 Light tan
  - 9 Io (exactly)
  - 10 Adriatic and Baltic
  - 11 Roush of the Heds
  - 12 Symbol
  - 13 Beauty shop
  - 14 They're leaned on for support
  - 15 Horse cousin
  - 16 Eye covers
  - 17 New Olds of 1999
  - 18 More terrible
  - 19 Run city
  - 24 Of wars; ps: Abbr.
  - 27 Rock's Mötley
  - 29 Swabs
  - 30 Declare openly
  - 31 Equine hybrid
  - 33 Pear-shaped false fruit
  - 34 Immobilize at a rodeo
  - 36 Will of "Blue Bloods"
  - 38 Wish to undo
  - 39 Smile center
  - 40 Command of gymnastics
  - 43 Holy people. Abbr.
  - 44 Flat cap
  - 45 Steamboat pioneer
  - 46 Bully's threat
  - 47 Rip anew
  - 50 Labor activist Chavez
  - 53 Warm up
  - 55 Writer Bagnold
  - 56 Wang of fashion
  - 58 Medicinal fluids
  - 59 Orb
  - 60 Opt for first
  - 61 Many babies born in fall
  - 62 Farming-related prefix
  - 63 Rivers and Baez
  - 64 "For — know ..."
  - 65 Pizzeria orders
  - 66 Toll producer
  - 69 Statement of empathy
  - 73 Pulver's rank
  - 74 Sherpa land
  - 76 Hawaii-born president
  - 79 Burning residue
  - 82 Dominant
  - 84 "A" in Brest
  - 85 Earth orbiter until 2011
  - 86 Gauged
  - 88 Suburb of Washington, D.C.
  - 89 To boot
  - 90 See 106- Across
  - 91 Smurf or Hock suffix
  - 93 Old Austrian emperors
  - 94 Mediocre
  - 95 Speaker systems, for short
  - 96 Sphinx riddle solver
  - 98 London's — Garden
  - 100 Makes it
  - 101 Honolulu "hi"
  - 102 Instills docility in
  - 103 Singer LeAnn
  - 105 — power
  - 109 Actress Gilbert
  - 110 Tip jar items
  - 111 Queue (up)
  - 112 Built-in: wear
  - 114 — chi (martial art)
  - 115 Stop existing
  - 116 Rat-a —
  - 117 Traveler's path: Abbr.
  - 118 "Quit bellyachin'!"



## King Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Information, informally
  - 5 Gene's home
  - 9 Commercial
  - 12 "Once — a time ..."
  - 13 Sheltered
  - 14 Once around the track
  - 15 Helen Reddy hit
  - 17 Sci. org.
  - 18 Charlie Brown's dog
  - 19 Fire residue
  - 21 "You're truly"
  - 22 Accordion rendition, often
  - 24 Amorphous mass
  - 27 Eugene item
  - 28 Concept
  - 31 Edge
  - 32 Decay
  - 33 Have
  - 34 Newspaper pg.
  - 36 Fool
  - 37 On in years
  - 38 Euphoric
  - 40 Hosp. staffer
  - 41 Memorable mission
  - 43 Oriental temple
  - 47 Off-tattooed word
  - 48 "Chicago" Oscar winner
  - 51 Eggs
  - 52 History chapters
  - 53 Hold sway
  - 54 Barbie's companion
  - 55 Adjoining
  - 56 Largest of the seven
  - 7 Kitten's comment
  - 8 Punishment-related
  - 9 Pack leader, maybe
  - 10 Appointment
  - 11 Resorts
  - 16 Gerilla
  - 20 Take to the slopes
  - 22 Common-place
  - 23 Feedbag fill
  - 24 Bud
  - 25 Back talk
  - 26 1971 Heister film, with "The"
  - 27 Actor Pitt
  - 29 Ram's mate
  - 30 In addition
  - 35 Poorly lit
  - 37 Goat hair made into wool
  - 39 Twelve
  - 40 British rule in India
  - 41 Uncontrolled
  - 42 Lyncist's subject, often
  - 43 History
  - 44 Responsibility
  - 45 Sandwich shop
  - 46 On the briny
  - 48 Before
  - 50 Wage earner's payment



## MAGIC MAZE

### CHARACTERS FROM A CHRISTMAS CAROL

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions: forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

- Belinda
- Charlie
- Fred
- Mr. Topper
- Belle
- Elizabeth
- Ghost
- Scrooge
- Betsy
- Fan
- Marley
- Wilkins
- Bob Cratchit
- Fezziwig
- Martha



# DOC FORD'S

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Flavors From The Caribbean Rim!



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### Ft. Myers Beach

### Captiva Island



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239.472.8311

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Ft. Myers Beach, FL 33931  
239.765.9660

South Seas Island Resort  
Captiva Island FL 33924  
239.312.4275

 Visit Us Online @ [www.DocFords.com](http://www.DocFords.com)  
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Waterfront • Live Music • NFL Games • Happy Hour